

## Report of Committee on Muhlenberg Tablet

The tablet in memory of Henry E. Muhlenberg was placed on the Appel building, at the northeast corner of Duke and Grant Streets, on June 4th, 1929. The bronze tablet, 12 by 18 inches, from the Matthews Company, of Pittsburgh, cost \$69. The bill was paid by Judge W. W. Appel and T. Roberts Appel, Esq. The tablet reads:

HENRY E. MUHLENBERG  
1753 - - - 1815

A leader among the pioneer  
botanists of America lived  
here during his last 35 years  
when the stone building was  
the parsonage of

Trinity Lutheran Church  
marked by the

Lancaster County Historical Society  
1929

A. K. HOSTETTER,  
C. H. MARTIN,  
H. FRANK ESHLEMAN,  
HERBERT H. BECK.

## Collections in Aid of Sufferers from the Fire in Lancaster in 1811

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**L**ATE in the night of Friday, March 1st, 1811, or very early in the morning of the 2nd, the citizens of Lancaster borough were awakened by the cry of fire, which originated in the stable of Philip Klein, blacksmith, in the second block of North Queen street, west side. The building was an old wooden one, containing hay and straw, and the flames, spreading rapidly, soon ignited adjoining properties. Before the progress of the fire could be stayed, four dwellings, a blacksmith's shop, a barn and other buildings, were in ruins. The conflagration raged with such uncontrolled fury that, for a while, it threatened to destroy the town. Fortunately, however, as one of the papers stated, "this calamity was averted by that Almighty power which controls the elements of nature even in their most destructive moods."

In the Lancaster Journal of Friday, March 8th, 1811, is the following list of buildings that were destroyed:

"The two story stone house at the north-west corner of West Orange and North Queen streets [site of Young Men's Christian

Association], the property of Mr. Peter Shindel, with some personal property belonging to his son:

"The adjoining two story brick house and printing office of Mr. William Dickson [editor of the Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser], together with many books, a quantity of paper, part of his printing materials and household furniture.

"The dwelling house adjoining, belonging to Mr. Philip Klein, with a smith's shop, some working tools, a barn, a horse and a cow.

"The tavern house belonging to Mr. John Hatz [site of Pennsylvania hotel, 120 North Queen street], kept by Mr. George Koenig. Mr. Koenig lost the liquors in his cellar, many other articles, and several hundred dollars in cash."

Mr. Frederick Klein, who had lately commenced business as a victualler, lost two horses, several hogs, and almost everything he possessed. Several others also suffered by this most distressing calamity.

The Lancaster Journal commented as follows on the disaster:

"The sorry condition of some of the engines did no credit to the borough; nor were the spirit and activity of many of the citizens so conspicuous as we have seen on former occasions. There were too many *commanders*—which at least produced confusion in *obedience*.

"The gentlemen of the legislature [Lancaster was at that time the capital of Pennsylvania], generally, exerted themselves with a zeal that did them honor, and justly entitles them to the gratitude of the inhabitants of Lancaster.

"The alarm of fire not having been given until the flames had made considerable progress, shows that there is *something* required from the *police*."

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, March 16th, stated that the amount of property destroyed could not be accurately ascertained, but it was estimated that it would exceed \$16,000.00.

On Saturday morning, March 2nd, while the embers of the fire were still smouldering, a number of prominent citizens met at John Whiteside's, to take action looking to the relief of those whose property had been destroyed. William Kirkpatrick was appointed chairman, and John Eberman, secretary. At this meeting it was

"Resolved, That Jacob Krug, Esq., Henry Slaymaker, Peter Gonter and John Hoff, Esq., be a committee to receive from the citizens their respective contributions for the relief of the sufferers from the fire in this borough on the 2nd of March, 1811; and that it be the duty of said committee to prepare a subscription paper, or papers, for each individual sufferer, to afford to each

contributor an opportunity of distributing his or her donation as he or she may think proper, an estimate being first incorporated by said committee in each paper of the amount of the loss of each sufferer."

In the Lancaster Journal of Friday, April 12th, 1811, appeared the following:

"The contributors to the sufferers by the late fire are requested to meet on Saturday next [April 13th], at 6 o'clock in the evening at Samuel Slaymaker's, for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee of collection, and of directing the mode of distribution."

The committee met at the time appointed. Christopher Mayer was made chairman, and John Light, secretary.

A committee of five, consisting of William Kirkpatrick, David R. Barton, Casper Shaffner, Samuel White and John Hubley, Esq., was appointed to receive and distribute to the sufferers, in proportion to their several losses, all monies subscribed for that purpose.

On motion, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously passed:

"Whereas, it has been alleged that subscriptions have been received in Philadelphia for the benefit of one or more of the sufferers by the late fire in Lancaster; and as indemnity and not profit is the object of the contributors, and the great view to dispense a just equality; therefore,

"Resolved, That the committee appointed inquire into the amount of any subscriptions in Philadelphia or elsewhere for individual sufferers, and that the same shall be taken into account; and if such account shall be refused to be given, it shall be considered by the committee that the individual sufferers, for whom such contributions have been raised, are by that means fully indemnified."

The committee of distribution met at Hugh Wilson's, in West King street, on Thursday, May 30th, 1811, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of the several losses and awarding a distribution of money. Those who had secured subscriptions, and those also who had sustained losses, were urged to attend.

In the Lancaster Journal of Friday, July 12th, 1811, is a list of the monies collected and distributed to that time.

In this issue there is also a communication from Peter Shindel, one of the sufferers, which is as follows:

"To My Fellow-Citizens

"Friends,

"The subscriber returns his heartfelt gratitude and thanks unto all those who gave contributions unto him and his neighbors,

