

South-east Ward.

By Messrs. J. Gundaker, Slough and Diffenbaugh..... 86.45

South-west Ward.

By Mr. Hugh Wilson..... 143.60

\$681.51

Adam Reigart, Jr., chief burgess of the borough of Lancaster, remitted this amount to the officials of Newburyport, and received the following acknowledgment:

“Newburyport, Mass., July 25th, 1811.

“Sir,

“We have received yours of the 18th inst. enclosing a draft of James Houston, on the Bank of Pennsylvania, for \$681.51, for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire in this town. This unusual liberality, from a people suffering the same calamity with ourselves, calls forth our warmest acknowledgments. We beg you, Sir, to be assured, that your generous donation shall be faithfully applied to the relief of the objects you have designated; and that this act of kindness will be long held in grateful remembrance by our unfortunate citizens.

“We are, Sir, with sentiments of respect, your obedient servants,

“Jeremiah Nelson,

“Jacob Stone,

“Isaac Adams.

Selectmen of Newburyport.”

“To Adam Reigart, Jr. Esq., Chief Burgess
of the Borough of Lancaster, Pa.”

The “calamity” referred to in the foregoing letter occurred on the night of Friday, March 1st, 1811, when a number of buildings in the second block of North Queen street, Lancaster, were destroyed by fire, entailing a loss estimated at \$16,000.00.

The Lancaster Fire of 1814

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON Thursday, March 24th, 1814, between the hours of seven and eight in the morning, a fire was discovered in Jacob Hensel’s carpenter shop in East Orange street, Lancaster borough. It was thought to have had its origin in some shavings, while the employees were at breakfast. The flames spread with alarming rapidity and before they could be arrested the shop and two dwell-

ings were destroyed. Mr. Hensel's loss was heavy, as the shop and one of the dwellings belonged to him.

On the evening of the day on which the fire occurred, a meeting of citizens of the borough was held at the house of Jacob Duchman for the purpose of devising means to secure relief for those who had suffered loss. John Light was appointed chairman, and John Eberman, secretary. The following resolutions were adopted:

"That the following persons be appointed to receive subscriptions:

	North-west Ward.	
John Eberman		John Reitzel
	South-west Ward.	
Hugh Wilson		Jonas Metzger
	South-east Ward.	
Jacob Fordney		Jacob Rudesill
	North-east Ward.	
Peter Shindel		J. Bomberger

"That Samuel White, Jacob Long, John Wien, Daniel Reigart, and Andrew Boggs, be appointed a committee to receive the monies collected; whose duty it shall be to ascertain as nearly as practicable the amount of property destroyed and apportion it [the money collected] to the best of their judgment among the sufferers.

"That, in distributing the monies collected, the committee be instructed to take into view any partial collections which may have been made for the use of individuals."

In referring to this fire, a correspondent in the *Intelligencer & Weekly Advertiser* of Saturday, April 2nd, 1814, writes:

"The want of a judicious arrangement among the fire companies appeared so obvious at the late fire in Orange street as necessarily to impel to an effort at correction. While some of the watering ranks were too crowded to pass the water with celerity, others were imperfect and deserted. It is also well known that many articles rescued from the fire were eventually purloined by a set of wretches who ever present themselves with a view to plunder.

"To promote the laudable views of these respectable associations, the writer of this article, with deference, would recommend the appointment of a committee by the respective companies at their next meetings to concert such measures as may assure most advantage."

Subsequent issues of the local papers do not state how much money was collected nor give the names of the sufferers to whom it was distributed.