

Celebration in Lancaster in Honor of Jefferson's Inauguration

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

WEDNESDAY, March 4th, 1801, the day on which Thomas Jefferson was inaugurated third president of the United States, was celebrated in Lancaster with festive joy. The early beams of the day were announced by the sound of a gun, and the beat of the reveille. At eleven o'clock, A. M., the Volunteer Company of Infantry paraded at the statehouse, in full uniform, and subsequently marched through the principal streets of the borough. At noon, sixteen rounds of cannon and as many volleys from the infantry, were discharged, alternately, at regular intervals. The company was then dismissed and, with a number of citizens, repaired to William Michael's tavern, about a mile from the borough, and partook of a sumptuous dinner especially prepared for the occasion. Sixteen toasts were drunk, interspersed with music; and five "volunteers" were given.¹

Another celebration was held in Lancaster on the same day. A number of citizens, and such of the civil officers of the state as happened to be in town, assembled at the "Bull's Head" tavern, kept by Leonard Eichholtz, on East King street, to celebrate the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson as President of the United States, and the triumph of Republicanism in the late election. At three o'clock in the afternoon the company sat down to a bountiful dinner, after which sixteen toasts were drunk, with "soul-inspiring joy."²

A number of "volunteer" toasts were offered some of which were disgraceful to decency and propriety, even at that day. They indicate that party feelings ran high, and that partisan animosity was vulgar and rude. A few examples will suffice:

1. "John Adams: May he return in safety to Braintree, that Mrs. Adams may wash his muddy brains clear!"
2. "The supporters of the late administration: May they be forgiven—but never trusted!"
3. "May every Democrat who holds a hammer not fail to hit an aristocrat nail on the head!"

The Lancaster Journal of Saturday, March 14th, 1801, stated: "The last toast is considered a paragon of language and humor. It being the twenty-sixth, it is supposed the company may have

¹ The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, Wednesday, March 18th, 1801.

² The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, Wednesday, March 11th, 1801.

been in a very humorous way. Notwithstanding this, they 'spun it out' for five glasses more, when, we suppose, those who were able 'reeled it home'."

Among a number of songs in the English and German languages, adapted to the festive hour, two new ones, composed for the occasion, were sung with much spirit and received with great applause. They were published in *The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Wednesday, March 11th, 1801.

A similar celebration was held in the county. The Pequea Republican Volunteer Rifle company, commanded by Captain William Slaymaker, met at Thomas Algeo's tavern, on the turnpike road, nine miles from the borough of Lancaster, to celebrate the triumph of Republicanism. They were joined by a number of their fellow-citizens. After performing some military evolutions, and firing sixteen rounds in honor of the day, the company sat down to an excellent dinner. Mr. Isaac Ferree was chosen president, and Mr. Benjamin Vernor, vice-president. When the company was seated at the table the Declaration of Independence was read; and, after dinner, sixteen toasts were drunk. "Volunteers" were offered by Isaac Ferree, Benjamin Vernor, Major Lefever, Captain Slaymaker, Lieutenant Smith, Lieutenant J. Ferree and Ensign Slaymaker.

Meetings in Lancaster County to Oppose Slavery in District of Columbia

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

A MEETING was held at the house of Samuel Kinzer on Friday evening, October 22nd, 1830, for the purpose of considering measures for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. John Connelly was called to the chair, and Dr. William Happersett was appointed secretary.¹

A preamble and resolutions were adopted unanimously, as follows:

"We believe in the declaration made by the patriots of 1776, 'that all men are born free and equal; are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness'; and these being with us not abstract beliefs but the effect, we trust, of rational and virtuous conviction, we cannot but feel deep regret that,—in the country of our birth, and under the government of our choice, having a reputed republican and Christian population,—more than half a century should have been permitted to elapse with so little evidence of sincerity on the part of those who claim it as the charter of their rights, who profess attachment to its doctrines, and acknowledge fealty to its implied requisitions.

¹ Lancaster Journal, Friday, October 29th, 1830.