

"Every person wishing to join this society, shall, on subscribing to the constitution, pay the sum of three dollars.

"At each stated monthly meeting, each member shall pay a contribution of 37½ cents.

"No widow of any deceased member shall be entitled to the benefits of this association, unless her husband shall have been a member thereof at least five years, and shall have paid his fines and contributions agreeably to the true intent and meaning of the articles and fundamental rules of the association.

"The widow of every deceased member as aforesaid, shall have paid to her out of the funds of this association the sum of two dollars weekly, and every week during her natural life, if she remains the widow of such deceased member; but if she should again intermarry, the said weekly allowance of two dollars shall immediately cease to be paid."

It was also resolved at this meeting that until the society consisted of thirty-five members, a meeting was to be held each Wednesday evening at the house of Christian Smith. The book of the organization was to be kept open for subscriptions at the store of Messrs. J. and P. Long, North Queen street. Joseph Ehrenfried was the secretary.

The succeeding issue of the Lancaster Journal, dated Friday, March 1st, 1822, contained an announcement that a meeting of the society would be held on Wednesday, March 6th, at the house of Christian Smith.

How long the society continued to exist and who were the officers and members of it is not now definitely known, as subsequent issues of the local papers contain no references to it.

Address to John Adams by Militia of Lancaster County

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

AT a meeting of one hundred and fifty officers of the militia of Lancaster county on June 21st, 1798, the following address was read and unanimously approved. It was signed by John Light and the other one hundred and forty-nine officers:

"TO JOHN ADAMS, ESQ., PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

"At a period so momentous as the present, when it but too plainly appears that we must either submit to be dictated to by a

foreign power or resort to arms for the defense of all that can be held dear to freemen, the officers of the militia of Lancaster county, —feeling themselves happy under the influence of a government of their own choice, mild and equal in its operation, and perfectly satisfied that it has been, and continues to be, administered with prudence, moderation and wisdom,—beg leave to assure you, Sir, that should the insolence and rapacity of the French Republic, or any other foreign power, render an appeal to arms the dernier resort, they will be always ready to support, to the utmost of their ability, the rights of the American people and the honor and dignity of their government.

“We pray the Almighty Disposer of all Events to aid your councils and preserve your health.”

It is to be regretted that The Lancaster Journal of Saturday, November 12th, 1803, from which this information was obtained does not contain the names of the officers who unanimously adopted and signed this address to the President. It seems somewhat singular that a meeting held on the 21st of June, 1798, was not reported in a local paper until November 12th, 1803—five years and a half later; and long after Adams had been succeeded in the presidency by Thomas Jefferson. The “momentous” period to which the address refers, was the difficulty with France, to which country the Jay treaty had been very distasteful, as the French declared that it favored Great Britain and denied certain rights to them. Happily, war was finally avoided.

The Dispensary of St. James’s Church, Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON Sunday evening, September 18th, 1825, after divine service, a number of ladies and gentlemen met in Saint James’s Protestant Episcopal church, Lancaster, and formed an organization for the laudable purpose of affording medical relief to the needy.¹ At this meeting a constitution was unanimously adopted as follows:

Article 1. This society shall be called The Dispensary of Saint James’s Church, Lancaster.

Article 2. The object of the society shall be to afford medical relief to the indigent.

Article 3. All contributors of one dollar, annually, shall be members of the society.