

Saint Patrick's Day Celebrated in Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON Tuesday evening, March 17th, 1801, a number of citizens of the borough of Lancaster, chiefly Sons of Saint Patrick, met at the "Bull's Head" tavern, kept by Leonard Eichholtz, to celebrate the anniversary of the tutelary saint of Ireland. "The evening was spent in a truly social and friendly manner. Joy sat smiling on each countenance, while mirth, conviviality and open-hearted friendship, appeared to reign in every mind."¹

An original poem, having some merit, written by one of the company and inscribed to Friendship, was recited by the author with good taste and judgment, and was received with approval. "The song, the tale and the joke were intermingled with the circulation of the glass; and the enlivening juice of the grape gave a warmth to the social and benevolent feelings that rendered it truly 'the feast of reason and the flow of soul!'"²

Mr. Samuel Humes, an Hibernian by birth, was chosen president, and Jacob Carpenter, Esq., of German descent, vice-president. After supper, sixteen toasts were drunk, two of which were as follows:

1. "May the honest German and the true Hibernian consider one another as brethren of the same family, and citizens of the same globe!"

2. "The immortal memory of Saint Patrick."

"Volunteers" were given to the Sons of Saint Patrick, Saint Andrew, Saint George, Saint Tammany, Saint Dennis and good citizens of all nations.

Another celebration of the anniversary of the Irish saint was held at the White Swan tavern, conducted by Matthias Slough, when a "number of sons and descendants of Saint Patrick"³ partook of an excellent dinner. The meeting was convivial and harmonious, and a number of toasts were drunk, among which were the following:

1. "Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States. May he strictly conform to the sentiments of his inauguration speech, and thereby receive the steady support and approbation of every Federal Republican!"

¹ Lancaster Journal, Saturday, March 21st, 1801.

² Ibid.

³ This statement appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Saturday, March 21st, 1801, in its account of the celebration. In view of the fact that Saint Patrick was not married it would be interesting to know how he could have "sons and descendants."

2. "Ireland. May the honest sons of Erin enjoy political freedom and domestic happiness!"

3. "The deluded Irishmen in America. May they soon discover the difference between their 'real' and their 'pretended' friends!"

A contributor to *The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser* of Wednesday, March 25th, 1801, over the signature of "An Irishman," stated that he conceived the last toast to be imperfect; and suggested that it be republished, with this amendment:

"And may they never forget an Otis, a Harper and a Kittera, and all other Framers and Supporters of Alien and Sedition Laws!"

On Thursday, March 17th, 1803, the Irish festival of Saint Patrick was celebrated in Lancaster at the tavern conducted by John Whiteside. The company was composed of Irish and American gentlemen. Doctor Michael Leib and Mr. Mathew Carey of Philadelphia, members of the legislature [Lancaster borough at that time was the capital of Pennsylvania] were among those present.

The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Tuesday, March 22nd, 1803, stated:

"On this occasion the utmost harmony, order and good nature prevailed. The mutual liberality, sociability and exchange of sentiment with which the evening was passed, would lead a spectator to believe that they were all people of the same nation. To behold a scene of such festivity, by people of different countries, upon such an occasion, would be a luxurious sight to the philosopher and philanthropist. No other could enjoy it with any degree of satisfaction. The private cares of the moment allayed by social feelings, and all eager to accommodate and amuse each other, portrayed an assemblage of brethren, as their departure did a separation of friends."

William Findley, Esq., member of congress from Pennsylvania, was chosen president, and William McArthur, Esq., a member of the state senate, vice-president. Seventeen toasts, accompanied by appropriate songs, were drunk. "Volunteers" were given as follows:

By the president: "The United States of America. May they continue to afford a happy asylum for competent industry!"

By the vice-president: "May a foreigner never want fertility of intellect nor volubility of pronunciation, to vindicate the just desert of the country which gave him birth; nor fortitude to defend his own rights and the rights of the country he has adopted."

By Dr. Michael Leib: "The Sons of Saint Patrick. May this their adopted country prove an asylum to them which shall compensate in happiness for the oppression and sufferings of the country of their birth!"

After Dr. Leib had retired:

By Patrick Farrelly: "Dr. Michael Leib, our representative in congress. His ideas of mankind are not limited to geographical boundaries."

After the president had retired:

By Robert McElwee: "William Findley, our representative in congress. He knows his duty, and he will perform it."

Collections in Aid of the Poor in 1848-9

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE Lancaster Journal of Friday, January 15th, 1830, contained a statement of donations received by Mayor Michael Carpenter from October 7th, 1847, to January 13th, 1849, for distribution among the poor of the city of Lancaster.

The statement is as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Received from Hon. James Buchanan, in two payments of \$240.00 each	\$ 480.00
Received from Collecting Committee North-west Ward	109.91½
“ “ “ “ South-west Ward	154.53
“ “ “ “ South-east Ward	69.37½
“ “ “ “ North-east Ward	117.27½
“ “ Operatives of Conestoga Steam mills	60.00
“ “ Private Contributions	25.00
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	\$1,016.09½

EXPENDITURES.

Cash paid to Treasurer of Dorcas Society	\$ 54.75
“ “ “ Distributing Committees	426.56
“ “ “ for fuel, and for distribution thereof	508.28
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	\$ 989.59
Unexpended balance	26.50½
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	\$1,016.09½