

Widow and Orphan Assurance Society of the City and County of Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

A NUMBER of citizens of Lancaster met at the house of William Cooper on Wednesday evening, February 6th, 1822. Dr. Samuel Fahnestock was appointed chairman, and Nathaniel Lightner secretary. The object of the meeting having been stated to be the formation of a society for the protection and support of distressed widows, the principles upon which the association was to be established were discussed and agreed upon. Hugh Maxwell, Ebenezer Wright, George L. Mayer, Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg and William C. Frazer, were appointed a committee to draft a constitution for the government of the association.

On Tuesday evening, February 12th, the second meeting of the society was held at William Cooper's tavern. Dr. Samuel Fahnestock presided, and Nathaniel Lightner was the secretary. The committee appointed for the purpose, reported a constitution, which was read and unanimously adopted. A committee, consisting of the Rev. Joseph Clarkson, George Musser, George L. Mayer, Alexander Miller, Benjamin Ober, John F. Voight, Robert Eliot, Jacob Sherer and John Mathiot, was appointed to receive subscribers to the constitution.

A third meeting was held at William Cooper's on Tuesday, February 19th. George Musser was called to the chair, and Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg appointed secretary. The following were elected officers to serve for one year:

President, Rev. Christian Endress; vice-president, Rev. Joseph Clarkson; treasurer, George Louis Mayer; secretary, William White; directors, Ebenezer Wright, Esq., Nathaniel Lightner, Robert Evans, Benjamin Ober, George Musser, Dr. Samuel Fahnestock and Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg.

The Lancaster Journal, of Friday, March 22nd, 1822, contained an announcement that a bill to incorporate the Widow and Orphan Assurance Society of the City and County of Lancaster, had passed the Senate of Pennsylvania.

Three years later, a notice appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, April 22nd, 1825, which was as follows:

"A special election for a director of the Widow and Orphan Assurance Society of the city and county of Lancaster will be held at the house of William Cooper, on Tuesday evening, May 17th, in the room of Robert Elliott, resigned.

"F. D. Hubley,
"Secretary."