

# The Saint Patrick Benevolent Society of Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**O**N Thursday evening, August 22nd, 1816, a number of Irishmen, and descendants of Irishmen, met at the tavern of Archibald McLenegan on East King street, in the borough of Lancaster, and formed an association designated by the title of "The Saint Patrick Benevolent Society of Lancaster." William Clark Frazer, Esq., was appointed president, and Michael Galligher, Jr., secretary. The purpose of this organization was to render assistance to the sick and distressed poor of the community.

On Saturday evening, August 31st, the second meeting of the society was held at Archibald McLenegan's to receive applications from any who desired to become members. At this meeting William C. Frazer and Archibald McLenegan were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions from persons friendly to the purposes of the institution.

At a meeting held on Saturday, September 14th, George Daly, Michael Gallicher, Jr. and Archibald McLenegan were appointed a committee to receive the applications of Irishmen, and descendants of Irishmen, who desired to become members of the society.

On Monday evening, October 14th, 1816, a meeting was held at the house of Mr. James Coyle, innkeeper. The constitution of the society was presented for approbation and signature. How long it continued to exist is not known. Unfortunately, subsequent issues of local papers do not contain any references to its activities. This is to be regretted, as the purpose of the organization was a most worthy one.

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# The Lancaster County Society for Promoting Agriculture, Manufactures and the Useful Arts

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**T**HE Intelligencer & Weekly Advertiser of Wednesday, March 25th, 1800, states that a large and respectable number of citizens in the borough and county of Lancaster, in order to encourage industry, frugality and American manufactures, formed an association known as "The Lancaster County Society for Promoting Agriculture, Manufactures and the Useful Arts." Mr. F. A. Muhlenberg was chosen president.

The objects of the society were "to procure from the fertile soil of Pennsylvania, every production it is capable of affording; and from the labor and ingenuity of independent citizens every article of manufacture and the useful arts necessary to render our country happy, prosperous and truly independent."

In order to make their independence a reality and their emancipation from foreign influence more effectual, the members of the society unanimously agreed to use only domestic manufactures and products, whenever they could be had, in preference to foreign goods. The society also proposed to distribute premiums to the inhabitants of Lancaster county who raised the finest crops and manufactured the best articles. Rewards were also offered for useful inventions and improvements.

A gold medal, worth ten dollars, was offered as a reward to any person raising the greatest quantity of flax, of the best quality, from an acre of ground in Lancaster county. The award was to be announced on or before the first Wednesday in December, 1800.

The society also proposed to offer premiums of considerable value to those who produced the best wool, and the greatest quantity from a certain number of sheep.

A meeting of the association was held in its room in Lancaster borough on Wednesday, May 7th, 1800.

William and Robert Dickson, editors and proprietors of The Lancaster Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, sold a pamphlet containing the constitution of the society. It was accompanied with a letter to the citizens of Pennsylvania by George Logan, M. D., on the necessity and importance of such institutions, together with the form of a bill contemplating legislative aid for the promotion of the objects of the local organization and of similar societies.

An examination of the local papers does not reveal any announcements of prizes awarded; nor, indeed, do I find any further references to the work of the society than those already given. How long it continued to exist, is not now known.