

would sell all the grain they could spare, and that the situation would become more serious before new supplies could be had. Under these circumstances, charitably inclined neighbors in the vicinity of Paradise assembled at the house of David Witmer, Jr., and after deliberation, agreed to establish a Benevolent Society for the purpose of collecting rye and corn to be deposited in the neighboring mills for free distribution among those who were without the means to pay. Those in better circumstances were requested to pay seventy-five cents a bushel.

The generosity of the few who attended the first meeting was such that 119 bushels of rye and 12 bushels of corn were subscribed. The subscription paper was directed to be circulated through the neighborhood with the expectation and hope that additional provision would be donated by those not present at the meeting.

The society adjourned to meet again at the home of Mr. Witmer on Friday, January 24th, for the purpose of making arrangements for the distribution of grain to those in need.

How long the association continued to exist is not known, as subsequent issues of local newspapers contained no references to it.

The Celebration of St. Tammany's Day in Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE Lancaster Journal of Saturday, May 5th, 1798, contained an announcement that the preceding Tuesday, May 1st, had been observed in the borough of Lancaster as St. Tammany's day. The item was as follows:

"Tuesday last being St. Tammany's day, a number of respectable inhabitants assembled at Swenk's spring, to celebrate the anniversary of our tutelar saint. It is remarkable that this anniversary has passed unnoticed in Lancaster (as a jubilee) for nearly 20 years. Under the idea of preserving the spirit and honoring the fame of their ancestors, the English celebrate their St. George, the Welsh their St. David, the Scotch their St. Andrew, and the Irish their St. Patrick, then why should Americans forget their brawny chief—he who (according to Indian tradition) 'planted tobacco and kidney beans, and taught us to quarry hatchets and

scalping knives from flint stone'? But the charm is now broken; and, suffice it to say, although they had not, (like the Morgan election celebrators in Philadelphia) 32 toasts and 291 cheers or huzzas, yet they had about 20 toasts and many hearty acclamations of festivity. Mr. Hopkinson's celebrated song, to the tune of the President's march, was sung with applause; as was also the following song prepared for the occasion. The company separated at a seasonable hour, having truly, in the language of the poet, enjoyed

“The feast of reason and the flow of soul'.”

Then followed four stanzas of the patriotic song, to the tune of Alknumac, referred to above.

Tammany, whose name means “affable”, was an Indian chief of the Delawares, who lived in the 17th century. According to one account, he was the first Indian to welcome “William Penn to this country, and was a party to Penn's famous treaty at Shackamaxon, which was unbroken for a half century.” Voltaire says: “This was the only treaty which was never sworn to and never broken.” It is said of Tammany (spelled in several ways) “that he was in the highest degree endowed with wisdom, virtue, prudence, charity, affability, meekness and hospitality—in short, with every good and noble quality conceivable that a human being possessed.” Another story places his wigwam on the present site of Princeton university; another says that he lived in the hills of northeastern Pennsylvania, and that he died at an advanced age near a spring in Bucks county, Pa. He was a sagamore, and belonged to the Lenni Lenape confederacy of New York and Pennsylvania, which warred continually against the Six Nations and the Manhattan Indians. Tammany appears to have been a brave and influential chieftain. His nation perpetuated his memory by bestowing his name upon those who deserved the honor. He is now chiefly remembered as the patron of a political organization in New York city, called “The Tammany Society.”

Before the War of Independence there were Whig societies known by the names of “Sons of St. Tammany”, and “Sons of Liberty.”

In May, 1789, William Mooney founded in New York city the “Society of St. Tammany” or “Columbian Order”, as a patriotic, benevolent and non political organization, with the intent to counteract the influence of what was believed to be the aristocratic Order of the Cincinnati. This organization developed into a strong political power, and still continues. It is claimed that through its influence, General Hancock was defeated for the presidency in 1880, and that Cleveland was elected to that office in 1884.