

SKETCHES OF SOME LANCASTER COUNTY CHARACTERS FROM THE GODCHARLES BIOGRAPHIES.

Hon. A. G. Seyfert.

At the regular meeting on Friday evening, June 5, 1925, no original paper was ready to be read. Hon. A. G. Seyfert, volunteered to fill in by reading several sketches written by Frederick Godcharles of men and women who have a local interest for Lancaster county.

They included William Henry, inventor, jurist and benefactor, born in Chester county, May 19, 1729, at the time Lancaster county was part of Chester county; General John Gibson, veteran of three wars, born May 23, 1740, in Lancaster county, and died at the residence of his son-in-law, George Wallace, Esq., at Bradford, Pa., April 19, 1822. He was a brave soldier and an honest man of high character.

The third paper was a history of the duel between Captain Stephen Chambers and Dr. Jacob Rieger, both Revolutionary soldiers. They had a misunderstanding at a dinner at Colonel Mathias Slough's hotel on South Queen Street, out of which grew the challenge, and a duel with pistols on May 11, 1789, near Lancaster. Captain Chambers was mortally wounded and died on May 16, 1789. Captain Chambers was the warrant worshipful master of the Masonic Lodge No. 43, Lancaster, in 1785.

The fourth and last sketch was of Barbara Frietchie, who was born at Lancaster, December 3, 1766, but moved to Frederick, Maryland, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Nicholas Hauer, when she was two years old. She lived at Frederick all her life time, and died there December 3, 1863, at the age of 96 years.

On May 6, 1806, Barbara married John Casper Frietchie, who died in 1849.

Both were buried in an old grave yard in Frederick. On Memorial Day, May 30, 1913, both bodies were removed to Mount Olivet Cemetery and re-interred.

On September 9, 1914, a handsome granite shaft was unveiled to the memory of the venerable patriot. One side of the monument is taken up with a large bronze tablet bearing the words of Whittier's poem, "Barbara Frietchie."

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