

who may be found within the borough. The safety and peace of the community are supposed to be materially interested in removing all vagrants and suspicious persons from amongst us.

“The citizens composing the nightly patrol are hereby authorized and enjoined to take up and confine in the common jail, for the time being, all vagrants and disorderly and suspicious persons found in the streets at an unusual hour, who cannot give a satisfactory account of themselves.

“Published<sup>1</sup> by order of the corporation and consent of the citizens.

“Adam Reigart, Jr.

“John Bausman,

“Burgesses.”

<sup>1</sup> Printed in The Lancaster Journal of Saturday, December 1st, 1810.

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## The Ship Conestoga

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**I**T is not generally known, perhaps, that a ship named the “Conestoga”, so-called, doubtless, in honor of the famous Indian tribe for which the river in Lancaster county was named, once sailed between the old world and the new. Yet such was the case, according to an advertisement in the Lancaster Journal of Tuesday, June 15th, 1819, which was as follows:

“From Londonderry direct and back to Philadelphia. The ship Conestoga, William Marshal, master, will sail in about two weeks. For freight or passage apply to John Hemphill, 42 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.”

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## Society for the Support and Protection of Indigent Orphans

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**O**N Friday, July 19th, 1822, a number of ladies met in the Sunday-school house of Saint James’s Protestant Episcopal church for the purpose of forming a society for the support and protection of indigent orphans.<sup>1</sup>

A meeting in furtherance of this design was appointed to be held at the same place on Saturday evening, July 27th, to which all persons favorably inclined to the movement were invited.

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, August 2nd, 1822, contained a communication, over the signature of "A Wellwisher", addressed to John Reynolds, editor of the paper, which was as follows:

"During this week a committee of young ladies has called on the citizens, soliciting donations and annual subscriptions to establish an orphan asylum in this city. To nourish and protect the orphan are among the most important duties required of us by Holy Writ, and every principle of religion derived therefrom; but I will thank the committee to give the donors, through the medium of your paper, the number of these distressed and unprotected orphans, their names, and the streets in which they reside. This will enable the friends of the contemplated institution to form an idea of how large a capital will be requisite, what dimensions the building ought to be, and to estimate the probable yearly expense.

"Presuming the ladies have not undertaken so arduous and praise-worthy a task without being able to give the information desired, I shall expect to see it in your next paper."

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The letter of "Wellwisher" does not appear to have been written in a very generous spirit. It certainly places the noble-hearted women who sought to help fatherless children, in a false light. Clearly, their object was to *form a society* and not to *found an institution*, as "Wellwisher" so ungraciously intimates. It was most unkind of him thus publicly to demand that they give the "dimensions of a building", which had its existence only in his own heated imagination; and to furnish an "estimate" of "the probable annual expense" of an institution, which he himself seems to have created in his own perverted mind.

Judging by the call for the original meeting, the ladies only wished to place themselves in a position to be of practical help to friendless orphans of the town in need of their assistance. Whether the society was able to accomplish its purpose or not, or how long it continued to exist, is not known, as subsequent issues of local papers make no reference to it.

<sup>1</sup> Lancaster Journal, Friday, July 26th, 1822.

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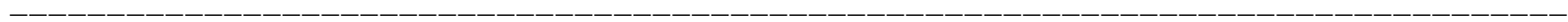
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