

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.”

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<sup>1</sup> Subsequent issues of local papers do not state whether any funds were collected.

<sup>2</sup> Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, July 18th, 1826.

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## Obsequies Held in Lancaster in Honor of Lafayette

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**T**HE 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.

“That the bells of this city on to-morrow be muffled and tolled all day; and that, in the meanwhile, a minute gun be fired.

“Resolved, That a committee be appointed to wait upon our fellow-citizen, George Washington Barton, Esq., and request him to pronounce an eulogium at such time as may suit his convenience.

“Resolved, That a certified copy of these proceedings, together with a letter of condolence, be sent by the mayor of our city to the relatives of Gen. Lafayette.”<sup>1</sup>

The committee dispatched the following note to Mr. Barton:

“Lancaster, Pa.,  
“June 25th, 1834.

“Sir:

“The undersigned take pleasure in announcing to you that they have been appointed as a committee on the part of the councils of the city, to wait upon you and request that you pronounce an eulogium upon the life and character of Gen. Lafayette, at such time as may suit your convenience. They should be happy to have you comply with this request.

“Yours respectfully,  
“William B. Fordney,  
“Thomas Jeffries.”

Mr. Barton sent the following reply:

“Lancaster, Pa.  
“June 25th, 1834.

“Gentlemen:

“In reply to your note of this morning, which I have just received, I hasten to state that I accept with much pleasure, though not unmingled with misgiving, the invitation with which, through you, as their committee, the councils of the city have honored me, ‘to pronounce an eulogium upon the life and character’ of the nation’s benefactor—the great and good Lafayette. As the selection of time has been very kindly referred to my own convenience, I take occasion to say that I had made arrangements to leave home on to-morrow, intending an absence of some weeks, but will cheerfully postpone my departure until after I have endeavored to discharge the duty, the performance of which has been assigned to me; and if Tuesday, the first of July, should prove entirely acceptable to the councils, I beg they would appoint any hour of that day to which they may be inclined to give preference.

“I am, gentlemen,

“Yours very respectfully,  
“G. Washington Barton.”

In accordance with the request of the mayor and councils of Lancaster, an eulogium on the life and character of General Lafayette, one of the champions of American liberty, and the first among the benefactors of his day, was delivered by George Washington Barton, Esq., to a congregation of ladies and gentlemen that filled Trinity Lutheran church, on Tuesday evening, July 1st, 1834. The Washington Grays, a handsome and well-disciplined company from Philadelphia, on a visit to Lancaster, marched, in full uniform, into the church, with the excellent military band that accompanied the soldiers, playing "Hail Columbia," followed by "The Marseillaise," the national air of France. After a prayer by the Rev. Dr. John C. Baker, pastor of Trinity Lutheran church, Mr. Barton pronounced his eulogium. He was followed by the Rev. J. T. Marshall Davie, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, who delivered a prayer.<sup>2</sup>

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, July 4th, 1834, made the following comment:

"The eulogium, though the time allowed for preparation was by far too short, did honor to the young orator, who drew a lively and true picture of those great sacrifices and struggles in the cause of mankind unexampled for their triumphs, heroic perseverance, suffering and duration."

The address was printed in full in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, August 1st, 1834.

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<sup>1</sup> Lancaster Journal, Friday, June 27th, 1834.

<sup>2</sup> Examiner and Herald, Thursday, July 3rd, 1834.

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## Meeting Held in Lancaster to Nominate Buchanan for Vice-President of the United States

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, March 11th, 1831, contained the following announcement:

"The undersigned citizens of Lancaster county view, with great pleasure, the feeling evinced in different parts of the state in behalf of our fellow-citizen, James Buchanan, in introducing him to public attention as a suitable candidate for Vice-President of the United States; and believe that a time has arrived when it would be culpable to withhold the expression of the sentiments of Lancaster county on this important subject. They, therefore, give this public notice that a general county meeting will be held at the court house in the city of Lancaster on Wednesday, the 16th day