

The Jackson Celebration in Lancaster in 1827

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON Monday, July 2nd, 1827, a number of General Andrew Jackson's friends in Lancaster, decided to celebrate the anniversary of American Independence, and appointed a committee to effect that purpose.¹

The committee addressed the following invitation to Langdon Cheves, Esq., who at that time resided at "Abbeville," a handsome country estate a short distance west of Lancaster city on the Columbia turnpike, now the Lincoln highway,—a property at present owned by C. Dudley Armstrong.

"Lancaster, Pa., July 3rd, 1827.

"Hon. Langdon Cheves.

"Sir:

"On behalf of and especially delegated by citizens of Lancaster friendly to the election of Gen. Andrew Jackson to the next presidency, we respectfully invite you to partake of a dinner to be given on Wednesday next within the precincts of this city in commemoration of that glorious day upon which we were first proclaimed a free and independent nation. Impressed with a due sense of the many and important services which you have rendered to your country, and proud to call you our fellow citizen, we tender this invitation with the most cordial good will and sincerely hope it may meet with a friendly reception.

"With respect and esteem we are, sir, your friends and fellow citizens,

"John Longenecker, Abraham Carpenter, B. Champneys, C. Hager, S. C. Stambaugh, J. R. Montgomery, Robert M. Barr, Fred'k Hambright, Wm. Michael, John Getz, Michael Wimer, Henry Carpenter."

To this flattering invitation Mr. Cheves sent the following appreciative reply:

"Abbeville, [Lancaster County, Pa.]

"July 3rd, 1827.

"Gentlemen:

"I am very much flattered and obliged by the invitation of the citizens of Lancaster friendly to the election of Gen. Andrew Jackson to the next presidency, to partake of a dinner to be given on the 4th of July in commemoration of that glorious day on which we were proclaimed a free and independent nation. It gives me

the greatest pleasure to accept it. I participate warmly in the several motives which govern the citizens of Lancaster on this occasion—as well in the particular sentiment which unites them, as in the patriotic object which they propose. Like them, I am decidedly friendly to the election of Gen. Jackson to the next presidency; and like them I deem the celebration of the anniversary of our independence a solemn duty—a duty the discharge of which can become no class of persons better than the friends of the hero of the second war of independence, who was also a participator in the first.

“I am grateful to you, gentlemen, for the very kind and obliging manner in which you have made this communication, and for no part of it more than the liberal feeling with which you recognize me as your fellow citizen.

“I am, gentlemen, with respect and esteem, your obedient servant,

“Langdon Cheves.”

“To John Longenecker, Abraham Carpenter, B. Champneys, C. Hager, S. C. Stambaugh, John R. Montgomery, Robert M. Barr, Fred’k Hambright, Wm. Michael, John Getz, Michael Wimer and Henry Carpenter, Esquires.”

On Wednesday, July 4th, 1827, nearly two hundred citizens of Lancaster, friendly to the election of General Andrew Jackson to the presidential chair, assembled at a spring, on the property of Langdon Cheves, Esq., to celebrate the anniversary of our national independence. The company sat down to an elaborate dinner, prepared by Messrs. Eicholtz and Morry. Samuel Humes, Sr., presided, assisted by William Jenkins and Henry Hibshman, Esquires. Major John Light, Emanuel Reigart, Esq., Captain Jacob Shindle and Jacob Rathfon, Esq., officiated as vice presidents. Mr. Cheves, an invited guest, was escorted to his seat on the right of Mr. Jenkins by two of the committee of arrangement.

At the head of the table, suspended from a venerable hickory tree, was a beautiful flag on which was a likeness of Gen. Jackson, painted for the occasion, and presented by the committee of arrangement. On the flag was the following inscription:

“General Andrew Jackson, the Hero, the Patriot, the Statesman. He lives for his country. Will that country prove ungrateful?”

After the cloth was removed, the Declaration of Independence was read by James Buchanan, Esq., and the following toasts were drunk, accompanied by music:

1. *The Day We Celebrate, and Him “Whom We Delight to Honor.”* The one, sacred for the recollection of its great events; the other, dear for

the remembrance of his eminent services and the promise of his future usefulness and glory.

2. *The Memory of George Washington.* The military chieftan who in patriotism and devotedness to country, stands without a parallel in history.

3. *The Venerable Charles Carroll.* The surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. The friend and advocate of the hero of New Orleans.

4. *Thomas Jefferson.* The Declaration of our liberty which he penned, sounded the tocsin of alarm to tyrants throughout the globe. His name never can be forgotten until we forget that we once were vassals and now are freemen.

5. *General Andrew Jackson.* May the 4th of March, 1829, dawn on the elevation of his virtue and patriotism and on the downfall of intrigue and corruption.

6. *The President of the United States.*

7. *The Governor of Pennsylvania.*

8. *The Administration of General Andrew Jackson.* May it never need diplomatic missionaries to preach its doctrines or justify its acts.

9. *Langdon Cheves.* Our distinguished guest; eminent as a jurist and statesman; whose financial talents and independence of character have saved from destruction and insolvency the principal monied institution of our country; we hail him as a brother amongst us, and are confident that his merits and services will yet be appreciated and rewarded.

Mr. Cheves, after presenting his thanks to the company, gave the following sentiment:

Lancaster County — twice blessed: in its incomparable soil; and in its industrious, moral, patriotic inhabitants.

George Louis Mayer, Esq., representing a party of gentlemen celebrating the day on board the pleasure boat, "Edward Coleman," presented on their behalf the following toast:

Our Friends Celebrating the day at Mr. Cheves' Spring. The ardent supporters of the military chieftan who, while his revilers were enjoying the diplomatic luxuries of European courts, was defending, with success and glory, his invaded country.

This toast having been drunk by the company, the following was then presented and drunk with three cheers:

Our Friends on Board the "Edward Coleman." We cordially reciprocate the patriotic sentiment in their toast; and we view in the pleasures they now enjoy on the bosom of the Conestoga, the earnest of the wealth that it will hereafter waft to our county.

Messrs. Jasper Slaymaker, Reynolds, Champneys and Montgomery, were then appointed a committee to present the foregoing toast to the company on board the "Edward Coleman." The committee was met on the banks of the Conestoga and taken on board a fine boat, called the "Lady Jackson," commanded by Captain Steele. With a fair breeze, the members of the party sailed down the Conestoga to the "Edward Coleman," where they were received and treated with great civility by the gentlemen on board.

The company at the Cheves' spring continued the toasts, as follows:

10. *The American Navy.* The pride and boast of our land; gallant and invincible; confusion to those who sacrificed Porter, one of its distinguished ornaments.

11. *The Army of the United States.* Often tried and always to be trusted; may a nation's gratitude be the rich reward that will ever crown the soldier's toils.

12. *Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures.* Conjoined, the great source of national wealth and national prosperity; separated, they may blast the fairest prospects of our country.

13. *Woman.* A fascination that combines all that is lovely.

"Volunteers" were given by the following gentlemen: Samuel Humes, Sr., William Jenkins, Henry Hibshman, John Light, Jacob Rathfon, John Longenecker, N. Lightner, George Louis Mayer, William Norris, B. Champneys, Henry Carpenter, John Reynolds, James Johnston, Dr. Bier, Adam Metzgar, G. Rodman, George Withers, H. Heffer, Reah Frazer, Samuel C. Stambaugh, Edward Hutchinson, Henry Eicholtz, E. H. Brien, William T. Brown, Mathew McKelly, William Michael, M. Kelly, John Upperman, P. McConomy, Bernard Moss, H. W. Villee, G. J. Ewing, John E. Scott, Stacy Swem, Hugh Dougherty, Mr. Keffer, H. M. Leonard, W. B. Fahnestock, Peter McGrath, Michael Wimer, David N. Jones, John Maglaughlin, Patrick O'Donnell, Barney Lappen, G. B. Kerfoot, Clarkson Freeman, Jr., John Rupley, Ira Clark, William Russell, B. Grimler, Jacob Weaver, J. Briggs, Dr. Miller and J. Kelly, Jr.

General [George B.] Porter, in a letter to James Buchanan, Esq., which was received from Philadelphia by mail on Wednesday evening, requested a sentiment to be given in his name. Unfortunately, the letter was received too late for Mr. Buchanan to comply with his wishes.

¹ Lancaster Journal, Friday, July 6th, 1827.

Lancaster Volunteer Companies Assist in Reception to Lafayette in Philadelphia

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON Saturday, September 18th. 1824, the Lancaster Phalanx, commanded by Captain Frederick Hambright, and the City Guards, commanded by Captain John Reynolds, arrived in Philadelphia for the purpose of assisting in the reception to the Marquis De Lafayette, the nation's guest.