

"In the evening, a splendid ball was given at Mr. Cooper's [Sign of the Red Lion], which was attended by a large and brilliant assemblage of ladies and gentlemen.

"It gives us pleasure to add, that in the rejoicings of two or three days, no accident of importance has occurred and the utmost harmony has prevailed."

Lancaster's Contribution to Petersburg in the Fire of 1815

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON Sunday evening, July 16th, 1815, a fire broke out in Petersburg, Virginia, and was not under control until after day-break of the following morning. It raged with fury for more than nine hours. Several lives were lost, and two-thirds of the town were in ruins.

A circular letter was received from the mayor of Petersburg, appealing for financial assistance for the sufferers by fire, and a meeting of citizens of Lancaster borough was held on Friday, August 4th, 1815, in response to an order from the burgesses*. Samuel Carpenter, Esq., was appointed chairman, and George Louis Mayer, secretary. Resolutions were adopted as follows:

"Resolved, That a committee of three persons be chosen for each ward, to collect donations for the above purpose; and the following gentlemen were appointed:

	North-east Ward.	
Samuel White	Henry Keffer	John Bomberger
	North-west Ward.	
John F. Voight	John Eberman, Jr.	John Landis
	South-east Ward.	
Benjamin Ober	Nathaniel Lightner	Conrad Schwartz, Jr.
	South-west Ward.	
Andrew Boggs	George Morry	H. Carpenter, Jr.

"Resolved, That the money, when collected, be paid over to either of the Burgesses of this borough; and by them remitted to John Osborne, Esq. of Petersburg.

"Resolved, That it is hereby recommended to the other boroughs and villages in this county, to make collections for the same purpose; and to send the money to either of the Burgesses of Lancaster for the purpose aforesaid."

The local papers do not state how much money was collected.

*In those days Lancaster had more than one burgess.