

The editor of the Lancaster Intelligencer and Journal stated that William Michael and Adam Reigart, and perhaps one or two more, were all that remained in 1841 of that goodly company, and were the only witnesses left.

The petition, if presented to the Legislature, was not acted on favorably at that time as Lancaster was not incorporated as a city until March 20th, 1818.

Mennonites of Donegal and Manor Townships Address Letter to Governor McKean

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON March 11th, 1800, a number of Mennonites who resided in Donegal and Manor townships, Lancaster county, Pa., addressed a communication to Thomas McKean, governor of Pennsylvania, which was as follows:

"It is not our custom, on any occasion, to write letters of civility; nor do we wish that this present address should be considered as such. As a plain people, we like to speak the language of our hearts with a simplicity conformable thereto.

"You have been elected to the supreme magistracy of this state, by the freemen of Pennsylvania. In this situation you can claim our respect, with that of our fellow citizens of other denominations. This is due to you on account of your office; yet we take the liberty to declare that we think yourself also to be particularly entitled thereto on account of the integrity of your private character and of your many services rendered to our country; and we are, therefore, fully convinced that those have given you a just claim to the entire confidence of your fellow-citizens. Respecting, therefore, your former conduct, we trust you will, in fulfilling the duties of the high office with which you have been honored, show yourself a firm defender of their political and religious rights. Our excellent constitution has granted unto us, and to others of similar religious sentiments, some particular privileges which are accommodated to the well-known principles of our several societies. As to our conscientious scruples against bearing arms, we are exempted from this duty when we make compensation for it; and it is with great satisfaction that we acknowledge in the present governor of Pennsylvania a principal supporter of this benevolent provision in our constitution. For our principles command us to manifest benevolence towards everybody. We profess ourselves to be friends of peace; and hope not to be backward in our duties as citizens of a free state.

"Trusting in your justice, wisdom and experience, we will, with all our hearts and abilities, support your administration; earnestly hoping that your exertions to promote the public welfare will perfectly succeed; and we pray you to accept our sincere wishes for a long enjoyment of your life, your health and every temporal blessing."¹

On June 10th, 1800, Thomas McKean, sent the following reply:

"A pressure of public business at the close of the last session of the Legislature, and a visit since paid to my family in Philadelphia, have deprived

¹ The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, Wednesday, July 30th, 1800.

me of an earlier opportunity of acknowledging the favor of your address. But a testimony of kindness so flattering to me, and a display of philanthropy so honorable to yourselves, will be forever remembered with gratitude and respect.

"The great objects of a free government must be to establish civil and religious liberty; to preserve public order; and to cultivate the blessings of peace. As an officer of the government, therefore, feeling the obligation to pursue those objects with incessant vigilance, it is peculiarly pleasing to me to receive assurances of cooperation from the members of a society whose moral conduct (not less than their theoretical [theological?] opinions) is well adapted to promote 'Peace on earth, and good will toward men'.

"Accept, my friends, a cordial wish for your happiness individually, and for the general prosperity of the society to which you belong.

"Thomas McKean."

Resolution on the Death of Charles Carroll, Signer of the Declaration of Independence

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

CHARLES CARROLL, of Carrollton, Md., the last survivor of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence, died in Baltimore, November 14th, 1832, in the ninety-sixth year of his age. For many years Mr. Carroll was regarded by the people of this country with the greatest veneration. When Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died July 4th, 1826, he became the sole representative of that noble band of patriots who stood sponsor at the baptism in blood of our infant Republic. Incidentally, Mr. Carroll was the only Roman Catholic who affixed his signature to the immortal document.

A meeting of the officers of the Fourth Division of the Pennsylvania militia, convened at the hotel of Capt. D. Miller, in Lancaster, on December 24th, 1832, for the purpose of taking measures to express their sense of loss at the decease of Mr. Carroll and to set forth their high appreciation of his public character and private virtues.¹ Col. John McLaughlin was called to the chair, and Col. A. B. Kauffman was appointed secretary. General A. Diller offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That the officers now convened, in connection with the whole American people, cannot but express their great regret at the loss which the nation has sustained in the death of Charles Carroll, the last of that glorious band who gave the first impulse to our efforts for independence; and as an evidence of their high respect for his great services and elevated character, they will wear crape on the hilt of their swords for sixty days."

¹ Lancaster Journal, Friday, January 11th, 1833.