

termination. The time draws near when a shipment will be made of whatever shall have been collected; and there are many hundreds of the inhabitants of the city and county of Lancaster, who though not personally called on, would gladly make donations, if persons not far distant were appointed to receive them, and give them their proper destination. To all those, therefore, who have benevolent hearts and are blest with ability, the agents make this appeal, and request them to send their contributions to William Kirkpatrick or Adam Reigart, of the city of Lancaster, at as early a period as possible. Money will be the most acceptable, but provisions and clothing will be thankfully received and carefully transmitted.

“William Kirkpatrick

“Adam Reigart

“Walter Franklin

“John Reynolds”

In the Political Sentinel and Lancaster Literary Gazette of Monday, March 19th, 1827, appears the following, under the heading of “Greek Fund”:

“We ought, perhaps, to have stated before this, that \$227.00 was transmitted to the Greek committee of Philadelphia by William Kirkpatrick, Esq., chairman of the Lancaster committee, on the 3rd of this month. The receipt of upwards of \$15,000.00 has already been acknowledged by the Philadelphia committee, besides clothing, provisions, etc., for the relief of the suffering Greeks. The enthusiasm which prevails on this subject may be all very correct, but we really think the charity of our citizens would be as well employed in the relief of poor suffering Americans. Objects plenty can be found in the city of Lancaster, whose hearts would have been gladdened by a temporary relief during the past winter. Hundreds of little children, nearly barefooted, were daily seen trudging into town with large bundles of wood on their heads, necessary to cook the scanty morsel which the penury of their parents afforded them. The relief of these poor sufferers, however, would not sound so musical in the newspapers; but in our estimation, it would sound equally as well in the ear of Heaven.”

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## The Franklin Society

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**I**N December, 1799, “The Franklin Society” of Lancaster was formed. The names of the officers and members are not now known. In The Intelligencer & Weekly Advertiser of Wednesday, December 24th, 1800, appeared the following:

“Saturday last, being the anniversary of the establishment of the Franklin Society in this borough, the members and a number

of other citizens met at the Franklin Inn and partook of an elegant supper, prepared for the occasion; after which the following toasts were drunk:

1. "Benjamin Franklin."
2. "The Franklin Society. May its members imitate the man whose name it bears."
3. "Union and Brotherly Love: the cement of all societies. May they be the distinguishing characteristics of this Society."
4. "All societies throughout the world which have for their basis the good of mankind."
5. "Useful knowledge: a safe barrier against the oppressors of the rights of man."
6. "Social life, and the blessings of a Republican government."
7. "Thomas Jefferson: his country's pride and hope."
8. "The Governor of Pennsylvania."

The Society continued in existence for at least ten or more years, as the following advertisement indicates. It is to be regretted that we do not have the minutes of its proceedings. Apparently they are hopelessly lost.

In The Intelligencer & Weekly Advertiser of Saturday, May 5th, 1810, appeared an announcement that the Franklin Society met, pursuant to adjournment, on Saturday, April 28th, and discussed the following question: "Can any legal restraint be imposed on the press?" The Society met on six successive Saturdays following, and debated these topics, which, doubtless, at the time seemed to be very important ones.

May 5th. "Would it be beneficial to the United States to instill military notions into the minds of youth?"

May 12th. "Would the general abolition of the slave trade be attended with good consequences in the United States?"

It is interesting to note that even so early as 1810, the question of slavery, which was to find its blood-bought solution in our great Rebellion a half century later, was uppermost in the minds of our citizens.

May 19th. "Is a knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages a necessary part of education?"

May 26th. "Are riches productive of happiness?"

June 2nd. "Is love or anger the most predominant passion?"

June 9th. "Ought the United States to declare war against any of the belligerent Powers of Europe?"

The name of George L. Mayer appears as secretary in connection with the notices in the paper.

How long the Franklin Society continued to exist is not known.