

JAMES D. McMAHON

## HISTORY OF THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT IN LANCASTER

*How a Civil War monument eventually came to the crossroads of Lancaster where it has resisted successfully the efforts of anti-traditionists is told by a police officer with an interest in the monument and history.*

In the center of Penn Square, in the City of Lancaster, there stands a monument that is now and has been a bone of contention among the citizens for many years. It is a memorial to the men and women who fell in the war of the rebellion. There have been many attempts to have it moved to another location, but the custodians of the monument have resisted all such attempts. It is directly in the center of the intersections of King and Queen Streets, and stands on a thirty-five foot square plot. The purpose of this paper will be to give a true story of how this monument got here and how it has been able to resist all attempts to have it moved.

On April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was attacked and the great Civil War of the United States was underway. Both North and South called upon its citizens to back its stand. In the North, all the citizens were called upon to do their duty and stand by the Stars and Stripes and support the government. The men volunteered in the "Rifles" and "Fencibles." But the women wanted to help in the war effort and waited for an organization to be formed for that purpose. In Lancaster such an organization was formed just ten days after the Fort Sumter attack.

"The women of our city met on Monday, April 22, 1861, to decide what could be done by their sex to assist in the cause. They immediately proceeded to prepare lint and other necessities for the boys in the service and to procure nurses to go to the seat of the war and render such help as was needed for the sick and wounded. This meeting resulted in an organization known as **The Patriot Daughters of Lancaster**. This association of ladies formed for the purpose of ministering to the wants of our heroic volunteers for Lancaster City and County. The officers were: President—Mrs. Rosina Hubley, Vice President—Mrs. E. C. Riegart, Secretary—Miss Annie Slaymaker, and Treasurer—Mrs. J. F. Long."

These ladies worked throughout the war and greatly aided in the fight. They acted much as the Red Cross acts in present day emergencies. "The daughters were organized under the direction of Rev. J. I. Mombert on April 22, 1861, and has the honor of having been the very first society [sic] organized for the aid of our Union Soldiers. Their first efforts were directed to the relief of the Ohio Volunteers who were quartered near this city. They were supplied with overcoats and blankets. To the volunteers leaving our own city they were not neglectful. They furnished four companies with rations, and one entire company with blankets and haversacks, and one entire regiment with flannel shirts. During their four years labor, they forwarded 1,064 boxes, barrels, etc., to hospitals. The total amount of expenses were \$14,482.30. Balance on hand \$18.30."

At the close of the Civil War, the men and women returned to their families and jobs. There were many veterans organizations forming all across the country and Lancaster was no exception. "A meeting of honorably discharged soldiers was held in Orphans Court room of the Court House, for the purpose of considering the project of forming an organization for mutual protection and benefit, on a plan similar to that of the Soldiers and Sailors National Union League. It was agreed that a committee be applied to draft a constitution and by-laws to be reported at an adjourned meeting on Tuesday evening next."

"The constitution settles definitely, among other things, the name of the association, '**The Soldiers and Sailors Union of Lancaster, Pa.**' The Court Room was filled and many, after standing for a time at the door, left the building. We have rarely seen the organization of any deliberate body effected with such harmony, enthusiasm and good feeling, as has characterized so far, the initiatory meeting of the Soldiers Union."

"Elections were held and officers elected were President—Lt. Col. Wm. L. Baer, Vice President—Capt. W. W. Nevin and Major M. H. Locher, Recording Secretary—Sergt. Jonathan Holt, Treasurer—Capt. John H. Marshall."

Meetings were held and dues collected and at one of these meetings the idea of a monument to the fallen dead was advanced. "On motion of Capt. P. I. O'Rourke, it was resolved that a committee of seven be appointed to inquire into the expediency and propriety of erecting in Centre Square, a monument to the fallen heroes of this county."

Various ways were discussed on how to raise money for the erection of a monument and it was finally decided to hold lectures with famous

speakers as guests. In the meantime, the group got funds together and opened their own meeting hall. "The Soldiers and Sailors Union held their meeting in the new hall on East King St., just opposite the Court House. It contains a handsome club room, where military maps, books, engravings, etc., will enable them to fight over again the battles of a dozen campaigns and renew the memories and friendships of the field." <sup>7</sup>

"The first of a series of lectures under the auspices of the Soldiers and Sailors Union is to be delivered on next Tuesday, January 8th. The primary object of these lectures is to raise a fund to erect a monument to those soldiers from this county who fell during the late rebellion. The price of admission is the moderate sum of fifteen cents." <sup>8</sup> These lectures were not well attended and the members of the association looked around for other ways to raise the money. "A meeting of ladies and gentlemen met in Orphans Court last evening and resolved, that a ladies fair be held some time during the coming fall, the proceeds of which will be appropriated to aid in the erection of a monument in or near Lancaster City in memory of the Soldiers and Sailors of Lancaster City and County, who fell in the late war against rebellion. Mrs. Rosina Hubley was elected to be President." <sup>9</sup>

"The movement to erect a monument appears to be under the guidance of Mrs. Rosina Hubley, the lady who so efficiently and successfully managed and directed the sanitary and relief energies of the county during the war. We trust that the shaft which is to commemorate the virtues and tell the story of the dead soldiers of the Old Guard, will not be hidden in some out-of-the-way grave or suburban grave-yard, but will rear its glittering shaft right in the centre of the town, where it may be a perpetual reminder to all people of the county as they gather week to week to barter and chaffer in the market place, that there is something higher and better than pelf or produce, bargains or bank notes." <sup>10</sup>

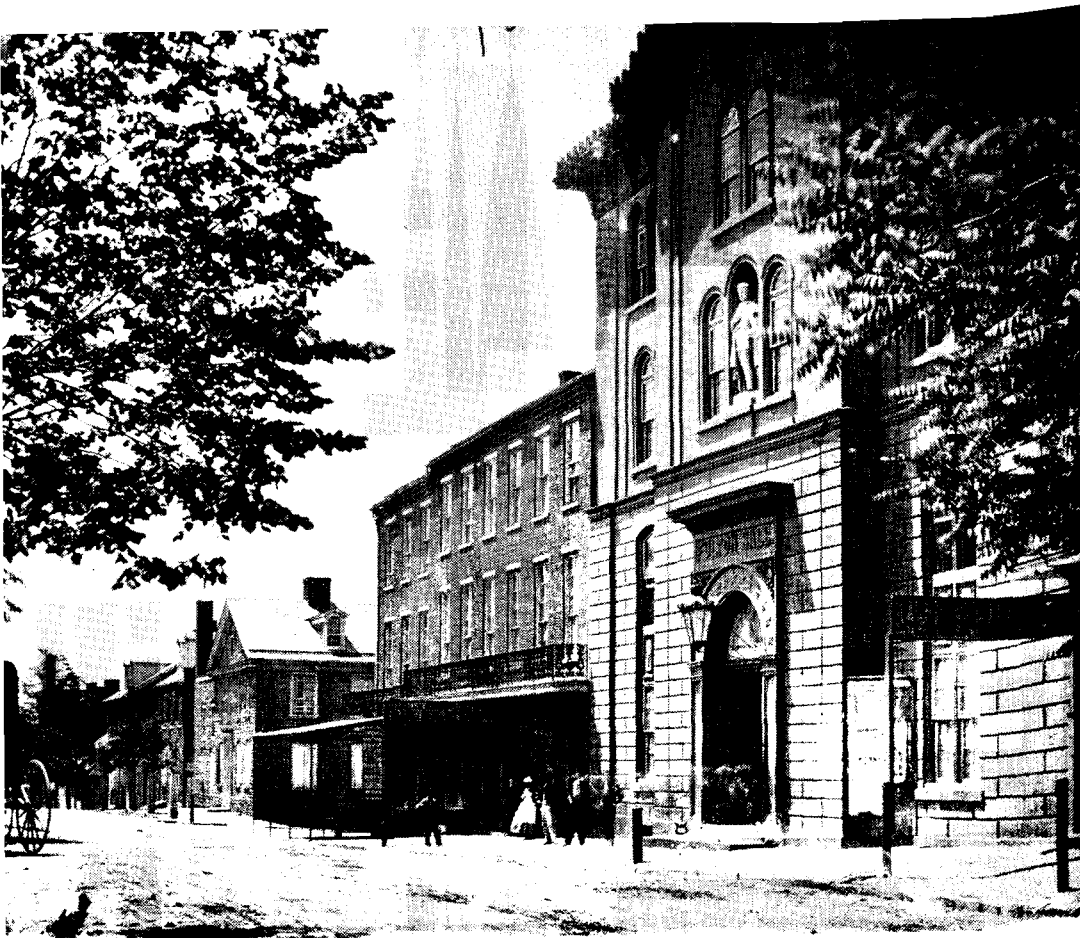
"At a meeting of the gentlemen managers of the association, the following were elected as permanent officers of the organizations: President—H. G. Long. \$16.40 were placed in the hands of the treasurer. This amount was contributed by a person, who received it as one share to the legal heirs, of a soldier from Lancaster, who was killed in the late rebellion. Let his first contribution to the general fund, obtained by the blood of a brave and noble youth of our county, increase to a fund that will procure a memorial which will be an honor to our people, and inspire our youth to a high degree of patriotism." <sup>11</sup>

The Patriot Daughters of Lancaster went ahead with their plans to hold a fair to raise the necessary funds. "The Ladies Fair for the purpose of raising a fund towards the erection of a Soldiers Monument in this city will open at Fulton Hall, Monday next." <sup>12</sup> Much work and energy went into the preparations and execution of the fair. "The opening ceremonies of the fair on Monday Evening, December 2, at 7 o'clock in the Fulton Hall will be conducted by Bishop Bigler and Rev. Mr. Greenwald. We urge the kind attention of our friends in the county to the wants of the fair and will state that donation in produce, etc., of every kind, can be sent in and received during the entire week of its progress. H. R. Brene-  
man Sec't" <sup>13</sup>



Rosina Hubley

The fair ran for a week, beginning December 2 and continuing through December 7, 1867. It was a great success and over three thousand dollars were raised. This money was added to the fund and when a sufficient amount accumulated the group was to see to the erection of a monument. "The fair closed on Saturday evening and the attendance was very large. The success of the fair is due to the energy and interest displayed by the Ladies for which they deserve praise and thanks. The receipts for the week were: \$3,620.53." <sup>14</sup>



Fulton Hall during the fund-raising for the Monument. A poster at the right side advertises the event. George Krug's stone mansion is seen in the background, now the site of the Stevens House.

John Ward Willson Loose Archives

The Lancaster County Monumental Association went to the County Commissioners of Lancaster and asked for certain funds but it was ignored by the commissioners. In order to gain recognition and funds that it felt were due it, the group went to the State Legislature and on 10 February 1871, its charter was incorporated by that assembly. "A meeting of the Lancaster County Monumental Association was held and the rules were adopted. Also the following officers were elected: President—Hiram Stamm, Vice President—Frederick Pyfer, Secretary—H. R. Breneman, and Treasurer—R. W. Shenk. A. C. Reineohl was elected to the post of Solicitor. The treasurer was instructed to demand from the County Treasurer the monies of the militia fund and the President and Treasurer were to call on the ladies' organizations for the monies that they had in their possession." 15

"By section six of the charter, the county treasurer was authorized and required to pay over to the treasurer of the Monumental Association all military funds which had accumulated or which might hereafter accumulate from the assessment and collection of militia or military taxes or fines and not required by existing law or laws which might be enacted for the support and maintenance of military organizations."

The association encountered great difficulty in collecting the militia fund from the County Commissioners. With A. C. Reinoehl acting as solicitor for the association and also a member of the State Legislature leading the way, the hold of the commissioners was broken.

"An old law (which has been replaced or repealed or has become a dead letter) was in force for a great many years. This law directed that all members of the militia who absented themselves from or who were tardy for drill should be fined. Various other misdemeanors of the militiamen were punishable by fines. All these penalties were industriously collected and turned over to the county treasury, but they were in the custody of the county commissioners. The total of these penalties had grown to a considerable amount. The fund was a special pet or pride of the commissioners. Apparently the law had made no plan to utilize it. It so happened that Major A. C. Reinoehl, an ex-soldier, was elected as the city representative in the Legislature. He drafted and presented a bill which was subsequently passed directing the county commissioners to turn this fund over to the Monument Association. The Commissioners having had entire custody of the fund for so long a time determined not to part with it. Up until this time the idea or the plans were to leave the monument association erect the monument, defray expenses, then turn it over to the County Commissioners who as custodians would care for it in the future. The bill having been passed in the legislature, the commissioners were requested to deliver the funds to the Monumental Association. This they flatly refused to do and furthermore refused to assume responsibility for the monument or act as its custodian. In fact, they absolutely refused to have anything whatever to do with it. It then became necessary for the Monumental Association to apply for a state charter. This was promptly and legally done when again the officers of the association (now a legally chartered organization) requested the commissioners to hand over the funds. Again they refused whereupon the association entered suit for the funds. The custodians resented the attitude of their adversaries and bitterly fought the case through the county court. In this the association was victorious. However, the commissioners appealed the case and it was re-fought and the association was again the victor. Great bitterness was shown in the suits and subsequent transactions. However, the Monument Association procured the money, paid the bills and effected a permanent organization, have cared for and paid the expenses of the monument ever since." <sup>17</sup>

"In July 1872 the county treasurer paid over the militia fund which had been collected for two years, \$5,187.43." <sup>18</sup>

Now the Monumental Association had the organization and money to begin its work. It began to look over samples, designs and plans for the monument. It got bids and estimates from several firms. After almost four months of deliberation the association made its decision. "Resolved, that the design of a monument presented at the regular meeting held 4 November 1872 by Lewis Haldy of Lancaster and Batterson, Canfield and Company of Hartford, Conn., be adopted as the design for a monument to be erected in Centre Square, Lancaster, and the officer be authorized and instructed to contract for the erection of a monument at the cost of \$20,000.00." <sup>19</sup>

"Batterson, Canfield and Company of Hartford, Conn., and Lewis Haldy of Lancaster, Pa. for the first part and the Lancaster County Monumental Association for the second part do hereby agree as follows: Said parties of the first part agree to furnish and set complete upon foundation provided by said parties of the second part in the public square in said Lancaster a certain monument in accordance with the design attached hereto and which form a part of this contract also in accordance with the purposal submitted by said parties of the first part said design having been adopted by said association at their meeting in Lancaster on 4 November 1872. Said parties of the first part agree to furnish all the designs, models, skill, labor, and materials, assume all the risk and expense of transportation and setting complete. A suitable dedicatory inscription to be placed upon the die without additional charge. The models for the statues to be approved by the executive committee of the association. The work to be completed in the fall of 1873 or the first of May 1874, at option of parties of the first part but not to be set up in the square at Lancaster until such time as the association may designate, not later than July 1, 1874. All the material and workmanship to be the best quality and in consideration of the faithful performance of the foregoing said parties of the second part hereby agree to pay to the parties of the first part the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in payment as follows: Five thousand dollars when the models of the statues are completed and approved. Five thousand dollars when the work is complete and ready for shipment. Two thousand dollars when the work arrives in Lancaster. Eight thousand dollars on the first day of May 1874 and the association hereby agrees that if the whole of said payment of eight thousand dollars is not paid at said time such sum as may remain unpaid at that time shall be paid in notes bearing interest until fully paid and payment in full to be made within a year from that date. The style of ornamation is of the Gothic order throughout, in accordance with the general design. The platform, or lower base course is eighteen feet square, the total height of the monument including the crowning statue is forty-three feet. Upon the four corners of the platform are four pedestals, upon which stand four statues, six feet high representing respectively the different branches of the services, the infantry, artillery, cavalry, and the navy. Upon the plinth in the centre of the platform is a richly moulded base upon which rests a massive die with frinze and moulded cornice. From the heavily moulded column base rises a graceful shaft with richly moulded bands containing the names of eight battlefields in high relief, polished on the face. The capital of the shaft is richly carved and ornamented. The capital is surmounted with a statue representing the genius of liberty, one hand resting on a shield, bearing the arms of the United States, the other holding her sheathed sword, garlanded with the wreath of victory. The height of this statue is eight feet. Ample space is given on the die for a suitable dedicatory inscription from the people of Lancaster County. The entire monument, including the statues is designed for execution in the white granite of Westerly, the same as was used for the National Monument at Gettysburg, and which is now being used in the construction of the National Monument at Antietam, also for numerous other valuable monuments, both public and private. We

recommend this material on account of its great beauty and durability, its purity and freedom from discoloration or stain, these qualities render it peculiarly adapted for artistic work. The Monument can be completed and set in the autumn of 1873. We propose to furnish, deliver and set the work at our risk for the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). The following resolution adopted by Common Council. Whereas, the Soldiers Monumental Association of Lancaster contemplate the erection and construction of a suitable monument in the city of Lancaster in memory of the Soldiers of Lancaster City and County who died on the battlefield and in Southern Prison pens, and in hospitals while in defence of our common country in the struggle against foul rebellion and whereas said association appointed a committee to consult with City Council and endeavor to obtain the consent of City Council to erect and construct a monument as aforesaid in Centre Square in the City of Lancaster, and to report the result of such consultation to the said Monumental Association. Therefore, resolved by the Select and Common Council of the City of Lancaster; That the Soldiers Monumental Association of Lancaster City be allowed the privilege to erect and construct a monument in memory of the fallen soldiers of Lancaster City and County in Centre Square in the City of Lancaster. Extract from minutes of Select Council 5 June 1872. Attest J. E. Barr. Be it resolved by Select and Common Council of Lancaster City; That the design of Proposed Lancaster County Monument adopted by the Monumenal Association at their regular meeing the first Monday of November and submitted for inspecion to Councils at this their meeting, meets the approval of Councils and the right to erect said monument in the Centre Square is hereby guaranteed to the Lancaster County Monumental Association provided that the said monument shall not occupy a space to exceed thirty-five feet square. That the work must be completed in nine months after breaking ground and that the square must be left in good condition and all damages incurred must be substained by the Monumental Association. In which action Common Council concurred. Extract from minutes of Select Council 4 December 1872. Attest J. E. Barr (Clerk of Select Council).”<sup>20</sup>

All of the aforementioned facts are taken directly from the minutes book of the Monumental Association. On their meeting of 3 February 1873, can be found the contract for construction of the monument and the payment of the same. Also there is the proposal and specification of the monument itself. The action of the Select and Common Councils can also be found there. The records of the Select and Common Councils for the period of this action are not to be found at the Lancaster City Hall. Therefore, it was impossible to get a copy of the Council action directly from their records. The deed to the land on which the monument stands is in the safety deposit box at the Fulton Bank in Lancaster. I was unable to see this document because the members of the association fear that something will happen to the deed such as getting lost, etc. They dislike very much the idea of taking it to the Court House to have it recorded for fear it will be misplaced. The deed can only be removed from the safety deposit box by the Trustees.



"Mr. Edgerly presented the following preamble and resolution: Whereas, the Soldiers Monumental Association of Lancaster contemplate the erection and construction of a suitable monument in the city of Lancaster in memory of the soldiers of Lancaster City and County who died on the battlefields and in southern prison pens, and in hospitals while in defence of our common country in her struggle against foul rebellion. And whereas said association appointed a committee to consult with City Council and endeavor to obtain the consent of City Council to erect and construct a monument as aforesaid in Centre Square in the City of Lancaster, and to report the result of such consultation to the said Monumental Association; Therefore, resolved that the Soldiers Monumental Association of Lancaster City be allowed the privilege to erect and construct a monument in memory of the fallen soldiers of Lancaster City and County in Centre Square in the City of Lancaster. After considerable debate in which all the speakers said they favored the erection of the monument but some of them thought the plans should be first submitted to Councils a motion was made and carried that the resolution be adopted provided the plan be submitted to Councils and approved. Select Council concurred." <sup>21</sup>

Almost immediately work was begun on the monument. The center of the square was torn-up and the foundation was begun. In Hartford, Conn., the monument itself was taking shape. The dream and desire for a monument was well on its way to becoming a reality. In the excavation process it was discovered that a system of water pipes lay directly in Centre Square. Were the pipes to be moved or the monument's foundations to be built around them?

"On motion the association decided to adopt as their plan for the foundation that of arching over the pipes laid on its site, provided that City Council failed to agree to carry said pipes around the foundation to be provided." <sup>22</sup>

"The inscription and battle names to be as follows: Erected by the people of Lancaster County to the memory of their fellow citizens who fell in defence of the Union in the War of the Rebellion. 1861 - 1865. Gettysburg, Antietam, Malvern Hill, Vicksburg, Chaplin Hills, Petersburg, Chickamauga, Wilderness." <sup>23</sup> These were to be put on the monument according to the terms of the contract.

"In order that there might be no settling, sagging, or imitation of the leaning tower, the committee determined to make a foundation that should vie with the Rock of Gibraltar. They accordingly excavated to solid rock. In digging they discovered the water main in the shape of a cross; one branch or arm pointing in the direction of each main. These pipes were carefully protected to prevent the cement and stone fill from touching them. They were so boxed that a man can crawl under the monument and examine or patch them if occasion requires. After this was done the excavated area was filled with cement and fine stone, together with huge boulders. It will be remembered that the era of reinforced concrete was not due for about half a century. The base of the monument is therefore hollow in the center, but resting on four legs or abutments about nine feet long." <sup>24</sup>

During the spring of 1874 the work on the monument continued. With the excavation complete, the monument itself was brought in and the job of erecting it begun. "In this work a derrick was broken, but no one was seriously hurt. However, after the whole column was erected, the broken derrick (which had been sawed off and used) was just long enough to place the statue on top of the shaft, allowing two inches to spare. Several weeks were required to erect the entire monument."<sup>25</sup> It was decided that the monument would be dedicated on 4 July 1874, with appropriate ceremonies.

"A great day in Lancaster, **Dedication of the Soldiers' Monument**, has come and gone. The Fourth of July has come and gone, the great event, the celebration of which cost months of preparation and thousands of dollars, has passed into history.

The day opened rather inauspiciously — dark clouds overhung the heavens, and although old probabilities had prophesied generally clear weather, an occasional sprinkle of rain gave warning that Lancaster at least was to be favored with a local shower. Between 9 and 10 o'clock it rained heavily and many who had intended to take part in the parade quietly folded up their regalia and like the historic Arab, silently stole away, and went home. Doubtless hundreds, if not thousands, of country people who would otherwise have been present, were deterred by the threatening weather from coming to town. Still, the streets were thronged with people, and as the different trains of cars came in, large numbers were added to the outside crowd, as well as to the organizations intending to participate in the parade. By 10 o'clock the storm was over and though it had caused great delay in the formation of the line, Chief Marshal Miles and his Division Marshals and Aide, stuck gallantly to work and got the line in motion shortly after the time announced — 10 o'clock.

The first division consisting of Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Boys, of Mount Joy Orphan School, Posts of the G.A.R. and veteran companies, formed on N. Duke St.; the second division consisting of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Union and a number of visiting military companies, formed on E. Orange St., facing west, at Duke St.; the third division consisting of secret benevolent and beneficial societies, formed on Orange St., facing east, at Duke St.; the fourth division consisting of firemen and carriages containing the orator of the day, invited guests and orphan girls of Mt. Joy school, in charge of Monumental Association formed on E. King St., facing west, at Duke St.

The signal for starting was given and the line moved over the following route, which is somewhat different from that announced in the programme: From Court House out S. Duke to Vine, Vine to Prince, Prince to W. King, W. King to Mulberry, Mulberry to Chestnut, Chestnut to N. Queen, N. Queen to James, James to N. Duke, N. Duke to E. Orange, E. Orange to Ann, Ann to E. King, E. King to Centre Square.

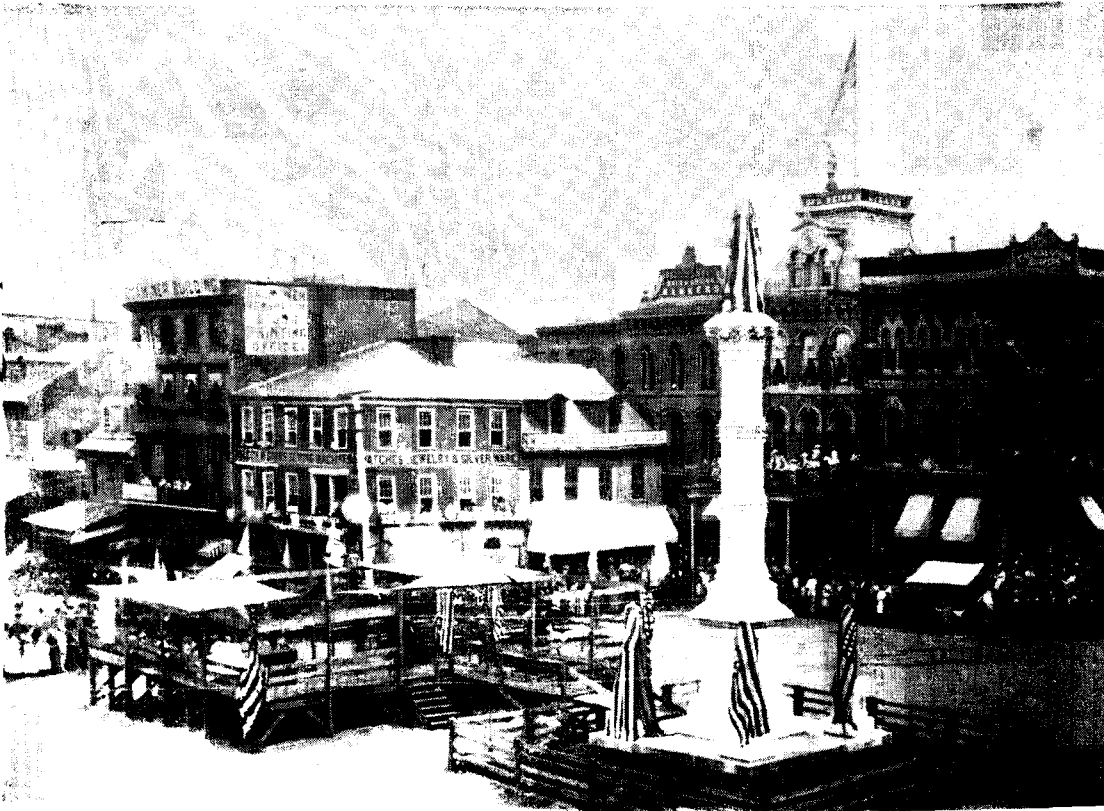
The scene in the Square — As all the divisions massed there was the most brilliant pageantry of the whole day. The waving flags and floating banners; the brilliant flashing of the arms; the many colored uniforms of the military; the gorgeous regalia of secret societies; the stirring music of a dozen bands combined to entertain the thousands of spectators, who

crowded around the ropes which had been drawn around the Square to prevent the interference of outsiders.

Every window and balcony which looked down upon the Square was thronged with eager faces, every house top which rose above the mass of people was crowded with men and boys, and some ambitious females even hugged Heiss' Indian or clung to the flag pole of the Examiner Office and waved their handkerchiefs to the enthusiastic multitude. The grand stand had already been occupied by the girls of the Soldiers' Orphans' School of Mt. Joy, and of the Lancaster Home, under charge of their teachers and dressed in neat uniforms. As the carriages were driven through the ranks the distinguished guests of the day alighted and took their places on the stand and about 1 o'clock everything was in readiness for the Exercises of Dedication, previous to which the ropes were taken down and the masses in the outside crowded in, filling the Square in a few minutes. In appropriate words Mayor W. D. Stauffer welcomed the audience, and he was followed by a piece of vocal music, **My Father's Grave**, sung by the orphan girls. Rev. D. H. Geissinger then offered a fervent prayer and the Liederkrantz and Choral Society, under the leadership of Prof. Hall and with Prof. Haas at the organ, sang several patriotic selections. Owing to the lateness of the hour, the reading of the letters from distinguished persons, who were invited and could not be present, was dispensed with,

**Dedication of the Monument 4 July 1874, showing veiled statues and northeast corner of Centre Square. An Indian is mounted atop George Heiss cigar store. Of all buildings shown except church steeples only the first two floors of the buildings to the right of the Monument survive.**

John Ward Willson Loose Archives



though it was announced by Capt. H. Breneman that letters of regret had been received from President Grant, Gens. Sherman and Sheridan, Gov. Hartranft, Chief Justice Agnew and others. Maj. A. C. Reinoehl then introduced ex-Gov. Curtin, the orator of the day, who proceeded to deliver the address. At the conclusion of the address, he stepped across the bridge from the stand to the monument to the base of the latter, followed by four little girls named: Susie Ziegler, Lizzie Frey, and Lizzie and Marie Freemayer, soldiers' orphans, dressed in white, who took their places at the statues on the corners, and at a given signal, drew aside the flags which veiled them, while Gov. Curtin pulled the rope which held the veil of the Goddess of Liberty, and the whole monument stood revealed to the eyes of the thousands of spectators who joined in one loud acclamation of applause, while the band struck up **The Star Spangled Banner**. The church bells rang and Old Trinity's chimes pealed forth and the minute gun boomed its thunders of applause.

One of the boys of the Orphans' School climbed up the base and hung a wreath around each statue and the monument stood revealed in all its classic beauty. The space occupied in the Square by the whole structure will be 35 feet each way, of which 17½ is taken up by the base of the monument itself.

After the ceremonies of unveiling, the great crowd slowly dispersed, the military and societies moved off to their headquarters, many lingered around the Square to inspect the monument and soon the streets were filled with an active restless crowd hurrying hither and thither to the saloons and hotels for refreshment and everywhere there were attractions offered to the sight and taste. The rest of the afternoon was taken up with park races, a concert, baseball games, community singing and various other festivities." <sup>26</sup>

"A letter was read from the Batterson, Canfield and Company, contractors for the monument stating a change which had been effected in their firm and the formation of a new company under the title of the New England Granite Works." <sup>27</sup>

Letters were written by me to the New England Granite Works and to Lewis Haldy Memorials, Inc., and I was unable to obtain any information in regards to the monument. It appears that the New England Granite Works is no longer in business and Haldy Memorials have no records pertaining to the monument in Penn Square.

After the monument was erected, the Monumental Association was concerned over its safety. They wanted to erect some type of an enclosure around the monument. It was thought to put four granite posts on each of the corners and some type of fence around the monument. Once again it was necessary for the members to look over samples and estimates from various firms. After some time a decision was made. "The officers of the association met and on motion it was ordered that a contract be entered into with the New England Granite Works for the completion of the copying [sic] of Westerly Granite for the Monumental enclosure at the price of Three Hundred and Twenty Dollars (\$320.00) boxed on cars at the quarry. Design no. 6152 for the iron fence was also adopted and contract authorized for completion of same. The sale of copying [sic] purchases

previously was authorized." 28

Some twenty years after the monument was erected it was decided by the association that the date of dedication was to be cut into the stone. This was overlooked at the time of erection and it was thought that it had better be done now. "The executive committee was instructed to confer with stone cutters and have the date of dedication cut on the base of the monument." 29

This was done and then, about a year later, someone thought that since the monument stood on a spot on which the old court house had stood for many years, this also should be noted on the stone of the monument. This also explains why the association does not want the monument moved. It stands on historic ground and their members want to keep the monument in a respected and honored position. "The executive committee presented the suggestion of the Historical Society of Lancaster County that the following inscription should be placed on the monument: **On this spot stood the old court house wherein met the Continental Congress, September 27, 1777.** The association approved the suggestion and ordered it done." 30

Now it was felt that the monument was complete. It had been erected and correctly inscribed as the association had desired. It stood in the square and served to all as a reminder of the citizens who had fought and died in the civil war. It became a part of Lancaster and Lancaster became a part of it.

In 1905 after the monument had stood in the square for thirty years and it had gotten dirty, the members of the association thought that it should be cleaned. "On motion the executive committee was authorized to have the monument cleaned by sand-blast or other safe method to avoid injury to the material and carved work thereof." 31 This was done and it now appears that the monument and the association took a back seat to everything else. For the next ten years very little was heard of the monument or of the association. The association cared for the monument in seeing to it that it was kept clean and the grass cut. It was seen as a part of Lancaster, just as were the Amish, the markets, and Wheatland.

When the city began to get its electric lighting on the city streets it was proposed to get lights for the monument. "W. M. Nixdorf, Secretary of the Civic Society, presented plans and drawings of four standard lights proposed to be erected on the four post of fence surrounding the monument at no expense to the Monumental Association and lighting to be furnished by the Edison Electric Company. The proposition was unanimously approved and the secretary ordered to notify Mr. Nixdorf, Secretary." 32

The square was used as a center for the loading and unloading by the local transportation company. The people who waited for cars to take them to where they were going would lounge at the monument. There are, in the minutes of the Monumental Association, many reports and complaints about this lounging. The mayor was approached by the association and the police notified to see that the practice of throwing trash and rubbish inside the enclosure be stopped.

Also it was about this time that the proposals for moving the monument to another location began to appear. The first report of the attempts to move the monument appear in the minutes of the association. "The association recorded vigorous protests against all attempts to bring about any projects for a change in the location of the monument structure and any agitation of ill advised designs toward such object as calling for determined condemnation wherever offered publicly." <sup>33</sup>

The thought began to appear that the land on which the monument stands does not belong to the Monumental Association, but that it belongs to the city and can be taken by the city. As I stated before, the City Councils records are not available for checking and the only sources found were in the minutes of the association and in the local newspaper.

"On motion it was ordered that existing county records of title after copying, be placed in safe deposit box for future reference in the Fulton Bank, Lancaster." <sup>34</sup> I do not know if this was done, but I do know there is a box at the Fulton National Bank, for which the association is regularly billed.

"On 8 June 1931, a bronze tablet, bearing the likeness of Abraham Lincoln and the text of the Gettysburg Address was placed within the enclosure by the Sons of the Union Veterans. It was dedicated by the Sons of Union Veterans and their auxiliary and presented by the Department Commander Jacob Wentzel of Uniontown. It was presented to the Lancaster County G.A.R. Monumental Association and accepted by Washington F. Hambright, president of the local G.A.R. Monumental Association. It faces toward the west, in the direction of Gettysburg." <sup>35</sup> This tablet, which is just inside the enclosure, is still very readable. Although at the present time, pedestrians are forbidden to walk through the square, it is possible to get out to the monument to look at it closely or read any of the inscriptions by asking any policeman for an escort.

"The thanks of the Association were extended to the Sons of the Union Veterans in placing on the monument base a tablet bearing President Lincoln's likeness and his Gettysburg Address." <sup>36</sup>

Along with the complaints about the trash and rubbish being deposited at the monument, the hanging of signs or announcements was also looked upon with disfavor by the association. "The following resolution was adopted: That permission for the use of the monument or any part of the plot surrounding the monument, the iron fence surrounding the plot whereon the monument stands, for any purpose other than that for which it was dedicated must be given through and by the consent of the executive committee of the said Lancaster County Monumental Association." <sup>37</sup>

Early in 1935, Mayor James Ross held a Council meeting and invited members of the Monumental Association to attend. The meeting was held with the purpose of trying to get the association to move the monument to another location to help the flow of traffic. Members of the association went and listened to the Councils and promised an answer very soon. A special meeting of the Monumental Association was held. "The Lancaster County Monumental Association goes on record as being opposed to the removal of the monument from its present site and the Mayor of the City of Lancaster, Honorable James H. Ross, be so informed." <sup>38</sup>

Also a letter was written by the solicitor of the association to the association. "The monument erected in Centre Square by the citizens of Lancaster County contains these inscriptions. Erected by the people of Lancaster County to the memory of their fellow citizens who fell in the defence of the Union in the War of the Rebellion /1861-1865/Erected 1874/ On this spot stood the court house in which the Continental Congress met Sept. 27, 1777.

As the site of the monument is land preserved for its historical significance I am of the opinion that the right of eminent domain cannot be exercised by the city to remove the monument and appropriate the land without your consent.

Very truly,

W. C. Rehm  
Solicitor." 39

The plan to have the monument moved failed. This was the first time that an effort had been made to have the monument moved to another location, but it was not the last.

"The members of the commission expressed their pleasure that the recent agitation for the removal of the monument had utterly failed." 40

It was once again time to clean the monument. This time the County Commissioners and the Mayor of the City of Lancaster plus the Commissioners of the City all helped to pay the bill. "Mr. Rudy stated that the County Commissioners and the Mayor and Commissioners of the City had made contributions towards the cleaning of the monument. The contract was awarded to the Vermont Stone Cleaning Co. of Philadelphia, Pa., at a cost of \$277.00. Before the scaffolding was torn down we were informed that the cement joints had been badly damaged by the sandblast cleaning of November 1924. A Mr. Lynch, of the cleaning firm was directed to knock out the cement joints on the lower post of the monument and caulk all the joints with lead wool at a cost of \$25.00 which will be paid by the association." 41

During World War II many of Lancaster's sons and daughters were in the armed forces and defending the same union that had been defended in 1861. "Thomas Barber last October asked permission to have plaques bearing the names of more than 1600 men and women from Lancaster who are now engaged in the service of their country placed around the four sides of the monument for the duration of the war. The President and Secretary having examined the designs and finding them substantial and pleasing in design granted the request." 42

This plaque was placed on the monument and remained there until after the war.

There was still a group who wanted to have the monument moved, for one reason or another, to another location. This group said that the traffic in the center of the city was choked-up by the monument in the very center of the square. At this time there was a survey being conducted by the city, called the Baker Plan, to prepare a future plan for development of the City of Lancaster. "The secretary announced that the Baker Engineers employed to prepare a **municipal plan** for the future development of Lancaster reported that they look with favor upon the monument as it helps prevent traffic from speeding across the main intersection." 43

It appears that this group who had worked for the removal of the monument would not be content until some action was taken. In August, 1947 a movement was made by the City of Lancaster to change the base of the monument from a square to a circle. If the monument could not be moved then it will be changed seems to be the attitude of some. "The association resolved that permission to make such change be not granted. Further, the secretary of the monumental association was instructed to make a personal call on the solicitor of the City of Lancaster that he may give the consensus of opinion of the members of the executive committee on the subject matter." 44

In February 1947 the Conestoga Transportation Company of Lancaster, removed its loading and unloading stations in Penn Square. This was in some degree the reason for attempting to have the monument changed from a square to a circle.

After the taking of the buses out of the square it was decided to once again clean the monument. Much of the dirt and debris that collected on and about the monument was due to the buses. The exhaust of the buses and the carelessness of the passengers waiting for them greatly aided in giving the monument a dirty and unkept appearance. The fund for this project was to be by contributions. "The firm of Benjamin and Fleming estimated the cost of cleaning and painting the surrounding fence at \$485.00. The trustees were authorized to enter into contract for the payment of the same. Permission was given to have cards distributed to individual members authorizing them to receive contributions from their friends which was signed by the President and Secretary. This was to help raise funds for the work to be done on the monument." 45

"The total cost of renovating the monument last November was \$500.00 and the amount collected by 9 members of the association was \$559.00. The Bremen Co. received \$15.00 for the caulking of the joints. The President announced that for the time being the plot would be looked after by members of the association. Also the four light standards will be removed early in the summer in connection with the modern lighting system being installed in the city." 46

For almost eight years the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument at Penn Square lay in darkness. No longer did crowds lounge on it or hang on it while waiting for a bus. Its lack of lighting made it an almost forgotten piece of stone. But early in 1956 it appeared that the monument would once again be illuminated. "Miles Keiffer spoke on relighting the monument. He said that he thinks that it can be done. He also said that Federal Funds might be available for this purpose. He was named a committee of one to see about it." 47 It was hoped by all that this new lighting plan would be carried out. All waited until the regularly scheduled meeting in June, to see the results, if any.

In July the association met and the results became known. "Miles Keiffer suggested new lights on each corner, each 1500 watts; between each corner light, three lights, two of 200 watts and one of 500 watts. The corner lights to shine upwards toward the top of the monument. The list price for the lights are \$244.00 for each of the corner lights; \$136.00 for each of the four center lights; and \$186.00 for each of the eight lights.



The cost of the entire project would cost between \$3,300.00 and \$3,500.00. With the help of Mr. Earl Rebman, who is very much in favor of putting new lights on the monument, and Mr. Joseph T. Kingston of the news paper, we can get enough money to cover the expenses." <sup>48</sup>

The Mayor of the City of Lancaster was approached on the subject and he was very much in favor of the project. "Mr. Earl Rebman presented a sketch to the mayor and he was very much in favor of the project. Also that the city will provide the extra electricity needed. Mr. Rebman, when we start a fund for the project, said he will give a \$100.00 check and that he is one of the many Lancaster citizens that wouldn't want the monument moved." <sup>49</sup>

Now that the association had estimates on the cost and a beginning of a fund it was necessary to devise a way of raising the additional money. "Mr. Rebman presented a copy of the letter and history of the monument to be sent out. He suggested that these be sent out first class mail with the envelopes to have a return address printed on them." <sup>50</sup> The letter asked the people for a donation towards the lighting fund. Work went ahead on wiring the monument to receive the new lights.

Mr. Miles Keiffer did the installation work on the lights. "Mr. Miles Keiffer said he is ready for the lights, and the wiring is in. He said the lights have been shipped last Friday. The new lights are to be dedicated on Sunday, December 2, 1956 at 5:00 P.M." <sup>51</sup>

There were several delays in shipping the lights and also in installing the lights. On December 23, 1956 the lights for the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Penn Square were turned on by George F. K. Erisman 319 W. Orange St. and Mrs. Mame Smith, 12 Caroline St., both of Lancaster. "Two of Lancaster's venerable elder citizens last night jointly pressed a button on a flag-stand in Penn Square, illuminating 12 powerful spotlights ranged about the base of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, and officially dedicating the new \$3500.00 permanent lighting system installed by the Lancaster County Monumental Association. This new lighting system, designed to be permanent, will be in operation nightly, from dusk to dawn, controlled by an automatic time switch located in the basement of Old City Hall. It was designed and installed by Miles H. Keiffer, electrical engineer of Manheim and a member of the board of directors of the Lancaster County Monumental Association." <sup>52</sup>

"The treasurer of the lighting fund committee, reported that we have enough money in the bank to pay the balance to Miles Keiffer. But she was ordered not to pay this bill until she received an itemized account of the project." <sup>53</sup> This account was later paid and the monument was once again with lights shining on it, making it visible to all. It is well illuminated and makes a very beautiful picture.

In early 1958 a letter was received from Mr. Earl Rebman and read to the association. "The secretary read a letter from Mr. Earl Rebman in regards to the \$500.00 he loaned us to pay for the new lights. He said he does not want it back and we should accept it as a gift. The secretary was instructed to send him a letter of thanks." <sup>54</sup>

In 1958, Mr. Robert M. Chryst, City Traffic Engineer, made a study of the traffic in the center of the City of Lancaster. "The Soldiers and

Sailors Monument in Penn Square is not a traffic hazard and should be allowed to stay where it is. In a sense the monument now is a safety factor because it splits traffic going through the square." He reached his conclusion on the monument in the course of a detailed study he is making of the square for the City Traffic Bureau. He stressed however, that he was speaking of the monument only in relation to existing traffic patterns. "As things stand now, I don't think the monument should be moved. I'm not saying it shouldn't be moved in the future if conditions change and it becomes a traffic hazard." <sup>55</sup>

As Christmas approached in 1958 the association was approached with requests to put signs on the monument. "The secretary was asked to write a letter to Miles Keiffer in regards to the lights as the city has telephoned Mr. Rineer (President of the Association) and asked if we can reduce the wattage as the cost of lighting is pretty high. Also it was agreed to allow the Junior Chamber of Commerce to put signs around the monument reading, **Keep Christ in Christmas.**" <sup>56</sup> These signs were erected on the four sides of the monument. And at a meeting held on 12 April 1959, there was a general discussion about this display. Some thought that the signs were very plain and simple. Others opposed the use of the monument as a billboard and advertising space. It was said to be sacred ground and should be kept that way.

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument stands in Penn Square, Lancaster, Pa. It was erected by the citizens and placed on ground deeded by the City of Lancaster to the Lancaster County Monumental Association. Some condemn it as a traffic hazard, while many others defend it. The Monumental Association has cared for it and defended it against any and all attempts to remove it. It is my opinion and hope that this memorial will remain where it is, and according to all information available to me it cannot be removed by anyone other than the Monumental Association, nor can it be changed or altered in any way without their expressed permission.

Besides being a monument to the fallen citizens of Lancaster, it also stands on historic ground. It is only fitting and proper that this ground should be marked off and honored as an historic spot. The spot on which the Old Court House stood, in which the Continental Congress met in 1777, is in itself enough to justify this.

Agitation for removal for the monument is growing, but so is the determination of the association that it shall remain where it is. Each side has fought the other to a stand-still and it appears that this will remain so for many years to come.

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## NOTES

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2. Lancaster Daily Evening Express, 5 May 1866.
3. *Ibid*, 10 February 1866.
4. *Ibid*, 22 February 1866.
5. *Ibid*, 27 February 1866.

6. **Ibid**, 13 March 1866.
7. **Ibid**, 10 October 1866.
8. **Ibid**, 4 January 1867.
9. **Ibid**, 12 April 1867.
10. **Ibid**, 24 April 1867.
11. **Ibid**, 12 May 1867.
12. **Lancaster Intelligencer**, 27 November 1867.
13. **Ibid**, 30 November 1867.
14. **Ibid**, 9 December 1867.
15. **Minutes of Lancaster County Monumental Association**, 24 July 1871.
16. **Ellis and Evans, History of Lancaster County**, p. 87.
17. **Lancaster Sunday News**, 3 August 1930.
18. **Ellis and Evans, History of Lancaster County**, p. 88.
19. **Minutes of Lancaster County Monumental Association**, 4 November 1872.
20. **Ibid**, 3 February 1873.
21. **Lancaster Intelligencer**, 6 June 1872.
22. **Minutes of Lancaster County Monumental Association**, 15 September 1873.
23. **Ibid**, 11 February 1874.
24. **Lancaster Sunday News**, 3 August 1930.
25. **Ibid**, 3 August 1930.
26. **Lancaster Intelligencer**, 6 July 1874.
27. **Minutes of Lancaster County Monumental Association**, 13 October 1875.
28. **Ibid**, 4 August 1877.
29. **Ibid**, 12 June 1895.
30. **Ibid**, 10 June 1896.
31. **Ibid**, 21 June 1905.
32. **Ibid**, 27 June 1914.
33. **Ibid**, 18 June 1924.
34. **Ibid**, 15 June 1929.
35. **Lancaster Intelligencer**, 9 June 1931.
36. **Minutes of Lancaster County Monumental Association**, 14 June 1931.
37. **Ibid**, 1 June 1932.
38. **Ibid**, 24 February 1935.
39. **Ibid**, 7 March 1935.
40. **Ibid**, 26 June 1935.
41. **Ibid**, 30 September 1937.
42. **Ibid**, 5 June 1944.
43. **Ibid**, 3 June 1946.
44. **Ibid**, 12 August 1947.
45. **Ibid**, 17 November 1947.
46. **Ibid**, 7 June 1948.
47. **Ibid**, 11 March 1956.
48. **Ibid**, 17 July 1956.
49. **Ibid**, 4 September 1956.
50. **Ibid**, 16 October 1956.
51. **Ibid**, 20 November 1956.
52. **Lancaster Intelligencer**, 24 December 1956.
53. **Minutes of Lancaster County Monumental Association**, 29 July 1957.
54. **Ibid**, 9 March 1958.
55. **Lancaster New Era**, 21 July 1958.
56. **Minutes of Lancaster County Monumental Association**, 23 November 1958.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

James D. McMahon was born in Lancaster on 17 July 1930 and was graduated from Lancaster Catholic High School in 1948 and Franklin and Marshall College in 1960. He is married and has three children. Prior to joining the Lancaster Police Department, Mr. McMahon served five years in the U. S. Marine Corps of which two years he was on assignment at the American Embassy at Bogota, Colombia. He is on call as Spanish interpreter for the city police and county court.