

The references to the organization in the local papers are few, and little information concerning its activities can be obtained. The Lancaster Journal of Friday, February 3rd, 1815, contained an announcement that the trustees of the "Juvenile Library Society" were requested to meet at the house of Samuel Slaymaker on Friday, February 10th, on business relating to the society.

About four years later, the society discontinued its library. This was due to a lack of financial backing. Doubtless the people in the community did not respond to the calls for assistance or manifest that interest in the institution which it deserved. In the Lancaster Journal of Tuesday, October 5th, 1819, appeared an announcement in which "the members of the *late* Juvenile Society of Lancaster" were requested to meet on the evening of that day at seven o'clock in Mr. Schipper's school room, in Franklin College, which at that time was located in the fourth block of North Queen street, on the west side. Since the word "late" was used in the announcement, it is evident that the society's library was discontinued about this time or earlier.

The last reference to this worthy organization appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, November 12th, 1819. The librarian, M. C. Clarkson, requested all persons having in their possession books belonging to the Juvenile Society of Lancaster to return them without delay.

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## Prevention of Horse-Racing and Gambling in 1812

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**L**ANCASTER borough was thrown into considerable excitement for a short time by a number of gamblers who had determined to run a horse-race on Tuesday, November 24th, 1812. As the advertisement of the race was not published in the newspapers but distributed by hand bills, it was not known to the magistrates until Saturday morning, November 21st. A notice was immediately issued to the citizens asking them to meet at five o'clock in the evening to consider the best means of enforcing the law against gambling and horse-racing.

At this meeting an attempt was made by those interested in the race to prevent an expression of public sentiment, but this was promptly defeated by the energetic and determined attitude of the better class of citizens. William Kirkpatrick was called to the chair, and John Hoff was appointed secretary. After the object of the meeting was stated by Messrs. Jenkins and Smith, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, the practice of horse-racing in general, and more especially in and about the neighborhood of Lancaster, is highly injurious to the morals of the people and introduces a spirit of gambling, detrimental to society; and

"Whereas, it is understood that sundry citizens have encouraged a horse-race on Tuesday next [Nov. 24th] in or near this borough: Therefore, it is

"Resolved, That we will, by all lawful means in our power prevent the said horse-race and all species of gambling consequent thereto; and will use every exertion to detect and bring to punishment, all and every person or persons offending therein; and will give information to legal authority of every person we may know to be concerned in any horse-race or any other species of gambling.

"Resolved, That it is hereby recommended to all justices, sheriffs and constables to be vigilant in their duty to prevent any violation of the laws in this respect; and if it shall be known to them in any manner, by report or otherwise, that any number of people are, or shall be collected together for the purpose of running or being present at any race, or running of horses, that they attend at the time and place thereof, and arrest and bring to legal punishment all persons concerned in the violation of the laws as aforesaid.

"Resolved, That the persons present at this meeting will support the said justices and other officers in all their legal acts in pursuance of the foregoing resolutions.

"Resolved, That it be recommended to the court of Quarter Sessions to withhold recommendations for license to all tavern-keepers who harbor gamblers or in any way promote or encourage gambling and horse-racing."

On Tuesday morning, November 24th, the magistrates, sheriff and peace officers met. It was learned that the promoters intended proceeding with the race. A proclamation was issued, calling upon citizens to assemble; and one of the largest meetings ever held in Lancaster convened at the court house. All seemed to be actuated by one spirit; and a loyal determination to support the civil authorities in upholding the law, was unanimously expressed. This exhibition of firmness had the desired effect. When the peace officers arrived at the race ground they found that the parties concerned in the intended race had wisely yielded to public sentiment and the law and had withdrawn their horses.

The editor of the *Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Saturday, November 28th, 1812, in commenting on the affair, said:

"We cannot close the account of this business, without congratulating our fellow-citizens on this signal triumph of law and order over a band of desperadoes, who would indulge their habits and gratify their passions at the expense of every moral and social duty."