

THE LAFAYETTE BANQUET IN LANCASTER

Through the kindness of President Steinman, the principal facts of the following short article came into my hands, which enables me to give the following account to the Society. These facts have come to light through the private papers of Mr. E. P. Brinton.

General Lafayette, the staunch friend of America during the Revolutionary War, paid a visit to Lancaster in 1825. The facts relating to his visit are set forth at large in the Century Number of the Lancaster Intelligencer of March 9, 1895, on pages 16 and 17.

He reached America in August, 1824, but about a year went by before he honored our city. He was expected here in the Fall of 1824, and again in the Winter of 1824-5; but in February, 1825, he wrote from Washington that he regretted he could not have taken in Lancaster in his late visit to Harrisburg, to which place he went as guest of the General Assembly. But July 26, the good news was announced in the Intelligencer that he would shortly be in Lancaster. A line of parade was arranged, the farmers met at Bachman's Inn to join the parade--the merchants closed their stores and joined in also. The local military companies received orders from Major General Hibshman to be the escort to bring the guest from the Chester county line to the review,

fixed two miles east of Lancaster, and thence to Slaymaker's Hotel, and the City Volunteers joined in. Lafayette was scheduled to arrive at noon on Wednesday, July 27, and on the 26th three elegant barouches—each with four fine horses—left Lancaster to go to Chester county and meet him. On the morning of the 27th, about fourteen miles west of West Chester, he and his party were transferred from the Chester county to the Lancaster county carriages. One coach had four dapple grays, one four bays and one four white horses.

They met a great concourse of troops at Mount Vernon, on the Lancaster county line. After salute, General Porter made a complimentary speech to the guest, which was eloquently replied to by Lafayette. They then proceeded westward. He next alighted and met a crowd of ladies and gentlemen at Paradise. At 3:40 they arrived at Grove's field, two miles east of Lancaster. Here was a tremendous crowd of soldiers and civilians. The monster parade formed, and at 5:30 they triumphantly entered Lancaster city. At seven o'clock the parade ended at Slaymaker's Hotel, in Lancaster. Here was a general reception, a speech by Mayor Lightner and a response by Lafayette. At eight o'clock the party of guests and the leaders in the management of the affair sat down to an elegant dinner furnished by Mr. Slaymaker. This was Wednesday, the 27th of July. Thursday morning the clergy called and paid their respects. At eleven o'clock Lafayette visited the Lancastrian schools, where he met 320 boys and girls, the boys decorated with blue sashes and each with a bunch of laurel, and the girls in white, with pink sashes, each having

a beautiful bouquet of flowers. There were many banners and transparencies and much stirring music, and Lafayette was almost overcome with emotion.

At four o'clock the General and suite were escorted to the upper room of the Court House, where about one hundred principal men sat down to a sumptuous dinner, furnished by Mr. John Stehman.

The price per plate was \$5, and the following persons sat down to the feast:

Adam Reigart, Walter Franklin, George B. Porter, George Mayer, Jasper Slaymaker, Andrew B. Kauffman, Thomas Jefferies, Thomas Wentz, George Louis Mayer, W. B. Ross, John Myer, Josh. Ogilby, Samuel Humes, Jr., Michael Graeff, John R. Montgomery, P. Wager Reigart, Christian Burg, Edward Coleman, Henry Keffer, J. Kauffman, Evan R. Evans, Edward Clarke, James Humes, John Reynolds, Cyrus S. Jacobs, B. Champneys, C. Hager, C. Bachman, Nathaniel W. Sample, Jr., Wm. Montgomery, Geo. H. Krug, S. D. Orrick, John L. Atlee, Nathaniel Lightner, James Hopkins, Robert Evans, William Norris, Robert Russell, Cyrus Jacobs, George Musser, John Getz, Hugh Maxwell, Milton C. Rogers, Henry Carpenter, Jacob Long, John Miller, Abm. Carpenter, Henry Rogers, Henry Eicholtz, Jacob Slough, Samuel O. Jacobs, William Jenkins, W. Hopkins, E. C. Reigart, General Jacob Hibshman, Joseph Jefferies, John Yeates, Jacob Neff, Jr., Francis Kendig, John Forrey, Jr., James Coleman, William Coleman, Edward Davies, Thos. G. Henderson, Benjamin Ober, Samuel Duffield, Sol. Heise, John B. Ives, Simeon Genford, Samuel N. Gray, Charles Perot, Henry D. Secker, James Evans, Sylvester

Welsh, R. W. Houston, Alderman Moore, F. A. Muhlenberg, E. H. Brien, Dan. Graeff, Solomon Foster, W. Forman, John Humes, Patton Ross, Henry A. Carpenter, Samuel C. Slaymaker, John Longenecker, Henry Bear, Robert Elliott, Benjamin Bear, John Lightner, George Hambright, John Hoover, John Huber, Henry M. Reigart, Geo. W. Jacobs and Samuel Fahnestock—97 persons.

The account rendered by John Stehman of the viands and supplies for the dinner was:

Seven geese, \$3.50; 6 pairs ducks, \$2.25; 8 chickens, \$1; beets, \$1; spices, \$1.50; potatoes, \$1; 8 tongues, \$2; 3 hams, \$4.50; 30 pounds of fish, \$1.04; 1 bushel apples, \$1.50; 1 lump of sugar \$2; liquors for kitchen use, \$2; bread, \$4.50; wood, \$2; carrots, \$.40; beans, \$1; cabbage, \$1.44; 30 pounds butter, \$7.50; squashes, \$.50; cash for lemons, \$3.75; cash for beef, \$17.75; cash paid Mr. Shumard for sundries, \$10.99; cash paid H. Keffer, \$3.40; cash paid cook, \$3; 8 pints brandy, \$4; 7 half-pints gin, \$1.75; 7 half-pints old Whiskey, \$1.75; cash paid Mr. Slaymaker for broken ware, \$1.87½; cash paid to servants, \$14; cash paid Chas. Butler and wife, \$6; cash paid John Myer, \$1.30; broken plates, \$1.50; half box segars, \$8.50; 2 dozen young pigeons, \$1.50; 16 drinks per Geo. L. Myer, \$.96; 1 bowl Porter Sangree, by order of H. Keffer, \$.25; 6 dinners for children in Court House, \$1.12½; 1 bottle porter, \$.25; 1 bowl porter Sangree, \$.25; 2 gills wine, \$.25; 1 bottle porter Sangree, \$.25; 1 gill Libson wine, \$.06; 6 dinners for children, \$1.69; ½ gill brandy, \$.06; 1 bottle porter Sangree, \$.25; 1 gill Libson wine, \$.06; 1 bottle porter, \$.25; 5

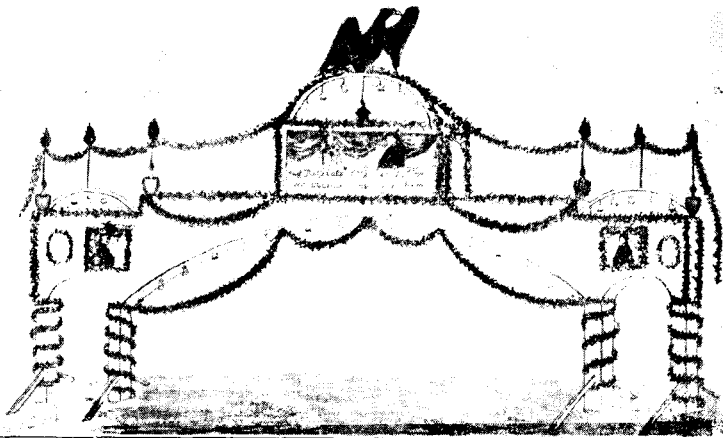
dozen 2-12 bottles wine (1813) \$83.08; 4 dozen Champagne, \$64; 2½ dozen Clarret, \$15; sundries from Philadelphia, \$6.11; cheese, \$5; glass stand broken, \$2; and 2 silver teaspoons last, \$2, a total of \$305.59. Stehman was also allowed \$100 for his services as caterer. The Mayor presided at this meal and the whole company was agreeable.

After the cloth was removed, the following toasts were responded to, or rather were drunk:

“General Lafayette, our Friend and Benefactor, connected with Two Worlds, and Two Generations—Through Him the Spark of Liberty was Conducted from the New World to the Old.” Upon delivery of this the General rose, and, after expressing acknowledgments, gave “The City and County of Lancaster.”

The others were: “American Independence—A full and heaped measure of gratitude for the merits and services of all who contributed to its establishment;” “The Memory of George Washington;” “The President of the United States;” “The Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;” “The Principles of the Patriot, who Opposes the Tyranny of the Despot and the Intrigues of the Demagogue, and Supports the Authority and the Privileges of the People;” “Constitutional Governments;” “Whigs and Whig Principles, All the World Over;” “The People of the New World;” “Our Fair Country Women.”

“Woman—the happiest pledge of
Heaven’s good will—
Woman—the perfect picture of its
skill—
Woman—who all our noblest thoughts
employs—
Woman—the center of all earthly
joys.”



AN ARCH ERECTED BY THE PATRIOTIC CITIZENS OF WEST KING STREET, LANCASTER, IN HONOR OF THE ARRIVAL OF GENERAL G. M. LA FAYETTE WHO VISITED THIS TOWN, JULY 27, 1825.

Lafayette, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Davies and Mr. Forry also made short speeches. Lafayette on "The Memory of My Light Infantry Friend and Companion in Arms, the Good and Gallant General Hand," and also on "The Dignity of Man as it is Understood and Practiced in the United States." Montgomery on "The Memory of Alexander Hamilton;" Davies on "The County and City of Lancaster, May They Continue to Prosper and Improve;" Forry, on "The Memory of William Penn."

The report states that the General retired about 8 o'clock, and visited some of his friends.

He visited a party given to the ladies in Masonic Hall, in order that the noble mothers and fair daughters of Lancaster might also meet the "Nation's Guest." At about 10 o'clock he retired to bed.

As it was known he intended to leave town early next morning, the whole town was early astir; at 6 o'clock the three coaches and four drove up to Slaymaker's, his hotel; he presently appeared; the military marched up and saluted him; he ascended to his coach and was escorted out of town by the battalion and a great concourse of people. Our committee accompanied him to the Maryland State line, where a company of Baltimoreans took charge of him.

While he was here the town of Lancaster was finely decorated. In each of the four streets leading to the Court House in Centre Square, was a beautiful arch with appropriate inscriptions; and at night these arches, together with the houses, were brilliantly illuminated.

We are fortunate in having one of the invitations to the ball given in

the Masonic Hall, which I have referred to above. It is in the shape of a card four and one-half inches by six inches of heavy white material. The engraving upon it is in sepia, that is a deep cinnamon color. It is worded as follows:

At the top, in large embellished script, the words, "Lafayette Ball," and underneath it and a little to the left of the center is a representation of the Goddess of Liberty, and to the left of this the American Eagle, defiant. And to the left of the eagle a ship full sail. Just to the right of the center of the card is the Goddess of Plenty seated with the cornucopiae; and to the right of this four Cherubs dancing in glee. In the center of these various pictures is the portrait of Lafayette in an oval frame, which both of the Goddesses are supporting.

Underneath the picture there is the following:

"The honor of Mrs. Russel's company is requested. Lancaster, July, 1825. John Reynolds, George Porter, George Louis Mayer, Hager Reigart, John F. Steinman, Fred. Hambright, Samuel Humes, Jr., Cyrus P. Jacobs, Robert Moderwell and Evan R. Evans."

We also have a badge which was apparently worn by the committee to welcome the guest, which is seven inches long, two and a-half inches wide in the form of a strip of velvet ribbon cut to a point each end, bound by a light pale blue binding. The badge itself seems to have been originally a cream color and has a rich velvety appearance. The legend upon it is, "Welcome," underneath which there is a flying eagle having in his bill branches of laurel. Underneath this is the word "Lafayette," under which is a representation of the

bust of the General in a decorated frame, at the base of which are cannon and flags. And below this is the legend, "Liberty or Death, '76." The lettering and painting on the badge is a deep, rich brown, and some of the other decorations are in colors. These are both the property of the Society.

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