

and that this memorial be circulated with the foregoing among the people of the city and county.

“Resolved, That the committees appointed to make collections in the several wards of the city, shall, after they have completed their task, pay into the hands of the mayor of the city such sums as they shall have collected; and that the collecting committees which may be appointed throughout the county, are requested to make a similar disposition of the amounts which they may receive; and that the mayor of Lancaster be instructed, as he shall receive these sums, to forward them to the mayor of New York to be appropriated in such manner as may there be directed to the relief of the sufferers.

“Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed whose duty it shall be to address the mayor and corporation of the city of New York in a letter expressive of the deep sense of sympathy entertained by the people of Lancaster for the unparalleled distress which this calamity has entailed on their metropolis.”

Committees were appointed as follows:

Collecting Committee: North-east ward, George L. Mayer, Henry Keffer, George Daly, Jacob McCully and S. E. Gundacker; north-west ward, David Longenecker, John Brown, Jacob Dorwart, Christian Bachman, Jacob Weaver and Henry H. Carson; south-east ward, William Ihling, George H. Krug, Martin Foltz, Michael Walker, Peter A. Suydam and Henry Pinkerton; south-west ward, Christopher Brenner, Bernard McGonigle, Jacob Leibley, D. Lebkichler, W. Whiteside and P. G. Eberman.

Committee to Memorialize Congress and Our Legislature: G. W. Barton, John Reynolds, John L. Atlee, Henry Keffer, Christopher Hager, Charles Gillespie and Henry Carpenter.

Committee to Transmit Proceedings to New York: G. L. Mayer, B. Champneys, William Coleman, Samuel Dale and George W. Barton.

How much money was collected is not known, as subsequent issues of local papers do not refer to the subject.

Coffee Houses in Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

A CENTURY or more ago, coffee houses occupied an important position in the life of populous cities. In London, England, it was at the coffee houses that leading literary and political clubs held their meetings, which were frequented by men of fashion, who sought the society of the wits, — such places as the “Chapter Coffee House,” in Paternoster Row, where Dr. Buchan, Sir Richard Phillips, Alexander Chalmers, Dr. Busby and other celebrities met; and the famous “Button’s Coffee House,” the headquarters of the Spectator’s Club, where Addison, Swift, Steele,

Pope, Ambrose Phillips and others, assembled to enjoy social converse, and to criticize the vices and follies of their time.

In Philadelphia, as early as 1754, the London Coffee House, south-west corner of Front and Market streets, became the business and social centre of the city, where merchants met and transacted business over cups of the fragrant beverage; where the governor and most of the high officials were regular habitués; where ship captains brought their budget of the latest foreign news; and where travelers of distinction resorted to form the acquaintance of prominent citizens. It also became a great auction mart, where public sales of horses, carriages, and even slaves, were held under a large awning, which extended from the house to the gutter on each street front.

It is not known when the first coffee house was established in Lancaster, but we learn from the following advertisement in *The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Wednesday, May 27th, 1801, that in that year the town could boast of such a place of refreshment:

“Michael Dubourg informs the public and his friends, that he has opened a coffee house in North Queen street, opposite the land office, where he keeps for the entertainment of those who choose to call on him, coffee, all kinds of wine, brandy and Jamaica spirits, porter and beer, mead, and a variety of syrups. Ice cream may be had every Saturday. Repasts will be prepared on the shortest notice.

“As his house affords an agreeable summer retreat, containing a number of nice, convenient rooms for the accommodation of companies, he hopes to merit the attention and patronage of a generous public.”

How long Mr. Dubourg continued in business is not known.

Fourteen years later, another coffee house was opened in Lancaster, according to the following announcement, which appeared in the *Lancaster Journal* of Monday, August 28th, 1815:

“LANCASTER COFFEE HOUSE.

“The subscriber informs his friends and the public in general, that he has opened his new establishment in Centre Square, south side of the court house in Lancaster, called the Lancaster Coffee House, where he will keep a constant supply of the very best liquors and refreshments. He flatters himself to meet with a favorable patronage from the inhabitants of Lancaster and its vicinity, as nothing in his power shall be wanting to give satisfaction and proper attention to those who think it worth noticing this new and accommodating establishment. At the same time he gives notice, that he has opened, on the 25th of July, a reading room, wholly dedicated to the benefit of the gentlemen of Lancas-

ter, who are desirous to support by their subscription such a valuable and profitable undertaking, where the subscribers are supplied with intelligence and news of the whole world, and men of every station will find it to their benefit. The store-keeper will find prices, auctions, scarcity, plenty, importations and exportations of goods and merchandise; particularly, there will be news of war and peace, of cultivating and improving arts and sciences, etc.,—in short, there will be plenty of matter for all classes to pass away agreeably and usefully the long and tiresome winter nights.

“All those who have not yet subscribed, and may desire to become subscribers to such a beneficial establishment, will please to apply to the subscriber.

“John Erben.”

Three years later, the Lancaster Journal of Monday, October 19th, 1818, contained an advertisement in which Mr. Erben offered the Lancaster Coffee house for sale. The property was described as having a frontage of 21 feet, 9 inches, on Penn square, and extending in depth 80 feet to a 5½ foot alley. The house was of brick, three stories in height, and there was a well of water and a pump in the yard on the division line; also an excellent cistern. The ground rent was 17s and 6d sterling.

Whether Mr. Erben sold his property and discontinued the coffee house, or whether it was conducted by another, is not known. The last reference to the coffee house appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Tuesday, June 8th, 1819. The Lancaster Phalanx were notified to parade at the court house on Monday, June 14th, and in this notice it was stated that the band would meet at the coffee house on that day, at half-past twelve.

Bathing Rooms in Lancaster in 1833

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE first bathtub in America, according to George A. Reid in an article in The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. XLV, pp. 292-3, was placed in the home of Adam Thompson in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1842. Made of mahogany, and designed by Mr. Thompson, who got his idea from the Prime Minister of Great Britain, it measured seven feet long by four wide, and weighed seventeen hundred and fifty pounds. It caused a heated discussion in the Cincinnati papers as to whether or not such an innovation was inimical to health. Many physicians of that city asserted that “it invited rheumatic fever, phthisic, inflammation of the lungs,” and other physical sufferings.