

First Social Function of the Society

The first formal social function of the Lancaster County Historical Society was held on Friday evening, May 5, at the Hotel Brunswick and was the outcome of an effort made for some time to develop the social side of the organization. The affair was a brilliant success and it is planned to make it an annual event.

Two Hundred There.

Well nigh two hundred persons occupied the finely decorated banquet hall of the hostelry. It was for the most part an assemblage of distinguished local personages. There were also descendants of men and women who made history in "the Garden Spot" in the gathering. All participated in the enjoyment of the occasion, and some contributed no little. That there is talent among the men and women of the organization and their friends from the county was clearly evidenced by the excellence of every literary feature. While the consideration of things historical was to be eliminated for the most part in favor of the present, the past came in for its share of attention. It was the speakers who paid a glowing tribute to the influence of the worthy Scotch-Irish and Germans who settled and gave prestige to the county of Lancaster. Nor did they forget to laud the splendid work of the Lancaster County Historical Society.

Brief Business Session.

A purely business session of the organization was held, with Mr. F. R.

Diffenderffer presiding. Several new members were nominated, and a half-dozen were elected to membership. The literary part of the programme was presided over by Hon. Charles I. Landis, Judge of the Lancaster County Courts. The violin solo work of Miss Gunhilde Jette entranced her audience; Miss Miriam Shaub delighted the assemblage with several vocal selections, with Miss Josephine Kirkland at the piano, and Mr. Paul N. Landis, of Franklin and Marshall Academy, recited very creditably, while Lieutenant-Governor Frank B. McClain, with Mrs. McClain at the piano, sang in his most entertaining manner, and was certainly at his best. Orchestra music was furnished by Miss Anna E. Martin, pianist; Miss Gunhilde Jette, violiniste; Mr. Eric Jette, 'cellist, and Mr. John Mohring, flutist. Their efforts were greatly appreciated by the audience. An especially fine luncheon was served by Proprietor Paul Heine at the close of the musical and literary programme.

The addresses of the evening were a decided intellectual treat. Discourses were delivered by Rev. Samuel D. McConnell, of Easton, Md.; Rev. Dr. Theodore Herman, of the Lancaster Theological Seminary; Dr. Nathan C. Schaeffer, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; C. E. Postlethwaite, of New York, and Lieutenant-Governor Frank B. McClain.

Dr. McConnell's Address.

Dr. McConnell is one of the leading Episcopalian divines in America. He has retired from the active ministry. He is a former pastor of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, in Philadelphia, one of the oldest churches of the denomination in the United States. He

was also formerly pastor of one of the leading Episcopal churches in New York City. Furthermore, he is an author of note, having written a number of books. Although not a native of Lancaster county, he is of local extraction. He tells the story of how he delivered an address at Chestnut Level some years ago, and by simply crossing a field from the meeting-house he stood in the God's-acre where are located the graves of three of his ancestors.

In his delightful address, Doctor McConnell referred to this peculiarity by which he is bound to Lancaster county and the personal interest he has in its history in consequence. He highly commended the work of the local historians, and took occasion to pay a glowing tribute to the late Hon. W. U. Hensel, who was for many years one of their most active spirits. He spoke of the great loss that many other people beyond the confines of the county felt through the death of Mr. Hensel, who was a valued friend to many.

He spoke of the migrations of the Scotch-Irish and Germans from Lancaster to Westmoreland and other counties across the Alleghenies, then to Ohio and Indiana, and finally to Illinois and Iowa. Each place they visited they left the impress of Lancaster county, and in their emigration westward were in each locality a staunch citizenry. He took occasion to make a fling at the toll roads still in existence in Lancaster county.

Doctor Herman's Talk.

Doctor Herman declared the Lancaster County Historical Society was one of the factors of greatest good in its influence upon the community, in that it generates and fosters respect for the great and good folk of

the past who have made the perfection of the present possible. He showed that it inculcates in the youth of to-day the ambition to uphold the high standards maintained or established by the leaders of other days. He contended that the people who do not pay any attention to local history lack something very essential in their make-up. They may be very prosperous in their business, and also be desirable citizens, he explained, but if they do not allow themselves to dwell upon the past, and by thus reflecting be inspired by the zeal and worth of men and women, especially their own ancestry, in days gone by, they will lack the incentive which will make them the dynamics for the welfare of community and nation that they might become through fitting communion with the past. He stated that he had heard Lancaster county dealt out in superlatives before he came to this community, and that after five years of residence here he, too, is ready to treat it likewise in regard to many things of which it boasts.

Dr. Schaeffer Delights His Audience.

Dr. Schaeffer delighted the audience with some ably told stories, and lauded the heroes of peace as greater than those of war. He said that the making of histories has changed with the changing of the generally accepted idea of what really constitutes history. He told how in his boyhood the history studied in the public schools was little more than a narrative of events of war with the dates, battles and generals thereof. With the new conception of his story as the story of progress along industrial and economic lines, with the political and spiritual phases considered in just proportion, Lancaster county comes

into the limelight in a most conspicuous manner, he explained. He urged the continuance of the great work the society is doing.

Mr. McClain in Happy Mood.

Lieutenant-Governor McClain dwelt upon the enjoyment the event gave him personally, and felicitated the Historical Society upon the success and excellence of the social and literary event. He referred in a very complimentary manner to the half-dozen memorial markers which the Society has placed at historic spots throughout the county. He urged that the Society work in conjunction with the Colonial Dames and the Daughters of the American Revolution in preserving the old milestones that dot the turnpikes in this locality. He declared it a crying shame that nothing has as yet been done in the way of a public memorial to General John F. Reynolds and Admiral William Reynolds, the heroic and distinguished brothers, who wrote their names large on history's page in the stirring times of the great Civil War. He advocated that the Historical Society take up the matter of a suitable memorial to these two illustrious brothers and native sons of old Lancaster.

Speaking at length, along this line, the Lieutenant-Governor said:

The City of Lancaster has commemorated James Buchanan by giving his name to one of our City Parks. The State of Pennsylvania has perpetuated the name of Stevens in the Great Industrial School for Orphans at the extreme end of East King street, and the City School Board has given to our magnificent Girls High School the name of "The Grand Old Commoner." (Neither Stevens nor Buchanan were native born.) But to

our discredit as a community, be it said, we have done nothing in a public way to express our appreciation, or indicate to posterity the pride which we should have in two of our own sons. Two Lancaster county boys; born here; raised here and whose names are written on a lustrous page in our Nation's military annals.

Admiral William Reynolds, a gallant naval officer, who died while in his country's service, and his brother, whom all Pennsylvanians of to-day hold in cherished remembrance. General John F. Reynolds, the hero of many hard-fought battles in that heroic struggle between the Union and the Confederacy and who gave his life's blood for the flag he loved and served, on one of those dark July days in '63, when the wave of rebellion surged at its highest and broke, in bloody spray, upon the Rock of Gettysburg.

It is to our discredit, I repeat, that throughout the more than half a century that has elapsed since his taking off, we have been content to simply let "The Finger of Glory point where he lies." His memory and that of his gallant brother, Admiral Reynolds, should no longer go unhonored. Should no longer be without tablet of bronze, or symbol of stone, to tell of their deeds, their name, and their birthplace. And I suggest that to-night a movement be started to provide some suitable and enduring memorial (apart from those erected in the Lancaster Cemetery by the immediate family), of these two Lancaster county boys, who so gracefully and valiantly "Wore the Blue."

If I am at liberty to make a suggestion as to what I think should be an item in the future work of this organization, appreciating fully, as I do, what has already been done by the Colonial Dames and Daughters of the

Revolution, along the same lines, I would urge that this organization cooperate with the organizations I have named in preserving the Old Milestones; those markers of travel which dotted at regular intervals the turnpikes and highroads which traverse our county. Let us make them seem to us like Old Friends, as they undoubtedly did seem to many a weary horse and his master, and many a tired pedestrian, one hundred and fifty years ago, when sentinel-like they indicated the distances not only between centers of population, but as well between the Old Road Taverns, where entertainment and rest was so generously and refreshingly provided for both man and beast.

The preservation of these old milestones will furnish an object lesson; an almost living reminder to the coming generation, yes, they will be a positive chart of travel of the days when the highways along whose sides they are planted were the main arteries of transportation and commerce, between this eastern land and the Ohio and the Mississippi river country, and they will as well revive delightful recollection of the ox cart of primitive design and the Conestoga wagons, with their fine, deep-chested six-horse teams, in heavy gear, high hames and chiming bells.

New York Visitor Talks.

Mr. C. E. Potlethwaite, of New York, a descendant of the proprietor of the original Postlethwaite tavern at Rock Hill, read parts of the will of his ancient sire discovered in Philadelphia recently and spoke of other things pertaining to the family which proved interesting to local folk. Following is a verbatim copy of the will of John Postlethwaite:

WILL OF JOHN POSTLETHWAITE,
1749.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN
I John Postlethwaite of the Township
of Conestogoe in the County of Lan-
caster being weak in Body but of
sound and perfect mind and memory
for the better settling my Wordly af-
fairs, Do make my Last Will and Tes-
tament as follows And first I Recom-
mend my Soul to Almighty God in full
hopes of the Remission of my sins
through the merits of Christ and my
Body to the Earth to be decently
Buryd at the discretion of my Execu-
tors hereinafter named And as to my
Worldly Estate I dispose of the same
as follows:

Imprimis. I order and Direct that
all my just Debts be paid as soon as
conveniently may be after my decease.

Item. I Give and Bequeath unto
Mary my Loving Wife One third part
of All my Stock of Cattle of All kinds
and about my Plantation, the same to
be appraised as soon as conveniently
may be after my decease reserving
for y^e use of the Plantation four
Waggon Horses, For my Daughter
Sus^a a Riding Mare and Also a Riding
Mare for Sarah Cartlidge which I
hereby bequeath unto them I also Give
and Bequeath unto my s^d Wife the
Sum of One hundred pounds to be paid
her by my Executors Six Months
after my Decease And also All my
Outstanding Debts, except those due
on Bonds or Bills in Lieu of full sat-
isfaction of her Dower and further it
is my Will that my s^d Wife have the
Priviledge and Benefit of the Planta-
tion whereon I now live with the
Mulatto and two Negroes for working
the same for the Support of herself
and Maintaining and bringing up of
my Children until my son John shall

attain his Age of twenty one years
And that then my s^d son John shall
have the Charge and Management of
the same allowing my s^d wife conve-
nient Houserom and Accomodations
during her Life And I also Give her
one third part of All my Household
Furniture And it is my Will that in
case my s^d Wife should Marry and in-
cline to Leave the Plantation that in
such Case she shall have thirty
Pounds in Lieu of the Benefits in-
tended her thereby to be paid by my
Executors.

Item. I give and Devise unto Cath-
erine my Eldest Daughter now the
Wife of Isaac Baker, all that my
Plantation and Tract of two hundred
and twenty six Acres of Land at
Conogschege in y^e Province of Mary-
land whereon the s^d Isaac now Lives
And hereby Order and Direct my Ex-
ecutors to Execute a Conveyance in
fee of the same to my s^d son in Law
Isaac Baker and Catherine his wife
To hold as Joint tenants And I also
Give and Confirm to my s^d son in Law
all the Stock of Cattle which belonged
to me upon the same Plantation And
to have all Debts and Acco^t subsisting
between us on acco^t. of the Negroe Boy
Cuffdy He purchased of me or other-
wise.

Item. I Give and Devise unto my
Son William All that Tract or parcel
of Land Situate in Conestogoe Creek
Bounded on y^e Eastward by a Tract
of fifty one Acres intended to be De-
vised to my daughter Susanna On the
Southward by the Lane dividing it
from a Tract to be devised to my Son
Edward On the Westward by a Tract
to be Devised to my son Samuel And
on the Northward by Conestoga Creek
Containing One hundred and twenty
Acres And the Usual Allowance for
roads, &c., According as the same is

laid out and Divided be it more or less together with all and singular the Buildings and Improvements thereon TO HOLD the same Tract of One hundred and twenty Acres of Land and premises to my s^d Son William for and during the Term of his Natural Life and after his decease to the Heirs Male of his Body Lawfully begotten to be equally divided between or Among them and in Default of such Heirs To the Right Heirs of the Testators their Heirs and Assigns for ever.

Item. I Give and Devise unto my Daughter Susanna All that Tract or Parcel of Land situate on Conestoga Creek Bounded on the Eastward by Tobias Stows Land On the Southward by Thomas Gales land on the Westward by the Tract Devised to my son William And on the Northward by Conestoga Creek containing fifty one Acres and ye usual Allowance as the same is now divided and laid off TO HOLD to the said Susanna her Heirs and Assigns for ever And I also Give and Bequeath unto my s^d Daughter Susanna the sum of fifty pounds to be paid her out of that part of my Estate hereafter directed to be sold and also a Riding Mare as above.

Item. I give and Devise unto my Son John the Plantation whereon I now live with all the Houses and Houses, Buildings and Improvements thereon and the Tract of Land thereto belonging as the same is laid out and divided being bound on the North East by a Tract Divised to my Son Samuel on the North West by Conestogoe Creek On the South West by the Mill Tract and on the South East by Jacob Millers land and Contains One hundred Acres And the Allowance for Roads, &c., TO HOLD to my s^d son John his Heirs and Assigns for ever, the Priviledges and Benefits

thereon for my Wife hereinbefore particularly mentioned and for Maintaining the Younger Children always excepted and referred, And it is further my Will that my Mulatto Tom, Negroe Boy James and Negroe Woman Sal work on the Plantation for y^e benefit of my wife and maintenance of the Children till my s^d son John shall attain his Age of Twenty One years And then I give and Bequeath the same or such of them as shall be then Living to my said son John.

Item. I Give & Bequeath unto my Son Samuel All that Tract or Parcel of Land Situate on Conestogoe Creek Bounded on the Eastward by the Tracts Devised to my Sons William and Edmund on the Southward by Jacob Kindeg's land on the Westward by the Tract Devised to my son John And on the Northward by Conestoga Creek Containing One hundred and twenty Acres of land and the usual allowance for Roads, &c. as the same is laid out and divided be it more or less TO HOLD to my s^d son Samuel his Heirs and Assigns forever.

Item. I Give & Devise to my son Edmund All that tract or parcel of Land Situate in y^e Township of Conestoga and Bounded on the Eastward by Thomas Gales Land on the Southward by Kendigs On the Westward by the Tract Devised to my Son Samuel And on the Northward by the Tract Devised to my Son William Containing Ninety Acres and the usual allowance for Roads &c., as the same is now laid out and divided be it more or less.

Item. I Give and Bequeath to my Son Richard the sum of two hundred pounds to be put out to Interest till he shall attain the age of twenty one years And then recover the Principal and Interest without any Deduction

for Maintenance cloathing and otherwise.

Item. It is my will and I do hereby Give and Bequeath to my Sons, John, Edmund, Richard and Samuel the sum of thirty pounds each on their respective arrival at the age of twenty one years over and above all former Bequests, or Devises and I Order and Direct That my s^d Sons Edmund, Richard and Samuel be put to Trades suitable for them and at Discretion of my Executor.

Item. It is my Will And I do hereby Order and Direct That in Case my s^d children should dye before they attain their respective ages of twenty one years without Lawful issue that then and in such Case the Lands Devised and all other share and Interest of my Estate herein bequeathed to such Child so dying shall descend and be equally divided amongst all my Surviving Children Share and Share alike.

Item. I hereby authorize and Impower my Executor hereinafter named to make sale of my Grist Mill and Saw Mill and the Appurtenances thereto belonging with about forty Acres belonging to the same as the same is surveyed and laid out and on such sale to make and Execute a good and sufficient Conveyance in the Law for y^e same to y^e purchaser thereof in Order to raise a sum of Money for y^e payment of Legacies and other contingencies.

Item. All the rest and residue of my estate not herein before Devised it is my will shall be divided Equally among all my Children share and share alike AND I Hereby Constitute and appoint my Trusty Friends Thomas Cookson and George Smith Executors of this my last Will and Testament hereby Revoking and mak-

ing void all former and other Wills heretofore by me made. In Testimony whereof, I have to this my Will contained in three sheets of paper each signed with my name, Set my hand and seal this twenty second day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty eight/nine.

JOHN POSTLETHWAIT

Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the Testator as his Last Will and Testament in Presence of us:

EDWARD SAYLOR
JACOB SHANK
JN° LOVE.

Lancaster County ss/ Personally appeared Jacob Shank and John Love Two of the Witnesses to the within Will contained in three sheets of Paper and the said Jacob Shank upon his solemn affirmation and the said John Love upon his corporal oath Declared that they were present and saw and heard John Postelthwait the testator sign seal publish and declare the same as his Last Will and Testament and that at the doing Thereof he was of sound and disposing mind and memory to the best of their knowledge.

Before Me

Tho^s. Cookson, Dep. Reg.
10th July, 1749.

Inventory 10 August following.

Original Will No. 87 of 1749. Will Book I, P. 139. Philadelphia.

Mr. Postlethwaite brought with him a copy of the inquisition of three Indians murdered in 1730, in which John Postlethwaite was one of the signers. A copy of the original, now in possession of the Pennsylvania State Library, is herewith reproduced.

A bicycle made by Prof. John Wise, a local aeronaut, one of the first in this locality, presented to the Society recently by Mr. Samuel Bitner, of Lancaster, was on exhibition and attracted much attention.

Much of the success of the event was due to the Committee of Arrangements, consisting of: Miss Martha Clark, Mrs. A. K. Hostetter, L. B. Herr, D. F. Magee, Esq., H. Frank Eshleman, Esq., I. C. Arnold and Charles B. Hollinger, Chairman.

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