

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-

tion of the Declaration, elevated to the highest office in the land—the Presidency of the United States.

The Lancaster Journal, quoted above, in referring to the passing of these distinguished statesmen, stated editorially:

“From the advanced age of the venerable patriots, it was not to be expected that they could long remain amongst us, but there is an extraordinary singularity in the circumstance that they should both die on the fiftieth anniversary of the day on which they had taken a most decided and active part in declaring their country free, sovereign and independent. It was a consummation which, no doubt, they both devoutly wished. They had seen the prosperity and glory of their country on the fiftieth anniversary of her independence, and their prayer was, ‘now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.’

“Mr. Adams was in his 91st year; Mr. Jefferson, in his 83rd. Mr. [Charles] Carroll, of Baltimore, is now the only survivor of those who signed the Declaration of Independence.”

A meeting of citizens of Lancaster was held at the court house on Tuesday evening, July 11th. Nathaniel Lightner, mayor of the city, was called to the chair, and Benjamin Champneys was appointed secretary. The purpose of the meeting was stated by Jasper Slaymaker to be “to take into consideration the propriety of adopting measures to evince our deep sense of the services of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the high estimation which we entertain for their memory.”

A committee appointed by the chair, consisting of Jasper Slaymaker, George B. Porter, George L. Mayer, Dr. John L. Atlee and John Montgomery, reported the following resolutions, which, after an address to the meeting by John Montgomery, were read and unanimously adopted:

“The citizens of Lancaster, sensible of the obligations which, as Americans, they owe to the memory of two illustrious individuals of whom, on the 4th instant, the nation was deprived, and deeply condoling with their fellow-citizens of the United States upon this national loss,—

“Resolved, That they venerate the memory of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, and cherish the liveliest feelings of regret for their death.

“Resolved, That as a public testimonial of their feelings on this melancholy occasion, they will wear crape on their left arm for the space of ninety days.

“Resolved, That they will set apart *Thursday next* as a day of public mourning, and that on that day all business be suspended.

“Resolved, That the bells of the different churches be muffled and tolled hourly during that day.

“Resolved, That George Louis Mayer, John Mathiot, Henry Keffer, C. Hager, John Rupley, John Wind and William Hambright, be a committee for the purpose of carrying into effect the above resolutions.”

On motion of W. C. Frazer, it was

"Resolved, That a committee of arrangement already appointed, be requested to procure the services of one of the clergy to preach a sermon commemorative of the melancholy events which have occurred, and to give public notice of the time and place."

On motion of George B. Porter, it was

"Resolved, That the City Battalion of Volunteers be requested to fire minute guns on Thursday next, between the hours of twelve and one o'clock."

Mr. Porter having addressed the meeting, offered the following preamble and resolution, which were read and unanimously adopted:

"The decease of the Sage of Monticello, the venerable [Thomas] Jefferson, the immortal author of the charter of our freedom, has produced a sensation in the mind of every American correspondent to the melancholy nature of the event. His fame is as eternal as the mighty nation that has been made free by his efforts united with those of the patriots of the Revolution; and eulogium cannot add to a name already engraved on the heart of every freeman. For the purpose, therefore, of evidencing our sense of his invaluable services,

"Resolved, that a committee be appointed to superintend a subscription for the relief of his family."

George B. Porter, George Bryan, Henry Carpenter, Jonas Dewart, John Bachman, Jacob Long, Philip Heitshu, Leonard Eichholtz and F. D. Hubley, were appointed a committee for that purpose.¹

Thursday, July 13th, 1826, was observed in Lancaster as a day of public mourning and as an expression of sorrow for the loss of the gifted author of the Declaration of Independence, and the venerable John Adams. A few minutes before ten o'clock, the City Battalion paraded at the court house, making its usual fine military appearance. Afterwards, it proceeded to Trinity Lutheran church, where the ceremonies of the morning were opened by an impressive and eloquent prayer by the Rev. Joseph Clarkson, rector of Saint James's Protestant Episcopal church; after which, an appropriate eulogium on the services of the two deceased patriots and statesmen was delivered by William Clark Frazer, Esq. The Rev. William Ashmead, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, then addressed the Throne of Grace in a prayer which, for eloquence and appropriateness to the occasion, was such as ever after distinguished him. The benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Dr. Christian L. F. Endress, pastor of Trinity Lutheran church.²

The militia then proceeded to the eastern part of the city, where minute guns were fired from 12 to 1 o'clock, after which they returned to the court house and were dismissed. The bells of the respective churches were muffled and tolled during the day. The stores were closed and business suspended. The entire pro-

ceedings admirably set forth the great respect and high esteem which Americans ever will cherish for the memory of the heroic patriots of the Revolution, who by their unselfish and devoted efforts in the cause of freedom rescued a mighty nation from the thralldom of slavery, and made it forevermore

“The land of the free,
The home of the brave.”

¹ Subsequent issues of local papers do not state whether any funds were collected.

² Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, July 18th, 1826.

Obsequies Held in Lancaster in Honor of Lafayette

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE Union of Tuesday, June 24th, 1834, contained the announcement that General Lafayette died in Paris, France, on the morning of May 20th, 1834, [more than a month after the General's death]. He was in the 77th year of his age, having been born on September 1st, 1757.

At a meeting of select and common councils of the city of Lancaster, held on Tuesday, June 24th, to take action on the death of this, one of the ablest defenders of American liberty, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

“Resolved, That this community has received with deep and solemn regret the intelligence that Gen. Lafayette is no more.

“Resolved, That we sympathize with our fellow-citizens throughout the Union for the loss of him whom we have loved; whose life was a continued scene of philanthropic exertion; and whose efforts and sacrifices in establishing our independence endeared him to every heart that loved its country. The splendor of his star shone bright and undimmed during the darkest hour that lowered over his native land; and the confidence of his countrymen and the world in his patriotism and integrity, remained firm and undiminished to the last.

“Resolved, That as a last sad tribute of respect to the memory of the departed Lafayette, these halls be hung with black for the space of six months.

“That the members of these councils wear crape upon their left arm for the space of 30 days; and that it be recommended to our fellow-citizens to do the same.