

# Collections in Aid of the Sufferers from Fire in Columbia

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**O**N Friday, October 25th, 1822, at eleven o'clock at night, a fire originated in the back building attached to the tavern of a man named Quarles, in Columbia, Lancaster county, Pa. Before the fire could be controlled, the tavern and the dwellings of John Gonter, Jr. and Mr. Briggs, were destroyed.

A committee was appointed in Lancaster to receive donations for the unfortunate individuals whose property was thus destroyed. The Lancaster Journal of Friday, November 22nd, 1822, stated that a total of \$400.75 had been received for the sufferers and deposited in the Branch Bank of Pennsylvania.

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## Collections for the Sufferers from Fire in Lancaster in 1823

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**O**N Friday, July 25th, 1823, near midnight, the inhabitants of Lancaster were awakened by the cry of fire. It originated in the carpenter shop of William Russell, at that time located in the fifth block of North Queen street, directly opposite old Franklin college. The Lancaster Intelligencer of Tuesday, July 29th, 1823, states: "Notwithstanding all the exertions of our firemen and citizens, the fire could not be got under, until it consumed nearly all the property of Mr. Russell, viz.: two carpenters' shops, with all their contents, consisting of a great variety of very valuable tools, still house, stills, and stilling apparatus, horse-stables, several cow-stables, the covering of a very extensive ice-house and a great quantity of hay and grain. And also two stables, with their contents, belonging to George Best and Philip McCartney. Many of the neighbors, not well able to bear the loss, also suffered considerably by having their fences torn down, gardens destroyed, etc. The loss sustained by Mr. Russell, who is one of our most active and industrious citizens, is very great; not less, we understand, than \$2000.00. No doubt is entertained but that this fire was the work of an incendiary."

The citizens of Lancaster, with their accustomed sympathetic promptness, met on Saturday, the day after the fire, at eight o'clock in the morning. A committee was appointed for each ward to solicit contributions for the relief of the sufferers. Samuel Dale, Joseph Ogilby, Edward Coleman, Frederick Hambright and Samuel