

Lancaster's Contribution to Cape Verde Islands in the Famine of 1832

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

IN the autumn of 1832, information reached Lancaster that the inhabitants of the Cape Verde Islands were in a most distressed condition. They had had no rain for two years, their crops had failed, and thousands were dying of starvation. Several vessels had touched at the Islands, and, going to other ports, reported the suffering heart-rending in the extreme. Cries of "Send us bread!" were heard from every quarter. It was estimated that 10,000 people of the Island of Fogo would perish unless relief should reach them promptly. The Lancaster Journal of Friday, December 14th, 1832, in appealing to the public, stated as follows:

"Under these distressing circumstances, will the citizens of Lancaster withhold their liberality? Will it be said that the appeal of our suffering fellow-creatures shall pass unheeded? Providence has blessed this land with plenty; we have some to spare. Let us then remember the divine precept, to 'feed the hungry'; and, in human language, 'Learn the luxury of doing good'."

On Wednesday evening, December 5th, 1832, a meeting of citizens of Lancaster was held at the court house. John Mathiot, mayor, was appointed chairman; George B. Withers, secretary; and William Kirkpatrick, treasurer.

A committee of four persons from each ward was appointed to collect funds, as follows:

North-east Ward.

George Louis Mayer
H. Keffer

George B. Withers
William Frick

South-east Ward.

John Eberman
T. L. Barry

Jacob Demuth
J. F. Heinitsh

South-west Ward.

John Myer
George Krug

E. C. Reigart
Henry Carpenter

North-west Ward.

George Musser
C. Hager

C. Keefer
Adam Diller

It was stated that donations of wheat, flour, etc., from people in Lancaster county who felt disposed to aid the sufferers in the Cape Verde Islands, would be thankfully received by the treasurer or by any member of the committee.

The committee diligently sought to accomplish the task assigned to it. The Lancaster Journal of Friday, December 28th, 1832, contained a statement as follows:

“Collected in the North-west ward	\$ 89.18
“ “ “ South-west ward	78.75
“ “ “ North-east ward	140.39
“ “ “ South-east ward	21.68
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	\$330.00”

This sum was transmitted by the treasurer, William Kirkpatrick, to Robert Ralston of Philadelphia, and doubtless reached those for whom it was intended, in due season.

Monsieur Surrier, French Ambassador, Passes Through Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, May 13th, 1814, contained the following:

“Monsieur Suerrier, the French Ambassador, passed through Lancaster a few days ago on his way to Philadelphia.”

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