

# Lightning Strikes Spire of Trinity Lutheran Church

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**O**N Tuesday, May 13th, 1823, between one and two o'clock in the afternoon, the beautiful spire of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, pride of Lancaster, and an ancient land-mark, was struck by lightning. A portion of the upper part of the rod was melted and the remainder so much heated as to retain its warmth for a considerable time.

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, May 16th, 1823, stated:

“The dust or smoke which was observed to issue from the upper part of the steeple, which is of wood, induced a belief that it was on fire. An alarm was consequently given and the bells rung, but, upon examination, there appeared to be no damage done to any part of the building, except the windows, in which upwards of 300 panes of glass were broken.

“The rod which conducted the fluid is composed of different pieces of iron fastened together by having at the ends rings turned through each other, and wherever the rods were so joined, the rings are distinctly marked on the adjoining wall or wood, by a black circle, as though it had been scorched.

“It is somewhat singular that this was the only flash of lightning seen, and the only clap of thunder heard, during the whole of the day, which was so cold as to be uncomfortable without a good fire.”