

"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

**A**T 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.

"If you approve the measure, as I am confident you will, early contributions should be made and the grain deposited in some central place in every township, to be thence transported by some persons appointed for the purpose, to the city or its vicinage, to be disposed of by those who have the care of the poor.

"Lampeter Township, Oct. 10th, 1797."

"EDWARD HAND."

"The reverend gentlemen of the clergy of every denomination in Lancaster county are respectfully desired to give all the publicity in their power to the foregoing address, and to recommend the speedy adoption of the proposed measure to their respective congregations; so that the collections may be made and forwarded in time to answer the benevolent purposes for which they are intended."

At a meeting held at the Cross Keys tavern on October 11th, 1797, Paul Zantzinger, a leading citizen and influential member of the community, occupied the chair. Committees of prominent persons were appointed to collect in the different wards of the borough, as follows:

Alexander Scott and Adam Reigart, Jr., the North-east Ward.

Caspar Schaffner, Jr., Michael Musser and Gottlieb Nauman the North-west Ward.

Jacob Graeff and Jacob Krug the South-west Ward.

Conrad Swartz, Philip Messenkope and Henry Pinkerton the South-east Ward.

The foregoing citizens immediately set about to obtain subscriptions. The monies collected by them were paid into the hands of the chairman, Paul Zantzinger, and by him forwarded to Robert Wharton, chairman of the relief committee appointed by the governor.

On October 28th, 1797, the Lancaster Journal informed the public that \$720.04 had been subscribed locally and sent to Philadelphia. Manheim township contributed 12 barrels of flour. Salisbury township responded early and liberally with \$20.00 in cash, 64½ bushels of wheat, 66½ bushels of rye and 127½ bushels of buckwheat. It is stated in the Lancaster Journal of Saturday, Dec. 9th, 1797, that at that time it was not possible to publish all the contributions from Lancaster county, but that seven barrels of rye flour had been obtained from Little Britain township and several subscriptions were opened.

On December 20th, 1797, Edward Garrigues, secretary to the commissioners appointed by the governor for alleviating the distress of the citizens of Philadelphia and suburbs, furnished Paul Zantzinger, local chairman, a list of the donations received from Lancaster borough and county. Mr. Zantzinger conceived it to be his duty for the information of the public, to publish the list in the local newspaper. In the Lancaster Journal of Saturday, January 6th, 1798, appeared the following:

Borough			Barrels of flour, wheat, rye, etc.	
Lancaster	October 25, 1797.	From Paul Zantzinger.	\$720.04	
		" " " additional donation.	17.00	
<b>Townships</b>				
Cocalico	Nov. 3, 20, 1797.	Through Peter Martin, Esq.	15.00	33
Conestoga	Nov. 20.	Through Paul Zantzinger.		15
Donegal	Nov. 3.	From John Haldeman, Esq., through Paul Zantzinger.		10

Drumore	Nov. 20.	From John Hamaker's mill, through Philip Wager.	46.13	
Earl	Nov. 3 to 20.	Through Frederick Seger, William Smyth, Esquires, John Sensenich and John Smith, with with four pieces of bacon		47
Elizabeth	Oct. 26.	From Robert Coleman, Esq., a donation of his own.	100.00	
Hempfield	Nov. 3.	Through John Barber, Dr. John Houston and others, 32 barrels, including 12 barrels ground at Scott and Anderson's mill, and conveyed by them to Lancaster, gratis, and from thence conveyed to Philadelphia, by Emanuel Reigart, gratis, together in cash collected in Columbia, 86 dollars by Thomas Boude and James Wright.	86.00	32
Lampeter	Nov. 20.	From Christian Yordy, etc., through General Hand.		28
Lancaster	Nov. 16, 20.	From Andrew Graff, Esq., and Rine's mill, through Paul Zantzinger.		12
Leacock	Nov. 1, 20.	Through Abraham Gibons.		32
Little Britain	Nov. 20.			7
Manheim	Oct. 27.	Through Paul Zantzinger, by John Mayer, etc.	4.71	24
Manor	Nov. 10, Dec. 20.	Through Paul Zantzinger, by David Correl and David Herr.		24
Mount Joy and part or Rapho	Nov. 20. Dec. 15. Jan. 4, 1798.	From John Richy of Elizabethtown, John Frederick, Esq., and Martin Nissley, through Paul Zantzinger.		38
		From John Hamaker's mill, through Paul Zantzinger.		7
Salisbury and Sadsbury	Nov. 3, 8, 10, 1797.	Through Daniel Buckley, Esq., and others.		37
Strasburg	Oct. 30. Nov. 3, 16.	Through John and Abraham Carpenter, and Jacob Eshleman, etc. 24 barrels of flour, and from George Duffield, collected in the town of Strasburg, \$56.15.	\$56.15	24

From the foregoing statement it appears that the donations from Lancaster county received by the comissioners, totaled in cash \$1,045.03, in flour 370 barrels, besides 223 pounds in three parcels not enumerated.