

Subscriptions for Franklin College

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

FRANKLIN COLLEGE, founded in 1787, held its first sessions in the "Brew House," on Mifflin street, west of Duke, near Trinity Lutheran church. In February, 1788, it acquired the property on North Queen street known as "The Store House," which was built by the State of Pennsylvania at an early period of the Revolutionary War, for the housing of military supplies. The college occupied the building for nearly fifty years.

In the summer of 1804, the property was in need of repairs, and subscriptions for this purpose were received from citizens of Lancaster borough.

The Lancaster Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Tuesday, August 14th, 1804, contained the following:

"The liberal subscription of a number of ladies and gentlemen of Lancaster borough, for the laudable purpose of repairing Franklin College, so as to render it a comfortable place for the accommodation of the several schools now taught in it, has induced the committee to engage workmen, who have already begun to work. Should the citizens, to whom the subscription list has not yet been handed, be disposed to afford the like generous support, the whole of the lower story will be completely finished, the lots fenced and other necessary buildings erected, before the cold season commences."

How much money was obtained is not known.

The Union Society of Lancaster

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ON Monday, July 4th, 1803, a birthday anniversary of American liberty, a number of native Americans of Lancaster borough, associated under the name of "The Union Society of Lancaster" for the purpose of celebrating the national festival, gathered at a spring on the banks of the Conestoga. Benjamin Grimler was appointed president, and John Swartz, vice-president. After partaking of a suitable repast, the Declaration of Independence was read.¹ Seventeen toasts were drunk; the first and last of which were as follows:

"The 17 United States. May that bond which connects them remain forever indissoluble!

"The Fourth of July. May the happiness we enjoy this day be as lasting as adamant!"

How long the society continued to exist is not known.

¹ The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, Tuesday, July 19th, 1803.