

couragement; though no place seems better calculated for an institution of this kind, as it enjoys pure air, a remarkably healthy situation, and a plentiful market, besides many other advantages.

“In the mechanic arts this place also produces many ingenious workmen, some of whom are deemed not inferior to those of any place in the province. They have exhibited sufficient proofs of their skill in their respective occupations.

“On the whole, it may be observed, without incurring the censure of partiality, that Lancaster stands foremost of all inland towns on the continent of America.”

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## Duel in Lancaster County

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**O**N Wednesday, April 22nd, 1818, a tragic event occurred in the neighborhood of Washington Borough, Lancaster County, Pa., which placed the then prevailing custom of dueling even in a more criminal light than usual.

A citizen of Columbia and another of Washington Borough met at a public place and engaged in an argument, which became so heated that it finally resulted in a challenge by one and its acceptance by the other. An immediate settlement of the dispute, by the use of firearms, was determined upon. Not being able to procure pistols, a rifle and a double barrel gun were borrowed—the choice of which weapon each should use being decided by lot. The parties immediately repaired to a secluded spot, attended by their seconds and a surgeon, with others also who had heard the discussion from its beginning. The disputants took their places, twenty paces apart. The word “Fire” being given, the shot gun failed to discharge, while the ball from the rifle took effect. The man from Columbia fell. Either the sudden horror of sending a fellow-being out of the world, totally unprepared, or the acute sense of self-preservation, had its immediate effect on the man from Washington Borough, for he threw down the rifle and disappeared.

The Lancaster Journal of Monday, April 27th, 1818, in commenting on the tragic affair, said, “The damage is, on the whole, not quite so great as at first expected, for the wounded man is said to be out of danger; but in consequence of his sudden fall, the stock of the poor double barrel gun was broken and will probably have to be condemned, instead of either of the violators of the law.”