

"In hurrying along the next day, my career was interrupted by the rapid Susquehanna. The peevishness and dissatisfaction which before possessed me were now compelled to yield to contrary sensations. The breadth and beauty of the river, the height and grandeur of its banks, the variation of scenery the verdure of the forests, the murmur of the water, and the melody of birds all conspired to fill my mind with vast and elevated conceptions."

On leaving Lancaster, Mr. Ashe proceeded toward Harrisburg. He states that he did not stop there.

---

## Matthew Clarkson in Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**M**ATTHEW CLARKSON, who passed through Lancaster borough in the summer of 1766, was a son of Matthew and Cornelia De Peyster Clarkson. He was born in New York city, April 15th, 1733. On June 13th, 1753, at the age of twenty, he was married to Mary, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Boude. Matthew Clarkson was an uncle of the Rev. Joseph Clarkson, rector of Saint James's Protestant Episcopal church, Lancaster, from 1799 to 1830.

Early in life he was engaged in mercantile business in Philadelphia. In 1766, he was connected with the house of Baynton, Wharton and Morgan. In that year he went, in the interest of the firm (which, it is presumed, constituted, in whole or in part, what he calls "the company") to explore the prospects of the openings for trade on the Ohio, and the regions of the new West.

Mr. Clarkson made the journey from Philadelphia to Fort Pitt, or Duquesne, on horseback. From the hasty journal kept by him on the way, it is possible to construct a narrative which cannot be read without interest and instruction. The diary, edited by his great grandson, John Hall, was published in 1890, under the title, "Memoirs of Matthew Clarkson of Philadelphia."

On Wednesday, August 6th, 1766, Mr. Clarkson, with a servant, left Philadelphia before seven in the morning. He was accompanied, as far as "the ferry," (Gray's), by Mr. Robert Levers. Soon after taking leave of his companion, he met a wagon loaded with skins from the Indian country; and at the Spread Eagle tavern found another with a load of pork for the garrison at Fort Pitt. Later, he met three more on the way from the fort with skins for Dr. Bond, in Philadelphia. At noon he dined at George Ashton's (Admiral Warren hotel), which, he states, was twenty-three miles from Philadelphia. "Met a load of skins from Virginia; overtook our four Germantown wagons, and lodged at the Ship, thirty-five miles. Next morning breakfasted at Miller's [Compassville, Chester county, Pa.], forty-seven miles; met three loads of skins from the fort for Baynton & Co.; stopped at the Duke of Cumberland [ $\frac{1}{4}$  mile east of Leacock Presbyterian church, Lancaster county, Pa.], fifty-seven miles."

That night he lodged at his kinsman's, Joseph Boude, in Lancaster. On August 8th he crossed the Susquehanna at Wright's Ferry, now Columbia, and at sundown reached Greber's, at York.

On the evening of August 18th, 1766, he arrived at Fort Pitt.

On April 16th, 1792, Matthew Clarkson was chosen mayor of Philadelphia, and was re-elected annually three times.

He died in Philadelphia, October 5th, 1800, in the 67th year of his age. He was buried in Christ Church graveyard at Fifth and Arch streets.