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HISTORICAL ADDRESSES
AT CARLISLE, PA.

1. At Unveiling of Molly Pitcher Monument
June 28, 1916

2. In First Presbyterian Church
July 4, 1915

—By—

Hon. Edward W. Biddle

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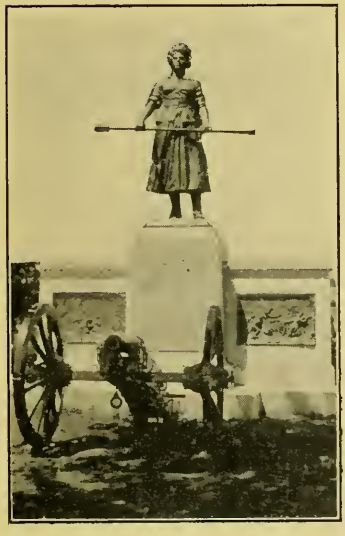
HISTORICAL ADDRESS
AT THE
UNVEILING OF MOLLY PITCHER MONUMENT IN CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA
JUNE 28, 1916

—By—

Hon. Edward W. Biddle



It is certainly a great honor to have been selected on behalf of the people of Carlisle to voice their appreciation and gratitude to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for the erection of this beautiful monument. With the reception of it into our venerable community graveyard, which was a gift from the Penns, there necessarily comes to us a sense of high responsibility that it shall be scrupulously cared for and maintained throughout all time. That this responsibility will be discharged in the fullest measure is amply guaranteed by the patriotic spirit of our citizens, as shown throughout the past 165 years.

MOLLY PITCHER

According to current accounts, a German girl named Mary Ludwig came to Carlisle from New Jersey in the early part of 1769 as a domestic servant, and on July 24 of that year was married to a young barber named John Hays, whose shop was adjacent to her

place of employment. On December 1, 1775, her husband enlisted for one year as a gunner in Proctor's Artillery, and in January, 1777, re-enlisted as a private in an infantry regiment commanded by Colonel, afterwards General, William Irvine of Carlisle. This regiment was at Valley Forge during the dreadful winter of 1777-78, and it marched from there under Washington in June, 1778, to take part in the battle of Monmouth. Mrs. Mary Hays, now famous as Molly Pitcher, who was then unknown to fame, remained in Carlisle until some time after the beginning of the Revolution, and then went back to her home in New Jersey and later became connected with the battalion in which her husband was serving. Where and when she joined the troops is not stated.

ON FIELD OF MONMOUTH

The prevailing story of her participation in the battle of Monmouth, which took place on June 28, 1778, exactly 138 years ago, is known throughout the length and breadth of the United States. It was an extremely hot Sunday, and many of the soldiers of both armies perished from exhaustion and thirst. While the battle was going on Molly carried water to the Continental troops from a well in order to relieve their thirst, and the constant passing to and fro with a pitcher in her hand is what has given her the sobriquet by which she is known in history. The underground spring from which the water was obtained was conspicuously marked some years ago by two wooden signs erected beside it, on each of which was painted "Mollie Pitcher's Well."

Perhaps her services as water-carrier would soon have been forgotten if she had done nothing more on that day in aid of the great cause, but an even larger service was yet to come. As the fight raged, she discovered that her husband had been wounded and that there was no one to serve the cannon to which he had been detailed. She at once took his place at the gun and for the balance of the day, so long as needed, acted as cannoneer. In commemoration of her heroic behavior, upon one of the bronze tablets on the base of the handsome monument which has been placed on the battlefield, she is represented in the act of charging a cannon.

A NOTABLE BATTLE

In four respects the battle was a notable one. First, it was of greater magnitude than any that succeeded it during the war down to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, although the losses in killed and wounded were surprisingly small. Second, it was then and there for the first time that the Americans were prepared to fight as well-disciplined troops, for previously they had been compelled to go into conflict with little or no training. On February 23, 1778 there came to the forlorn and ragged soldiers at Valley Forge a splendid disciplinarian, Baron Steuben, who had served under Frederick the Great during the Seven Years' War and had sailed to America to proffer his assistance to the struggling colonists. Congress promptly recognized his talents and appointed him Inspector General of the army, and he forthwith began his work at Valley Forge by instructing the officers in tactics and requiring the soldiers to be constantly drilled. It was the incessant training instituted by the Baron that made possible the effective fighting of the Continentals on the plains of Monmouth, where for a time he personally commanded the left wing of the army.

BARON STEUBEN

FRENCH ALLIANCE

Third, In view of the recent alliance with France and the fact that a French fleet of 15 vessels was daily expected in the Delaware with 4,000 soldiers on board, it was a matter of supreme importance that the Continentals should conduct themselves in such a way as to inspire their new colleagues with confidence in ultimate victory. For over a year our people had looked with longing and hope to France for the assistance it was now sending, but in order to retain its friendship and active co-operation it was necessary to demonstrate the prowess of our troops. Priceless indeed was the aid that France gave, and words cannot adequately express our obligations to that nation, which was destined to become a sister Republic, for the soldiers and money she furnished to America in time of direst need.

GENERAL LEE DISMISSED

Fourth, Major General Charles Lee, next in rank to Washington, was immediately removed from the army and his baleful and exceedingly dangerous influence brought to an end. It was only the timely arrival of Washington in the midst of the retreating troops of Lee, and his ordering their commander to the rear, that kept the British from scoring a signal victory. General Lee, who was a "soldier of fortune", was court-martialed within a few weeks for his misconduct and suspended from command for a year, and was later dismissed. The evidence taken plainly indicated that he desired the battle to be lost and the blame laid on his superior officer, of whom he was jealous, in order that perhaps he (Lee) might be chosen to replace him.

RESULTS OF BATTLE

Bancroft states that 229 Americans, and over 400 British, were killed and wounded in the engagement which lasted nearly all day, and more than 800 men deserted the latter's standard during their march through the Jerseys. The battle was a stand-off in results; yet when night came the British silently marched away, showing that they were unwilling to hazard further conflict on the morrow, and there was great rejoicing in Congress and throughout the land. Colonel William Irvine of Carlisle, in whose house Mary Ludwig is said to have lived prior to her marriage, was in command of a regiment during the day and acquitted himself with his usual gallantry. After the war closed he moved elsewhere, and is not buried here.

THE BUTLERS

It is reported that another officer from Carlisle so distinguished himself in the fight that he was thanked on the field by General Wayne for his services, as previously he had been thanked by General Washington at Brandywine. This was Captain Thomas Butler, one of five brothers whose father conducted a gun shop in a little stone house which is still standing on Dickinson Avenue in this town, all of whom served in the Revolution and were spoken of as "The fighting Butlers." Four of them were officers in the battle of Monmouth. After the boys had enlisted and started

to the front, the father conceived that he likewise ought to go, and when some of the neighbors remonstrated, his wife replied: "Let him go; the country needs every man who can shoulder a musket," whereupon the elder Butler also enlisted. Apropos of this, it is recorded that on one occasion General Washington at his own table, in company with a group of officers, gave as a toast: "The Butlers and their Five Sons." You will notice that the toast applied not only to the father and his five boys, but also and properly included the Spartan wife and mother, who unhesitatingly offered all that she held most dear on the altar of her country. That is the type of people who lived in Carlisle in revolutionary days. Upon the many persons of like spirit who reside here now and upon their descendants and successors, the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania may implicitly rely for the protection and proper maintenance of this monument forever.

THREE GENERALS

It is a striking and most impressive fact that within a short distance of this spot lie the remains of three celebrated Generals—two of the Revolution, and one who won his laurels in the Revolution and became a General in the War of 1812—John Armstrong, William Thompson and Henry Miller. As early as 1756 Armstrong as Lieutenant Colonel conducted an expedition against the Indian village of Kittanning on the Allegheny river, which was a depot containing large supplies of ammunition and provisions for the hostile savages, and by means of a surprise attack in the early morning succeeded in burning the town and its contents, and in killing almost all of its defenders. The county of Armstrong was created and named in his honor in 1800, with Kittanning as the county seat. He took an active part in the Revolution during its early months, but in 1777 resigned his commission as Major General and retired to civil life. He was a deeply religious man, and it was truly said of him by one who was familiar with his character and deeds, and the saying has often been repeated: "He was resolute and brave, and though living habitually in the fear of the Lord, he feared not the face of man."

GENERAL JOHN ARMSTRONG

GENERAL WILLIAM THOMPSON

General William Thompson began his military career by serving under Armstrong in the Kittanning expedition in 1756, and two years later was appointed Captain of a troop of light horse. On June 25, 1775, Congress issued to him a commission as "Colonell of the Battalion of Rifle Men Rais'd in the Province of Pennsylvania, in the army of the United Colonies," which is said to have been the earliest Colonel's commission issued by that body, and was subsequent only ten days to the election of Washington as Commander in Chief. It is signed by John Hancock, President, and now hangs on the walls of The J. Herman Bosler Memorial Library in Carlisle. His battalion was the first to be mustered in by order of Congress, and the earliest to reach Boston from west or south of the Hudson River. On March 1, 1776, he was commisioned as Brigadier General, and was captured in the following June at Three Rivers, Canada, and held as a prisoner until 1780. His wife was a sister of George Ross, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

GENERAL HENRY MILLER

General Henry Miller was First Lieutenant of one of the companies that composed Thompson's Battalion, and he reached Boston with his men on July 25, 1775. In 1778 he had risen to the position of Lieutenant Colonel, but in the following spring for family reasons was obliged to resign his commission. In the War of 1812 he was appointed Brigadier General of the militia of the United States, and was stationed at Baltimore and charged with the defence of Fort McHenry and its dependencies. According to a companion-in-arms who wrote of him in 1801, he had participated in fifty or sixty fights, one of which was the battle of Monmouth. His conduct on that occasion is interestingly referred to in an article which appeared in the Lancaster Examiner in 1830, as follows: "At the battle of Monmouth, he displayed most signal bravery. Two horses were, during the conflict, successively shot from beneath this youthful hero and patriot; but nothing depressed the vigor of his soul, for mounting a third he was in the thick of the battle." The modest marble shaft which surmounts his grave is within thirty yards

of this monument, and the speaker cannot but feel a sense of pride that he is fortunate enough to be one of his great-grandsons.

OUR ANCESTORS

Lately a newspaper contained the following quotation from an early Greek writer: "It is indeed a desirable thing to be well descended, but the glory belongs to the ancestors," which statement is true. Yet looking at the subject from another standpoint, all will agree with the following observations made by Edward Gibbon at the beginning of his Memoirs: "A lively desire of knowing and of recording our ancestors so generally prevails, that it must depend on some common principle in the minds of men. We seem to have lived in the persons of our forefathers. * * Fifty or an hundred years may be allotted to an individual, but we step forward beyond death with such hopes as religion and philosophy will suggest, and we fill up the silent vacancy that precedes our birth by associating ourselves to the authors of our existence. * * The satirist may laugh, the philosopher may preach, but Reason herself will respect the prejudices and habits which have been consecrated by the experience of mankind." Because of the existence of such a sentiment, some men become deeply absorbed in studying the affairs of antiquity, irrespective of any direct connection with its persons or events. Out of this absorption springs an inspiration to the historian, who bends to his self-appointed toil and is able to discover in the archives of the past a storehouse of treasures that are limitless in variety.

"There is a consecrating power in time;
And what is gray with years, to man is godlike."

COLONEL ROBERT MAGAW

The name of Colonel Robert Magaw also shines in military annals with unusual lustre. He was appointed Major of the battalion of riflemen of which William Thompson at the same time was appointed Colonel, therefore his commission doubtless bore the same date as that of the latter (June 25, 1775) and was the earliest Major's commission issued by Congress. Prior to entering the army he was a lawyer of Carlisle with a large practice. After serving under

Thompson in the vicinity of Boston, he was appointed on January 6, 1776, Colonel of the Fifth Pennsylvania Battalion, and later was ordered to New York and in October was placed in command of the newly erected Fort Washington.

The fort was vulnerable both by land and water, and should have been evacuated without a fight when the other parts of the island were abandoned. However, his commanding general ordered otherwise, and after one of the most sanguinary battles of the war, in which more than 800 of the enemy were killed or wounded and Colonel Magaw displayed great bravery, he held a council with his officers and it was determined to surrender. His name is inscribed on the pillar of fame, and when the monument on the site of the fort was dedicated on November 16, 1901, one of the speakers said: "The most gallant figure of the Revolution to my mind is Colonel Magaw." After being held in captivity for four years, he returned to his old home and died here in January 1790. His funeral, as described in a contemporary newspaper, was probably the largest and most imposing that had ever taken place in Carlisle. Some time ago a question arose as to whether he was buried in this graveyard or at Meeting House Springs, two miles away. In an able and carefully prepared paper on the subject recently published by Dr. Charles F. Himes, it is clearly proven that his remains are interred here, although by some mischance there is nothing to indicate their location.

CAPTAIN JOHN STEEL

Of the soldiers of that period who are buried nearby, there is time to mention only one more, and he cannot with propriety be omitted. Captain John Steel was a Presbyterian minister in this section from 1752 until his death in 1779, the last 20 years having been spent in Carlisle. He was a natural leader and fighter, having come from Ireland, and he was at times referred to as The Fighting Parson. When he was officiating in what is now Franklin County a number of his parishoners were brutally murdered by the Indians, and it became customary for himself and his congregation to go to church with loaded

muskets, prepared for an attack. In 1755 he was commissioned as Captain of provincial troops, and as such conducted several expeditions against the Indians and was in command of one of the companies under Armstrong which attacked and destroyed Kittanning in 1756. At the outbreak of the Revolution he promptly raised a company, but on account of age was compelled to confine his efforts principally to organizing and equipping the men.

UNKNOWN DEAD

Are there 100, 200, 500 revolutionary soldiers buried here? No one can tell. Few of their graves were ever marked, and fewer still are marked today, hence there are no data on which to base an estimate in reply to said query. A large number of men who became eminent in civil life likewise lie at rest in this ancient burying ground, yet owing to lack of time they cannot be referred to individually. Mention, however, should be made of an apparently fragile upright stone, the oldest in the graveyard, upon which is recorded the death of Thomas Robb on May 2, 1757. For 159 years it has successfully resisted the inroads of the elements, and has stood erect during that long period in the performance of the mission for which it was designed; yet in the meantime several generations of humanity have come and gone, have passed into eternity in an ever-flowing stream and are for the most part classed with the unknown dead.

AFTER THE REVOLUTION

But what of Mrs. Mary Hays after the battle of Monmouth? It appears by the tax list that at the close of the Revolution she and her husband, who was then William (not John) Hays, were domiciled in Carlisle. Up to that point the account of her rests on tradition and legend, but her subsequent career can be traced with the aid of various records in the courthouse. In 1787 the husband died and about 1792 she married John McCauley, whose surname has been spelled in several different ways, who also died in the course of ten or twelve years. Left a widow at least a second time, she earned a living by hard manual work. In an old book in the County Commissioners' office containing entries of the daily payments made by the

County Treasurer, the following items of credit were found several years ago: Under date of March 29, 1811, "Molly McCalley, for washing and scrubbing the court house, in part—$15.00." Five days later she was paid the balance of her bill, amounting to $1.03. On August 5, 1813, an order which was duly paid was drawn in favor of "Molly McCawley & others, for cleaning, washing and whitewashing the public buildings—$22.36." These items furnish authentic information concerning her manner of obtaining a livelihood at that period of her life.

PENSION GRANTED

On February 21, 1822, an act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania was approved, entitled "An act for the relief of Molly M'Kolly for her services during the Revolutionary War," granting to her out of the State treasury $40 immediately, and an annuity of $40 payable in half-yearly instalments. Numerous widows of soldiers were awarded pensions of a similar amount, but Molly is the only woman who was ever placed on the pension rolls of Pennsylvania because of her own services. She drew the annuity from the time it was granted until January 1, 1832.

NEWSPAPER NOTICE

Her death occurred on January 22 1832, and a notice of it appeared in each of the three Carlisle newspapers, that in the American Volunteer in its issue of January 26, 1832, being as follows:

> DIED, on Sunday last in this borough, at an advanced age, Mrs. Molly M'Cauley. She lived during the days of the American revolution, shared its hardships, and witnessed many scenes of "blood and carnage." To the sick and wounded she was an efficient aid; for which, and being the widow of an American hero, she received during the latter years of her life an annuity from the government. For upwards of forty years she resided in this borough, and was during that time recognized as an honest, obliging and industrious woman. She has left numerous relatives to regret her decease; who, with many others of her acquaintance, have a hope that her reward in the world to which she has gone, will far exceed that which she received in this.

FORTY YEARS AGO

Almost forty years have passed since yonder tombstone, erected to Molly Pitcher on July 4, 1876, was dedicated with elaborate ceremonies. When the proceedings here were concluded, the assemblage of several hundred people marched out to the fairground to partake of a lunch which had been prepared for them. In the afternoon there were patriotic services, a part of which consisted in my reading the Declaration of Independence. Many who are present now were not born at that time, and singular indeed it seems that one who participated in the exercises at such a remote date, should be taking part today in another Molly Pitcher celebration. A second demonstration of the same kind occurred on June 28, 1905, when a cannon, flagstaff and flag were placed at her grave by the P. O. S. of A. of Cumberland County, consequently this is the third occasion upon which public tribute has been paid to her memory.

MOLLY PITCHER

This monument which Carlisle receives from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is a splendid and lasting recognition of the lofty virtue which we call courage. During the past fifty years Molly Pitcher has come to be accepted as America's most conspicuous exponent of feminine valor, notwithstanding that the unique position accorded her has been frequently and vigorously assailed. Critics have denied the whole story concerning her—have questioned the very foundation on which it stands—but up to this time their criticisms have had little effect on the popular belief. On the other hand, writers of stories and of verse have spread the narrative concerning her broadcast over the land, until it has become lodged in the hearts of the people; there probably it will be cherished so long as interest in the American Revolution endures.

PART II

HISTORICAL ADDRESS

IN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CARLISLE, PA.

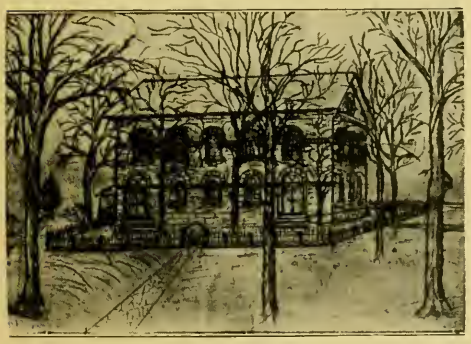
JULY 4, 1915

—By—

Hon. Edward W. Biddle

The address to which your attention is invited this morning will refer to the early days of this time-honored church, and will note a few of the memorable events which occurred here and the most prominent men who participated in them, but the sketch necessarily will be brief and incomplete. That the first stones for the building were hauled on July 1, 1757, is indicated in a letter written by Colonel (afterwards Major General) John Armstrong, a leading citizen of Carlisle, which is printed in the Pennsylvania Archives, First Series, vol. 3, pp. 191-3. The letter was written on June 30, 1757, to an official whose name is not given, and concluded as follows:

ARMSTRONG'S LETTER



Drawing by John B. Landis, Esq.

"To-morrow we begin to haul the Stones for ye building of a Meeting House on the North Side of the Square, there was no Other convenient place; I have avoided the place you Once pitched for a Church. The Stones are rais'd Out of Colo'l Stanwixes entrenchment; we will want help to this Political as well as Religious work."

This occurred when the town was very small, and Colonel Stanwix of the British army was engaged in digging entrenchments in its northeastern portion near where the Carlisle Shoe Factory now stands, in the course of which enterprise he took out some large stones. Evidently the decision had been reached to utilize these in the construction of a commodious "meeting house", as the place of worship for Presbyterians was called in those days, and until 1883 it was accepted as an established fact that the stones had been hauled here and at once put in the walls of a new edifive. However, in January of 1883 Rev. Joseph A. Murray delivered an address which was published in 1905, in which he cited conclusive evidence that the actual erection of the church was not begun until 1769, and that it was not under roof until a few years later. Although explanations of this apparent discrepancy have been suggested, the true solution is still a matter of conjecture. Originally there was no excavation beneath the building, but after the lapse of about a century a small cellar was dug under its eastern end for the accommodation of a furnace.

STONES FOR CHURCH

The closing words of the letter were striking and significant: "We will want help to this **political** as well as religious work." Thus it was expressly stated at the outstart that the new structure which Armstrong had in mind would be needed for two purposes, and useful indeed has the present building been in both respects– using the word political in the broad and proper sense of "pertaining to the conduct of government." The speaker recently gave the following estimate of the writer of that letter: "Unquestionably he was the most commanding figure in this section of the State prior to 1776, due to his upright and forceful character and the great services he rendered to the people of the colony."

POLITICAL PURPOSES

But he was only one of a group of prominent men who clustered around the infant meeting house, most of whom were not connected with it by the tie of membership. Patriotic assemblages were held in this room from the time it was ready for occupancy, which

shows that the Scotch-Irish pioneers did not desire that its use should be confined to conventional religious services. The first pastor, known as Captain John Steel, who was occasionally styled The Fighting Parson, performed military duty as captain of a company at various times from 1755 to 1777, when old age caused his retirement. One of the meeting houses under his care in the western part of the county was surrounded with a stockade, and the pastor and parishoners took their arms and ammunition with them to the services, that they might be prepared for a sudden attack by the Indians. It has been said of the churches of that day that whilst they had rough wooden pulpits, they had golden ministers, and this expression is particularly applicable to Captain John Steel.

CAPTAIN JOHN STEEL

POLITICAL MEETING

The first political meeting known to have been held here was so very important in its consequences, direct and indirect, that it has become an historic landmark. It was the outcome of the famous incident that occurred in Boston on December 16, 1773, when a party of citizens disguised as Indians went upon three English vessels lying in the harbor, and threw the contents of a number of chests of tea into the water, because of an import duty imposed thereon to enrich the British treasury. To punish this "outrage", as it was called, Parliament passed what has since been known as the "Boston Port Bill", under which Boston's port was closed and its custom house transferred to Salem. The enforcement of that law would have paralyzed Boston's trade, hence her citizens at once sent an appeal to the people of all the colonies to unite with them in refusing to receive any importations whatever from Great Britain or the West Indies until the act should be repealed. The day upon which the law was to go into effect, June 1, 1774, was adopted throughout the country as one of fasting, humiliation and prayer, and later a convention of delegates from all the counties of Pennsylvania was called to meet in Philadelphia on July 15, 1774, to take appropriate action in the premises.

In pursuance of said call, a meeting of citizens of Cumberland County was held in this room on July 12, which endorsed the action of the people of Boston and proffered them financial assistance; also appointed a committee of thirteen "to co-operate in every proper measure conducing to the welfare of British America", and at the same time named three delegates to attend the Philadelphia convention on July 15. James Wilson, a practicing lawyer of Carlisle, was placed at the head of both of these bodies, which immediately set out earnestly to accomplish the ends for which they were selected. Seven of the committee of thirteen were particularly eminent in their day and generation, and history records the services they rendered to their country. They were: James Wilson, who will be spoken of in a few minutes; General John Armstrong, already mentioned; John Montgomery, a strong power in civil affairs, who presided at the meeting and was an elder of the congregation; Generals William Irvine and William Thompson and Colonel Robert Magaw, distinguished officers in the Revolution; and Ephraim Blaine, Commissary General of the Continental army.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED

Of these men, each of whom is worthy of a separate notice, there is time only to refer specially to James Wilson, who was launched into public life at the meeting of July 12, and who afterwards became the most illustrious man that has ever dwelt within the limits of this town. He was one of the immortal Signers of the Declaration of Independence; eleven years later he helped to frame and signed the Constitution of the United States; three years after that he performed the same service in connection with Pennsylvania's Constitution of 1790, having in the meanwhile in 1789 been appointed by Washington a member of the Supreme Court of the United States. He had the high distinction of being one of only six men who signed both of the first-named documents, and perhaps the still higher distinction of being the only man who signed all three. The Declaration as is well known was largely the product of one mind, that of Thomas Jefferson, and it received merely some verbal changes at the hands of his colleagues; but the two constitutions, both in substance

JAMES WILSON

and in expression, severally represented the result of the thought and debate of many delegates during the period of about four months in the one case, and three months in the other. Of the splendid convention of men that prepared the Federal Constitution, it is believed that Wilson was the best equipped for the task before them because of his previous profound study of the underlying principles of government, and that probably he exercised more influence than than any other over the deliberations. In the work of the State convention, his was the dominating intellect.

SECOND BURIAL

It will be appropriate in this connection to mention an interesting ceremony which the speaker attended in Philadelphia. In November, 1906, the remains of James Wilson were brought to that city from Edenton, North Carolina, where pursued by creditors he was reported to have died of a broken heart in 1798. The casket containing his ashes was deposited in state for a portion of two days in Independence Hall, the scene of his greatest triumphs. It was there that as Congressman for several terms he frequently had made the walls resound with his impassioned oratory—there he had signed the Declaration of Independence—there he had debated and appended his name to the Constitution of the United States. In the afternoon of the second day he was conveyed to Christ Church, with the Supreme Court of the United States acting as honorary pallbearers, followed by a long procession of noted men. After the delivery of high tributes to his learning and the inestimable services he had rendered to his adopted country, his body was lowered into a grave in the old churchyard by the side of his wife. Those who marched to Christ Church on that bright November afternoon in 1906, to pay tardy homage to the memory of the eminent statesman and jurist, composed one of the most distinguished bodies of men ever assembled in this country.

DOCTOR NISBET

On July 5, 1785, almost exactly 130 years ago, Rev. Dr. Charles Nisbet, the first President of Dickinson College, who had just arrived from Scotland, took his oath of office and oath of allegiance to the United States in this room amidst an enthusiastic demonstra-

tion. A large delegation of civilians, attended by a troop of horse, had welcomed him at Boiling Springs and escorted him to town on the evening of the previous day, for the people were in a state of exuberant excitement and joy over this final step in the establishment of a college in their midst.

GENERAL WASHINGTON

On Sunday, October 4, 1794, General Washington with his staff attended divine service here during a week's stay in Carlisle, while on their way to Pittsburgh to quell the Whiskey Insurrection. They listened to an admirable sermon by the pastor, Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson, printed copies of which are still preserved. On the previous Thursday evening Governor Thomas Mifflin, who had come to Carlisle to take part in preparing for the military expedition to Pittsburgh, had delivered an animated address here to a large audience, presumably in behalf of maintaining order and sustaining the authorities in the enforcement of the law. These few references to some of the conspicuous men and events of the 18th century can readily be supplemented by any diligent student who may see fit to pursue the subject.

GOVERNOR MIFFLIN

JUDGE HAMILTON

At the time of Washington's visit and for many years afterwards one of the most forceful men in the community was James Hamilton, who was a pewholder and a steadfast supporter of this church throughout his whole adult life, in the latter part of which he was President Judge of three counties, including Cumberland. Notwithstanding that he was a stern and aristocratic man, he was probably also a credulous and timid one, and a tradition has been preserved in Bennett Bellman's History of the Bar to the effect that a certain criminal, having been convicted before him for murder, was executed in due form and the corpse delivered to relatives for burial near his home in the south mountain. A few days subsequently the sheriff reported to Judge Hamilton that the man had been revived by the jolting he received on the rough country roads, and that he was lying in wait in the recesses of the mountain to attack the judge who sentenced him,

when he passed that way in traveling the circuit. "How long was the condemned left hanging?" asked the Judge nervously. "Fifteen minutes, your Honor." "That was too short a time entirely", exclaimed the Judge with vehemence; "In Ireland they're hung for an hour and a half—and then, to make sure, they're decapitated."

It should be a matter of local pride that this church has always been available for metings in the interest of the people, and that there has been no narrow sectarianism to bar the way. Surrounded as we are with the conveniences and luxuries of modern life, it is hard to realize the troubles and uncertainties that oppressed the men of whom we have been speaking. They did not know, could not know, whether a Democratic government would prove lasting—whether the structure they were rearing was founded upon a rock or upon sand. Montesquieu, who is considered by some to have been the most astute political thinker of all time, had affirmed that a Republic could not long exist in a large country—because the difficulties of intercourse were so great that the widely separated sections would necessarily diverge from each other in customs and in interests, and would inevitably split apart. As conditions then were, this observation was true; but happily as time went on human genius has supplied the links to bind together the distant parts, and the locomotives and telegraph lines, in conjunction with the modern printing presses, have facilitated communication to an extent that has kept us a homogeneous people and thereby doubtless saved from disaster the Great Republic, so well begun by our forefathers.

UNCERTAIN OUTLOOK

It is obvious that this is a very suitable spot on which to hold an Independence Day celebration, because it was so closely associated with the stirring events which moulded the destiny of our country. Let us hope that for generations to come it will remain, as it has been in the past, an open forum for political discussion; for in that, after all, lies one of the principal safeguards of civil liberty.

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