

A Revolutionary Record.

While there were a good many Non-Associators in Lancaster county during the Revolutionary War, the population was, nevertheless, generally loyal to the cause of the Colonies. There was, however, considerable opposition manifested in a few districts to the enlistment and departure of soldiers. In April, 1777, Congress passed a militia law, to be better enabled to repel the threatened invasion of the State by General Howe. Lancaster county was required to furnish nine battalions. In eight of the thirty-three townships into which the county was divided, there was open rebellion, and for a time it was found impossible to enforce the law. Donegal and the neighboring districts seem to have been the principal theatre of the discord. The Mennonites, being non-combatants, were principally concerned. They paid little attention to the constables and their warrants.

On June 25, 1777, a squad of soldiers was sent to levy the fines due by one, Samuel Albright. He had notice of their coming, and collected a number of men and women, armed with scythes, coulters and pitchforks. They brained one of the soldiers, and put the rest to flight, but not before the latter had fired a volley, badly wounding Albright and several more ring-leaders.

It was evidently the foregoing affair that brought the Committee of Observation together on June 28. Colonel Bertram Galbraith was at the time the Lieutenant of the county, and a most ardent and active patriot, no man in the country, perhaps, being more diligent in the patriot cause. The following letter from him to President

Wharton, on May 19, 1777, from Donegal, refers to the trouble ahead, and throws light on the action taken below. He wrote: "By this I am to inform you that I have hitherto lost no time in endeavoring to embody the militia of this county since my appointment, but find it an arduous task I have got Six Battalions out of the Nine formed, the three yet to form are in the heart of the Mininist Settlements in our County, who pamper with the Constables, and prevent them from making their Returns, by which I'm rendered unable to do anything with them: I have heard it reported that they mean to withstand the measures.".....—Ed.

At a meeting of the Committee of Observation and Inspection at the House of Mr. Baker, the 28th of June, 1777.

Present, Jasper Yeates, Christopher Crawford, John Miller, Michael Musser, George Moore, Adam Reigart, William Bowman, William Atlee.

William Atlee in the chair.

On the application of Colonel Galbraith for a quantity of ammunition out of the publick stores here to enable him to suppress some dangerous combinations which appear in the upper parts of the county in opposition to the Laws of this Commonwealth. It is the unanimous opinion of the Committee that it be recommended, and it is recommended to the Commissioners of the county, and such other persons as now have the custody or charge of the publick ammunition in this County to deliver to Colonel Galbraith such a reasonable quantity of powder and lead as shall be thought necessary for him for these purposes. Mr. Galbraith here in committee engaging to place such ammunition into the Hands of some one or more of the Civil Magistrates of this County, to be by him or them placed in the Hands of such prudent Persons as he shall appoint to

assist the Civil officers in the execution of their Duty, and the utmost Caution is recommended by the Committee to be used by the Magistrates in the disposition thereof.

By order

WILL A. ATLEE, Chairman.

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