

Obsequies in Honor of Andrew Jackson Held in Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

Andrew Jackson, ex-President of the United States and hero of the battle of New Orleans, died on Sunday, June 8th, 1845.

A meeting of citizens of Lancaster was held on Tuesday, June 17th, at the call of Michael Carpenter, mayor, for the purpose of giving expression to their feelings on the death of the venerated soldier and statesman. The following were appointed officers of the meeting: President, Mayor Michael Carpenter; vice-presidents, Hon. E. Sheaffer, Dr. Samuel Humes, William Michael, Esq.; secretaries, Francis Keenan and D. B. Vondersmith. The object of the meeting having been stated by Col. Reah Frazer in a brief and eloquent address, a committee, consisting of Benjamin Champneys, Ellis Lewis, C. B. Penrose, Reah Frazer, E. C. Reigart, James Cameron, Robert Moderwell, William Frick and Jacob Albright, presented the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

"The citizens of Lancaster have heard, with feelings of the deepest regret, of the irreparable loss which the nation has sustained by the death of the venerable patriot, the distinguished soldier and the able statesman, Andrew Jackson, whose life has been a rich bounty of public service to his country, and the memory of whose virtues will be as enduring as the mighty stream which washes the battle-ground of his victories; therefore,

"Resolved, That we recommend to our fellow-citizens to set apart a day, when all business shall be suspended, and to make suitable arrangements that will evince our profound sensibility and grief at the decease of the gallant hero and patriot, whose stern integrity, decision of character, and devotion to duty in times of peril, will form some of the brightest pages in the history of our country.

"Resolved, That a committee of twenty-five citizens be appointed, who shall be authorized to carry the foregoing resolutions into effect."

Mr. Champneys made a few appropriate remarks. He was followed by Thaddeus Stevens and C. B. Penrose.

A committee of arrangement was appointed as follows: Hon. Ellis Lewis, Hon. Alexander Laws Hayes, Reah Frazer, Thaddeus Stevens, Dr. John Miller, Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg, C. Hager, Gen. Frederick Hambright, Col. John Forsyth Carter, Jacob Weaver, Charles Gillespie, C. Kieffer, Col. James Cameron, Col. George Mayer, John P. Myers, Col. D. W. Patterson, Jacob Snyder, David Longenecker, Michael Carpenter, Hon. J. Grosh, Hon. E. Sheaffer, Dr. Samuel Humes, William Michael, Francis Keenan and D. B. Vondersmith.¹

Thursday, June 26th, was observed as a day of public mourning, at which time all business was suspended. Citizens were requested to wear crape on the left arm for ninety days as a public testimonial of admiration for the dead statesman. The bells of the churches were muffled and tolled hourly during the day, and a minute gun was fired from sunrise to sunset.

A procession in memory of the illustrious soldier moved through the principal streets of the city in the following order: chief marshal, Dr. Samuel Humes; aides, Col. John F. Carter, Col. D. W. Patterson; assistant marshals, Carpenter McCleery, John Michael, Newton Lightner, Dr. George B. Kerfoot, Dr. Henry A. Muhlenberg, Jacob Frey, Christopher Brenner, A. H. Smith, Mark Connel, Jr., John Fondersmith, Peter Reed and John L. Thompson; Major General Hambright and staff, with the volunteers and militia of the city and county; soldiers of the Revolution and the War of 1812; the reverend clergy; Judge Ellis Lewis, orator of the day, accompanied by Christopher Hager, Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg and Mr. D. Longenecker; judges of the court; members of the bar; medical faculty; officers of the court and of the county; mayor and recorder of the city; aldermen of the city; justices of the county; select council; common council; directors of the common schools; trustees and professors of Franklin College; citizens of the county; citizens of the city; Mechanics' Society and apprentices; beneficial and benevolent societies according to seniority; fire and hose companies and teachers and pupils of the common schools.²

An oration on the life, character and public services of General Jackson was delivered by Judge Ellis Lewis to one of the largest congregations that had ever assembled in Trinity Lutheran church.³

Organizations and societies in Lancaster passed resolutions on the death of the distinguished statesman as follows: Common Council, Select Council, Board of School Directors, Union Beneficial Association, Lancaster Beneficial Association, Friendship Hose Company, Lancaster Fencibles, Medical Faculty, Lodge No. 43 F. and A. M. and the Jackson Riflemen. These resolutions were published in the local papers.

The Jackson Riflemen, a military company named in honor of the distinguished statesman, held a meeting on Monday, June 23rd. Captain Frederick Hambright was called to the chair, and James McMahan was appointed secretary. The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"The members of the Jackson Rifle Corps of the city of Lancaster, Pa., have heard with the deepest regret and sorrow of the death of Major General Andrew Jackson, ex-President of the United States and the renowned and illustrious hero of New Orleans; and deeming it proper to express their sympathy with their fellow citizens of the American Union in this national calamity in the loss of this great man, to his country and to mankind, have resolved

to render every suitable and appropriate honor to his memory, character and services. Therefore,

“Resolved, That this company, organized on the 4th day of March, 1828, the day of the inauguration of this beloved citizen as President of the United States, and bearing proudly, and as we hope they shall ever do, his thrice honored name, deeply condole with all their countrymen, and every friend of man, in the irreparable loss sustained in the death of him, who, in the language of the great Jefferson, ‘had more of the Roman in him than any man living, and had filled the measure of his country’s glory.’

“Resolved, That in every act of his long and eventful life,—from the period of early boyhood, when in the stormy days of 1776 battling for the liberties of his country, he, a prisoner of war, refused to perform a menial service for a British officer, down through the Bar, the Senate Hall, the Bench, the Battle Field, the Cabinet, to his last hour on the bed of death,—was always exhibited that exalted love of country, that devoted attachment to American liberty, that contempt of the wrong and love of the right, that hatred of tyranny and oppression, that fearless and manly determination to uphold justice and never to yield to corruption, which has rendered his name and life illustrious, renowned, honored and revered, as the greatest, best and noblest patriot of the age.

“Resolved, That we will ever cherish his memory, emulate his bright example, and hold in grateful remembrance his many and exalted services to his God, his country and to mankind; and will transmit to the future our love and attachment to the citizen soldier, the western farmer, who, with his ploughshare turned to a sword, met, vanquished and conquered, with a raw undisciplined army, on the far-famed plains of Orleans, the boasted invincibles of Wellington and the mighty conquerors of Napoleon and Europe.

“Resolved, That the officers and members of this corps will wear the usual badge of mourning for the period of six months, and that the armory be hung in mourning for the same period.”

¹ Examiner and Herald, Wednesday, June 25th, 1845.

² Lancaster Democrat, Wednesday, June 25th, 1845.

³ The oration of Judge Ellis Lewis was published in the Lancaster Democrat of Wednesday, July 2nd, 1845, and in the Examiner and Herald of the same date.

Obsequies Held in Lancaster In Honor of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE Lancaster Journal of Friday, July 14th, 1826, contained the information that Thomas Jefferson, author of the immortal Declaration of Independence, and John Adams, its ablest advocate, had died on Tuesday, July 4th,—the fiftieth anniversary of what is erroneously called our national birthday. (The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 2nd, 1776, and announced to the world on July 4th. July 2nd is, therefore, rightly our national natal day).

Both Jefferson and Adams had been, subsequent to the adop-