

# News of Jackson's Victory at New Orleans in Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**O**N Saturday, January 8th, 1815, General Andrew Jackson won his famous victory at New Orleans. It was the last great land battle of the War of 1812, which some historians insist on calling "The Second War for Independence," and was fought more than two weeks after the treaty was signed at Ghent by the appointed representatives of Great Britain and the United States—on December 24th, 1814—news of the treaty not yet having reached this country.

The country was filled with rejoicing over the victory at New Orleans; and Congress honored General Jackson with thanks and a gold medal.

Owing to the slow methods of communication of that day, particulars of the battle did not reach Lancaster until Saturday, February 11th, 1815. There was great rejoicing in the town. The *Intelligencer & Weekly Advertiser* of Saturday, February 18th, 1815, states:

"On Saturday evening last [February 11th] this borough was handsomely illuminated by the citizens in testimony of their joy and gratitude to the good Governor of the Universe for His extraordinary preservation of our brave defenders under command of Gen. Jackson, from the ferocious attack of a desperate and veteran enemy near New Orleans."

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## Meeting in Lancaster Following Declaration of War in 1812

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**O**N June 19th, 1812, James Madison, President of the United States, issued a proclamation formally declaring that war existed between this country and Great Britain. This conflict is called in history "The War of 1812," and also "The Second War for Independence." It is not known definitely at what time copies of the President's proclamation reached Lancaster. The *Intelligencer & Weekly Advertiser* issued an "Extra," dated Tuesday, June 23rd, 1812, which gave our citizens their first public information of the startling news.

On Wednesday, July 1st, a large and respectable body of citizens of Lancaster borough and county met at the court house for the purpose of expressing their sentiments on the important measures lately adopted by Congress and the part taken therein by

our immediate representatives in that distinguished gathering. John Whitehill was appointed chairman, and John Light, secretary.

The Act of Congress declaring War between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof and the United States and their territories, and also the Proclamation of the President of the United States, were read by the secretary, after which the following preamble and resolutions, submitted by the Hon. Walter Franklin, President Judge of the Second Judicial District of Pennsylvania, were read, considered and unanimously adopted:

“Whereas, it has been represented to the enemies of American Liberty and Independence that we are a divided people; and that a party exists in the United States favorable to the views of the British government, in opposition to the interests, the rights and the honor of our country; and

“Whereas, it appears to us to be incumbent on the people to remove this foul aspersion, by assembling together in convenient districts, and declaring their sentiments upon the present posture of public affairs, and the conduct pursued by our national government; and,

“Whereas, after an attentive and careful review of the late proceedings of the general administration, and the measures adopted by Congress, we cannot perceive anything which does not merit the full and unqualified approbation of every lover of his country; therefore,

“Resolved, That the various and multiplied aggressions committed under the authority of the British government upon the commerce and natural rights of the United States, the impressment of our seamen, and the horrid murders perpetrated upon our citizens by aid of the savage tribes in alliance with that government—are causes abundantly sufficient to justify a declaration of war; and that a longer forbearance of hostilities on our part, would have been ignominious to us as a people, and derogatory to our honor as an independent nation.

“Resolved, That Joseph Lefever, John M. Hyneman and Roger Davis, in the vote which they have given upon the question of War or Submission, have truly represented the interests, the wishes and the feelings of the people of this district; and that their conduct has entitled them to the applause and to the confidence of their constituents.

“Resolved, That constrained as we are, by the injuries and indignities which have been heaped upon us, to resort to arms in defence of our natural rights, it is the duty of every good citizen, by all the means which Providence has placed in his power; to assist and support the government in the exertion of its utmost

energies in waging such a war as may compel our enemies to yield to the prowess of the nation what they have hitherto refused to the justice of its claims.

“Resolved, That, conformably to the recommendation of the President of the United States, we will use our best endeavors ‘to preserve order, to promote concord, to maintain the authority and the efficacy of the laws, and to support and invigorate all the measures which may be adopted by the constituted authorities for obtaining a speedy, a just and an honorable peace.’

“Resolved, That one copy of the proceedings of this meeting, signed by the chairman and secretary, be transmitted by them to the President of the United States, and another to the representatives of this district in Congress; and that they be published in the Lancaster Intelligencer, and in the German True American.”

A writer in the Intelligencer & Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, July 4th, 1812, states that it was a delight to witness the ease and dignity with which the chairman, the venerable John Whitehill, presided at the meeting. Although he was more than 82 years old, he rode about 20 miles to attend the meeting.

Mr. Whitehill was born December 1, 1729, in Salisbury township, Lancaster county, Pa. He was a devoted patriot, coming into special prominence at the beginning of the Revolution. The Supreme Executive Council appointed him, March 31st, 1777, one of the justices of the courts of Common Pleas for Lancaster. In the years 1778 to 1782 he represented the county in the General Assembly. He served as a member of the Council of Censors, 1783-4, and was a delegate to the Pennsylvania convention to ratify the Federal Constitution of 1787, but for some reason he did not sign the ratification. From December 22nd, 1784, to December 16th, 1787, he was a member of the Supreme Executive Council. Under the Constitution of 1790, he was appointed, on August 17th, 1791, by Governor Mifflin, an associate judge of the county of Lancaster. He was a presidential elector in 1796, and elected to the Eighth and Ninth Congresses, where he served with distinguished ability. A rigid Presbyterian, he was an elder and trustee of the church at Pequea. He died at his residence in Salisbury township on September 16th, 1815, and was buried in the graveyard adjoining Pequea Presbyterian church.

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## Governor Tompkins in Lancaster

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**D**ANIEL D. TOMPKINS was born in Scarsdale, N. Y., June 21st, 1774; and died on Staten Island, N. Y., June 11th, 1825.

In 1804, he was elected to Congress. He resigned to take his seat on the bench on the Supreme court of New York. In 1807, he was elected Governor of the State of New York, and was re-