

It was also stated that there were "many other surprising feats of horsemanship, too numerous to mention" in the advertisement. The performance concluded with an act entitled "The Taylor's Disaster," by Mrs. Tomlinson.

The doors, for the first performance only, were opened at one o'clock in order to accommodate people residing in the country. The show started precisely at two. The doors for the evening performance, which was a repetition of that in the afternoon, opened at 4:30 and the show commenced precisely at 5:30. The price of admission was one dollar for a box seat, and fifty cents for a seat in the pit. Performances were given on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The advertisement stated that the amusements would be varied each evening.

In addition to entertaining the public with the circus on three days out of every week, the management advertised that ladies and gentlemen would be "instructed in the polite art of riding, and managing their horses, either for the road or field: and horses of every denomination broke."

The Lancaster Journal of Saturday, August 19th, 1797, informed the public that "for the benefit of Master Franklin" one of the actors, Ricketts' new circus would open on that day at two, and the show commence precisely at three o'clock. Mr. Ricketts' benefit was to be held on Monday next, when the performance would be more splendid than any that had been given in Lancaster. The following Saturday, August 26th, for the benefit of Mr. Franklin (clown to the horsemanship) and son, the greatest exertions were made to render the entertainment particularly interesting.

The last performance of Ricketts' circus in Lancaster,—"for the benefit of Mr. Tomlinson," another actor—was given on Saturday, September 2nd, 1797. The Lancaster Journal of this date informed the public that the building occupied by the circus during its stay in Lancaster, which had been advertised for sale on this day, had been disposed of by private contract.

It is a pleasure to state that Mr. Ricketts gave several benefits while he was in Philadelphia, for a fuel fund for the needy, and that during the more than a century and a quarter that have elapsed since then, this fine charity has continued its noble ministry of service to the worthy poor of that city. Surely, this generous benefactor deserved a better fate than that which befell him!

Music in Trinity Church Steeple

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE LANCASTER JOURNAL of Tuesday, August 1st, 1809, contained an announcement stating that "Mr. Gaetano Carusi, master of Italian music, with three sons, the eldest aged 13 and the youngest 9, are in Lancaster, waiting for public patronage. The lovers of fine music will now have an opportunity of deriving exquisite pleasure from the performance of the best composition, by the hand of a first-rate master. His sons are, indeed, prodigies in the delightful art. The gentlemen of the lodge [No. 43, Free and Accepted Masons] have granted Mr. Carusi their fine room over the market-house [Masonic Hall, 13 West King street. The original building, erected in 1798, is still standing in 1928], for to-morrow night, and it is sincerely hoped that the ladies and gentlemen of Lancaster will, on this occasion, give Mr. Carusi the encouragement he so justly merits. The price of admission will be only half a dollar a ticket."

Shortly after their arrival in Lancaster, Mr. Carusi and his three sons played before the home of Simon Synder. At that time Mr. Snyder was the governor of Pennsylvania, and Lancaster borough was the capital.

The Lancaster Journal of Tuesday, August 8th, 1809, contains an interesting description of this incident. One must, however, overlook certain statements in this account, as the Lancaster Journal was politically opposed to Governor Snyder, and would, naturally, hold him up to public ridicule whenever occasion offered.

The article referred to is as follows:

"A few days ago, an Italian musician of the first eminence and of genteel deportment, with an excellent band, composed of his own family, arrived in Lancaster. Hearing that 'his excellency' the governor of the commonwealth resided here, and supposing, as might have been the case, that the chief magistrate of Pennsylvania was a man of taste, politeness and munificence, he most respectfully determined on paying to his 'excellency' the civility of a serenade.

"It was in the early part of a fine, still evening, while the governor and his family were sitting in the hall of the 'palace,' that Signor Carusi and his three sons, an enchanting little band, halted before the door and swelled the glowing breeze with the sweetest notes of Italian composition. Such superior music was, indeed, a novelty in Lancaster, and its dulcet reverberations delighted the ears of the wondering populace. For

'Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast.'

"Its effects upon his excellency and his family must have been truly astonishing. In an instant the little candle that glimmered on the casement was extinguished; and it seems that the avenue to every sense but that of hearing, was completely closed. To have offered the interesting performers a seat in the hall; to have offered them a glass of 'currant wine;' or, in short, to have offered them any thing whatever, might have made a momentary chasm in the delightful enjoyment.

'Still was the palace, save where some poor fly
With thirst just ready to drop down and die,
Buzz'd faint petitions to his maker's ear,
To show him one small drop of dead small beer;
Save where the cat, for mice, so hungry, watching
Swore the lean animals were scarcely worth catching.'

"His 'excellency,' the governor of Pennsylvania, on this interesting occasion, had all his noble feelings 'absorbed in the highest extacy.' No idle thought of courtesy could reach his polished mind; and it is altogether attributed to this circumstance that neither himself, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, was seen to move during the whole performance, nor ever after to greet the hand or the ear of Signor Carusi with any kind of compliment."

In the Lancaster Journal of Tuesday, August 22nd, 1809, appeared the announcement of an event that must have been an unusual one in musical circles in Lancaster. It was stated that on the evening of August 22nd, Mr. Carusi intended, if the weather permitted, "to perform some of his best Italian tunes in the steeple of the [Trinity] Lutheran church."

It is to be regretted that no subsequent reference to this concert, if it was held, appears in the local press of that period. "If the weather permitted" this concert to be given, it would be interesting, at this late day, to know how many gathered about the fine old steeple, and to what extent the music could be heard from the surrounding streets. There is so much that we would like to know that is hopelessly obscured by the mists of the past!

On Wednesday evening, September 6th, 1809, the Carusi performers gave a concert of vocal and instrumental music in the Masonic lodge room. In the advertisement of this musicale in the Lancaster Journal, it is stated that

"Mr. Carusi will present a variety of novel and interesting composition, among others the new and much admired music, with its echo, on the same instrument. Also the favorite tune of Yankee Doodle, with the recent variations."

Whether or not this was the last concert given by Mr. Carusi in Lancaster is not now known. Subsequent issues of local papers do not contain any references to these gifted musicians.

Contributions from Lancaster County for the Distressed Poor of Philadelphia During the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1797

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

AT various times, during its earlier existence, Philadelphia was ravaged by the yellow fever scourge. The worst of these epidemics occurred in 1793. It is estimated that at least 5,000 people succumbed to the disease in the summer and autumn of that year. During its prevalence, about 17,000 inhabitants left the city. While the disease raged, it became necessary for the local authorities to appeal for general assistance. Money, provisions and clothing were desperately needed. In a paper read before the Lancaster County Historical Society on November 5th, 1915, and published in Vol. XIX, pages 315-325, of its proceedings, the author, Miss Lottie M. Bausman, has noted the liberal contributions of money, clothing and provisions made by the inhabitants of the borough and county of Lancaster in response to the urgent appeal for assistance.

In the summer of 1797, yellow fever again ravaged Philadelphia. The disease made its appearance on the 17th of August and almost immediately caused a general exodus from the town. The epidemic continued until about the 1st of November. During its prevalence the number of deaths was 1,292.

Lancaster, with accustomed liberality, stretched out its helping hand to the distressed poor of Philadelphia during this distressing period. A meeting was held at the Cross Keys tavern, then conducted by Christopher Brenner. This hostelry stood on the site of Nos. 12-14, West King street, now occupied by the Standard Furniture store. On Saturday evening, October 7th, 1797, at 6 o'clock, the citizens met and opened a subscription for "The relief of the afflicting state of the poor of Philadelphia." Inhabitants of Philadelphia who had fled to and resided in Lancaster during the epidemic, subscribed upwards of 400 dollars.

General Edward Hand, the friend and companion-in-arms of General Washington, and regarded by all as being the first citizen of Lancaster, issued a stirring appeal for contributions. This appeal appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Saturday, October 14th, 1797, and is as follows:

"FELLOW CITIZENS AND BROTHER FARMERS OF THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER:"

"The calamity, with which it has pleased God to visit the city of Philadelphia, has reduced many industrious families to the utmost distress, and calls loudly for the benevolent aid of the charitable and well disposed in every quarter of the State.

"The citizens of Philadelphia have done much for the alleviation of the public distress; but it is to be feared, that their utmost exertions will fall short of the object. Let me, therefore, humbly request of you, my neighbors, whose humanity I am well assured of, to contribute to the relief of our afflicted brethren, in grain of any kind fit for the food of man, according to your several circumstances; a small quantity from every man, who can afford it, will, when collected, form a magazine worth transporting, and may save the lives of many of our fellow-mortals, who without it may perish of famine.