

84. WISE, ANDREW

LANCASTER EXAMINER AND HERALD,

Wednesday, March 29th, 1848.

"Died, in West Earl township, on the 16th instant, Andrew Wise, a soldier of the Revolution, aged 88 years, 4 months and 8 days."

85. WISLAR, MICHAEL

LANCASTER JOURNAL,

Friday, October 15th, 1824.

"Died, on the 15th ultimo, [September], at his residence in Columbia, Pa., in the 69th year of his age, Mr. Michael Wislar. He was one of the worthies who early engaged in the contest for freedom, in the Revolutionary War. In his 19th year, he entered the standing army of his country, and continued therein until the proclamation of peace. Many were the hard fought battles in which he was engaged. At Trenton, Flat Bush, White Plains, Brandywine, Germantown, etc., his services were conspicuous. At the memorable battle of Long Island, he belonged to Col. Miles' rifle regiment, attached to Lord Sterling's brigade, where they were surrounded by the Hessians, and desperately fought their way through their ranks, at a place called the Yellow Mill. He was a man remarkable for industry and sobriety, and enjoyed good health until about three months before his death, when he began to fail, and continued so until his spirit took its flight to 'that bourne from whence no traveler returns'."

86. WRIGHT, JOSEPH

LANCASTER JOURNAL,

Friday, August 17th, 1832.

"Died, in Manor township, on the 23rd of July, in the 82nd year of his age, Mr. Joseph Wright. The deceased was a respectable citizen and served as a captain in the War of the Revolution."

Major John Light—a Hero of the Revolutionary War

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

In the beautiful old churchyard adjoining Saint James's Protestant Episcopal church, Lancaster, Pa., lie the mortal remains of Major John Light, a distinguished soldier of the Revolutionary War, who died on July 2nd, 1834, at the advanced age of 79 years, 6 months and 9 days. The Examiner and Herald of Thursday, July 10th, 1834, contained the following brief obituary:

"ANOTHER VETERAN OF THE REVOLUTION DEPARTED!

"Died, in this city [Lancaster], on Wednesday morning, the 2nd instant, Major John Light, a veteran of the Revolutionary army, in the 80th year of his age.

"He was buried on Thursday afternoon, with the honors of war, attended by the City Battalion, under the command of Major Hambright, and by a very large concourse of citizens.

"Major Light was, for many years, an active magistrate and public-spirited citizen of Lancaster, in which he resided since the Revolution."

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Wednesday, October 1st, 1800, contained a letter, over the signature of "Old Soldier," addressed to the editors and publishers (Messrs. William and Robert Dickson), which describes the heroic services rendered by Major Light in the great struggle for American Independence. It is as follows:

"In the Lancaster Journal of Saturday, September 20th, I find a piece signed 'Republicanus', wherein he advises the governor to dismiss from office among others, my old messmate, John Light, as a person 'scarcely known in the county of Lancaster, before his late appointment'. I take this method to inform 'Republicanus', that John Light was known among the first Minute men in New Jersey, early in the year 1775. John Light was known, in the winter of said year, among those who made an expedition against the Tories on Long Island. John Light was known among those who went, early in the spring of 1776, to Canada. John Light was known among those who fought at the battle of the Three Rivers. John Light was known among those who suffered every privation at the river Sorel, and on the retreat from Canada to Ticonderoga. John Light was known among those who fought the battle on Lake Champlain. John Light was known among those who defended Ticonderoga, etc., until the British army retired to winter quarters. John Light was known among those who had to leave Ticonderoga, barefoot and almost naked, in a very inclement season of the year. John Light was one of those who had not been at home, after his return from Canada, above three days, before he joined General Washington, in his retreat through New Jersey. John Light was known among those who fought at Princeton. John Light was known as a guide to the brave Captain Washington, and to almost every officer who commanded scouting parties, detached from General Putnam's command, whilst the British possessed Brunswick; and, among the first of those who entered that place, when the enemy retreated from it. John Light was known among those who fought at Somerset Courthouse, and at several other places about that time. John Light was among those who fought in the battle of Germantown. John Light was known among those who fought at Monmouth Courthouse. John Light was known among those Light Dragoons, who guarded Burgoyne's prisoners from New Jersey to the Potomac, and afterwards took up their winter quarters in the barracks at Lancaster, in the year 1778. John Light was known among those Light Dragoons who kept the lines, during the campaigns of 1778, 1779 and 1780. John Light was present at the taking of Cornwallis. And, in short, John Light, was known in the American army, from the beginning of the Revolution to the end of the war.

"Now, I challenge 'Republicanus' to come forward, like a man, and show the public where he has been of service to his country, during the above period.

"But it is also known that John Light hath kept a public house in the borough of Lancaster, above sixteen years; and hath been nearly as long an officer in the militia of this place.

"Yet, notwithstanding the above incontrovertible facts, it is more than probable that John Light, as well as a number more of my old messmates, would never have been known in the county of Lancaster, nor have received a 'lucrative appointment', had not some old patriot of 1776, got to be commander-in-chief of Pennsylvania.

"Why his excellency, the governor, ought to dismiss John Light from office, may be known to an Anglo-Federalist, but not to an honest Republican.

"OLD SOLDIER."