

F 159

.E6 E63





EPHRATA MONUMENT.

Designed to be erected over the remains of Two Hundred American Soldiers, who died during the winter of '77-78, at Ephrata, Lancaster County, Penna. from the effects of wounds received at the Battle of Brandywine, Sept. 11, 1777.

“A monument that consecrates the name of a single martyr in the cause of Freedom, is holy in the sight of God, and stands evermore as a MEMORY sacred to the *Past*, and a PROPE full of promise for the *Future*.”

There are few persons in the State of Pennsylvania familiar with the truth, that the village of Ephrata, in Lancaster county, was converted during the war of the Revolution, into the theatre of one of the most important and interesting events which took place in that period.—Peopled by a plain and unassuming denomination of christians, who had chosen it as a suitable place for religious retirement, who assembled in the vicinity of its green hills and peaceful valleys for the exercise of their pious devotions, and whose object was more the enjoyment of their christian privileges than the establishment of a name for the admiration of posterity; but little has been preserved from the wreck of time to point out the important services they had rendered to religion and their country.

The traveller now visits that village and finds nothing but the relics of its former greatness. The houses devoted to the purpose of religious service, crumbling into ruin—every vestige of the place, as originally established, fading away from the world forever. At the time this village was first settled, the surrounding country, comparatively speaking, was a wilderness: the wild fox of the mountain had made his den on its very borders, and the gloom of the adjacent forests was only cheered by the smoke of the wigwam and the occasional gleam of the Indian's council fire.

The principles of religion introduced into this settlement, though somewhat peculiar, were strictly ortho-

dox. They differed from other similar associations only in the observance of the Sabbath, and their sentiments upon the subject of matrimony.—This they did not condemn, although they treated it with more caution than is usual with other denominations. Their houses were thrown open as an asylum for such as renounced it, and they gave them in exchange for their services, food and protection. About the time of the commencement of the Revolutionary war, a large number had congregated into this village and had espoused the sentiments originally introduced. A regular system of church government had been formed and was then in operation, under the supervision of pious and well qualified superintendants.

During the progress of the Revolutionary war, this Society exhibited a desire to aid in the advancement of the American cause. The principal conductor of the institution, *Peter Miller*, whose social virtues and intellectual qualifications are only remembered to be admired, had early formed an acquaintance with GEN. WASHINGTON, and was in the habit of corresponding with him upon subjects connected with the war very frequently. By the aid of an excellent paper manufactory, which was constructed at the expense of the Society, he was enabled to furnish him at times with paper, suitable for cartridges; and continued this practice, whenever convenient, until the close of the war.

After the termination of the Battle of Brandywine,

which was fought on the 11th of September, 1777, about five hundred soldiers wounded at that battle were sent to Ephrata by the direction of the officers of the army, to be entertained by this hospitable and philanthropic association. Many of them had been severely wounded, and a portion of them suffering with the camp fever. Two of their large establishments, which had been previously used for the accommodation of their members, were vacated for the reception of these soldiers. The two buildings contained about five hundred rooms, and each soldier had his separate apartment, which rendered the situation of those unfortunate men as comfortable as possible. Physicians and surgeons were placed over them, and every means employed for the purpose of affording relief. Under the care of those skilful men, about three hundred of the soldiers recovered during the winter, but the residue died and were buried in the vicinity of the village.

The following affidavit, which was obtained from Peter Martin, senior, previous to his death, is corroboration of the truth of what has been observed. It is as follows:

"In 1777, I resided in the village of Ephrata. In the fall of that year a large number of soldiers, some of them wounded and others suffering with the camp fever, were brought to Ephrata and placed in the two large buildings on Mt. Zion. Several surgeons and physicians were appointed to take charge of them, of whom Dr. Yerkel was the principal in the commencement. He was succeeded by Dr. Scott. I saw Dr. Scott amputate the leg of a soldier in the presence of many people, of whom I now recollect but one; and that individual was a certain Dr. Sensenig, who had been appointed to saw the bone, but upon showing great reluctance to do so, the operation was performed by Dr. Scott, who, after executing the business, addressed the spectators as follows: "was there a change in my countenance perceptible?" The answer was "no." The successor of Dr. Scott as principal, was Dr. Harrison, an excellent physician and a kind hearted, benevolent man, who attended to the soldiers and provided for their wants with unremitting exertions. But his usefulness was cut short by the interposition of Divine Providence. He was seized with the camp fever, removed to the house of Mr. Angus, the father of Jacob Angus, a surviving soldier of the Revolution, who still resides in the same house; where he died in a short time. The disease was contagious; and his benefactor, Mr. Angus, was taken sick with it and died in a few days. I became acquainted with many of the soldiers, whose names I do not recollect. One of them, a Yankee, I have a distinct recollection of: he taught me to speak the English language. To the best of my knowledge they were brought to Ephrata in the autumn of the year 1777, and the survivors removed in the spring of the year 1778, at the time the British were in the possession of Philadelphia. The exact number I cannot remember, but am convinced that there were some hundreds. Those of them who died are buried on Mt. Zion, on the banks of the Co-calico creek. The first of them who died here were buried with the honors of war; a funeral sermon preached by one of their number selected for that purpose. This practice was continued for some time,

until they began to drop off so rapidly that it was found necessary to dispense with all such ceremonies. The soldiers were principally Pennsylvanians, a few Yankees, and several British who had deserted, and who fought under the American flag at the battle of Brandywine."

In connexion with the foregoing affidavit, Benjamin Konigsmacher, Esq., an old and respectable citizen of Ephrata, testifies "That he distinctly recollects that immediately after the Battle of Brandywine a great many of the wounded soldiers of the American army, who had been engaged in that conflict, were sent to Ephrata, where they were entertained in the two buildings Kader and Zion, which were thrown open as hospitals for their reception: that a great many of them died and were buried on Mt. Zion in an open field; (the space of ground in which they are interred is about one hundred feet square, that Dr. Scott was the Principal of the Hospital, and lived in the Brother's house during the winter that the soldiers were there. He further testifies that the graves of the soldiers, although surrounded with thorns and bramble bushes, have remained untouched by the ploughshare to this day. While the soldiers were in the hospital, milk and provisions for their use were frequently obtained at his house."

Many years ago, large planks or oak boards had been raised alongside of the graves, which bore the inscription of the names of several officers of the American army, who were among the number of the wounded and whose bones repose in the same ground. Corroborative of this fact we give below the affidavit of James Smith, who has been a citizen of Ephrata for about fifty years. He says—"That he saw more than forty years ago, a great number of graves in which the soldiers who died at Ephrata in the Hospital were buried: that the ground is the property of the Society of the Seventh Day Baptists, is about one hundred feet above the level, and has always been recognized by the name of Mount Zion: that he distinctly recollects of a large number of planks which were placed at the side of the burial ground, which bore the inscription of the names of the officers who are buried there. One of the planks contained the inscription, in the German language, of

"Hier ruhen die Gebeine von vielen Soldaten."

These planks having decayed were removed several years ago, and a plain board fence, without the inscriptions, erected in their place. "The burial ground," he further testifies, "still remains in its original state. The graves are still visible, though covered by thorns and brambles."

Col. Richard R. Heitler, of Ephrata, who took the affidavits given in this communication, presents the following certificate:

"I hereby certify that the foregoing affidavits were taken by me, at two different times, of the three gentlemen whose names are given to them: that the gentlemen are all men of high character and respectability, and every way worthy of belief. I further certify, that I know of my own personal knowledge, the principal part of the facts set forth in the affidavit of Jas. Smith."

RICHARD R. HEITLER.

January 10, 1845.

The Committee of Correspondence of the *Ephrata Monument Society*, received a few weeks since a communication from Miss H. Scott, daughter of Dr. Scott, the principal of the hospital, who now resides in New Brunswick, New Jersey; who testifies to the truth of her father being employed as principal surgeon in the hospital at Ephrata, immediately after the Battle of Brandywine. Her recollection of the facts is very imperfect, being very young at the time they transpired. She remembers the circumstance of soldiers being brought there and buried, but cannot testify to the exact number.

Jacob Angus, a surviving soldier of the Revolution, who now resides in Ephrata, has also a very indistinct recollection of the circumstance. His memory is almost entirely gone; and himself through affliction and old age on the very verge of eternity. Sufficient however, we believe, has been adduced to convince the public that this interesting event, which has led to the formation of the Monument Society, and which has stimulated them thus far in their patriotic labors, actually did occur. The design of erecting a monument to the memory of those brave men whose lives were sacrificed for the liberties of their country, arose out of the consideration that more than two hundred of them repose in this single burying ground, and patriotism would appear to demand of us that their memory should be rescued from oblivion. Their graves are now a rude waste, covered over with thorns and briar bushes; and, although their ashes have been thus far sacred from the desecrations of the plough-share or even the rude tread of the vulgar, yet we believe it to be a duty incumbent upon us to treat with a strict regard to decency and respect, the soil which contains the bones of so many of our country's benefactors. A plain and simple monument to their memory, erected upon the ground where their ashes repose, would be no more than a just tribute of respect for the services they rendered to us in the hour of our peril.

The Society of Seventh Day Baptists, at the time the soldiers were brought to Ephrata, took upon themselves the whole burthen of their maintenance, and all the expenses consequent upon their burial; freely opened their doors to receive them; kindly proffered their substance for their support, and finally appropriated their ground for their last resting place, without accepting a single farthing as remuneration. Instances of this character, of pure and disinterested charity and patriotism, are but few in the whole history of our country. And when, we further consider, that those men themselves were poor—labouring under adverse circumstances—being in the very infancy of their existence, with scarcely more than enough to meet the expenses of their own burdensome associations, we must attach at least to their benevolence a spirit of self

denial, such as must have had its origin in the purest motives, and could only have been prompted by the demands of their suffering country.—It could only have arisen from the reflection that "their country's necessities were greater than their own."

We have been desirous of conducting this matter that the subject should be plainly and fairly brought before the public—that no misrepresentation should be made to thwart our design; but that popular aid and popular support might be elicited by a representation of the facts of the case; and that all our fellow-countrymen, in every county, in every state, and in every territory of this Government, should turn their sympathy and their influence in our behalf. The spot of ground in which the soldiers are interred, is about one hundred feet above the level, and commands a fine and picturesque view of the surrounding country. A monument erected upon its summit could be seen at a distance of twelve miles in favorable weather. The ground is now about being cleared and the wall which is to enclose the graves, constructed. The monument is now in rapid progression, and although the Society are not now in possession of the funds necessary to complete it, it is to be hoped that the patriotic feelings of our fellow-citizens will not suffer the measure to rest without the necessary support.

A Military Encampment will be held on the ground at Ephrata, on the 11th of September next. General ADAM DILLER, of Philadelphia, has been appointed Commander-in-chief for that purpose; and it is presumed, that with the aid of such officers as he may call in, a happy and brilliant entertainment may be expected by the public. The foundation stone will be laid on that day, and many of the ablest speakers in the United States are expected to be present.

I. DANIEL RUPP, Esq., of the city of Lancaster, appointed by the Board, has made a visit to Philadelphia, for the purpose of presenting the Subscription Book of the Society to such as may feel disposed to aid the project. It is to be hoped that his visit may be amply compensated.

GEORGE W. M'ELROY, }
JOSEPH KONIGMACHER, } —Committee.
RICHARD R. HEITLER, }

By an Act of the Legislature, passed a few weeks since, the above Company was incorporated under the style and title of the "Ephrata Monument Association," of which the following are the names of the officers embraced in the act of incorporation:

President—Joseph Konigmacher.

Directors—Colonel Richard R. Heitler, Jeremiah Wohler, William Spera, Col. John Bauman, Edwin Konigmacher.

Treasurer and Secretary—Jeremiah Bauman.

TO THE MILITARY.

The undersigned would respectfully call the attention of the Officers of the Volunteers, the Militia, and the Army, and the Military of the United States generally, to the military publication entitled the

Home Journal and Citizen Soldier,

Published at No. 85, Dock st, Philadelphia.

The idea of starting and maintaining a paper having for its object the regeneration and the disenfranchisement of the military of the country, from the ignorance and disgrace into which, in a measure, they had fallen, was one startling as it was novel. This publication has, however, been liberally patronized for a period of more than two years, and the efficiency in both the organization and discipline of our Volunteers, as well as the more general diffusion of military knowledge, alike bear testimony to its utility.

The publication is designed, more especially, for the use of the officers of the

VOLUNTEERS AND MILITIA,

whose libraries necessarily contain few military books, and who have not the facilities of obtaining them, as well as the officers of the regular army. To them the JOURNAL AND SOLDIER particularly commends itself, as a means of obtaining the most correct information upon all branches of military science.

The JOURNAL is a folio of twenty-eight columns,

published every Wednesday, and contains from time to time, in addition to a suitable proportion of

CHOICE LITERARY MATTER,

military biography and history, ancient and modern campaigns, well written original articles on cavalry, artillery and infantry tactics, fortifications and military science in general.

The publisher has made arrangements to be constantly in the receipt of all the foreign Military Magazines, as well as any new military works, as soon as published.

At present, a series of *Lectures on Strategy* are in course of publication in the paper, a subject of paramount importance to every military man who expects to become at all distinguished in his profession. Also, the regulations of the army.—A large extra edition, containing them, has been stricken off, so that new subscribers can be furnished with them.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

1 copy, - -	\$2	10 copies, - -	\$15
3 copies, - -	5	20 " - - -	20

A. H. DILLER, Publisher,
85, Dock street, Philadelphia.

NOTE.—Editors giving this advertisement an insertion in their paper, will of course be entitled to an exchange.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

In order that those wishing to become subscribers to our Journal, may form some idea of the estimation in which we are held, by those whose business and whose duty it is to judge dispassionately of the merits of all claimants to public favor. We annex the opinions expressed by a few of the newspapers of the country, selected indiscriminately from a hat-full, without respect to party or sect.

THE HOME JOURNAL AND CITIZEN SOLDIER.—The "Home Journal and Citizen Soldier," continues to be as excellent as ever in all its departments. The editors labor strenuously to gather the choicest and the rarest things into their columns, and they succeed very well in their endeavors. This paper contains reading for the fireside, and material for thought and exercise by the citizen soldier; and both departments have that general interest, which will make what is in them acceptable, whether it be to the soldier or the civilian.—*U. S. Gazette.*

THE HOME JOURNAL AND CITIZEN SOLDIER.—The quantity and quality of original matter it contains, is always a rich treat, and the fearless, independent and open course it has ever pursued in advocating the cause of the Citizen Soldier, claims for it a high standing in the estimation of every friend to the militia.—*American Citizen, N. H.*

THE HOME JOURNAL AND CITIZEN SOLDIER.—We like the tone and spirit of this weekly much—it is ardently devoted to the cause it advocates, and speaks out boldly and fearlessly, in behalf of a good and effective militia system of this country.—*Sheet Anchor, Trenton, N. J.*

THE HOME JOURNAL AND CITIZEN SOLDIER.—From the specimen before us, in point of typographical appearance, the spirited tone of the editorials, and the tenor of the contributions and selections, this paper will undoubtedly prove a great utility and interest to the military of the United States.—*Cincinnati Daily Enquirer.*

THE HOME JOURNAL AND CITIZEN SOLDIER.—This Journal we consider one among the best published in Philadelphia. Besides its literary excellencies, the "Soldier" is *au fait* in whatever relates to military matters.—*Perry County Democrat.*

THE HOME JOURNAL AND CITIZEN SOLDIER is one of the most useful papers we receive.—*Dem. Banner.*

THE HOME JOURNAL AND CITIZEN SOLDIER.—This excellent and cheap Journal can boast of some of the best writers in the country as contributors. Although devoted to the interest of the Citizen Soldier, it abounds with the most choice literary productions—making it a most delightful family newspaper—and we are confident that the reader would pronounce the articles which appear in it in the short space of one month, worth twice that amount.—*Dem. Press, York, Pa.*

THE HOME JOURNAL AND CITIZEN SOLDIER is decidedly the best paper on our exchange list. Its columns are always filled with articles, rich, rare and entertaining. Whenever we open it, we always expect something new, and are never disappointed.—*Argus, Easton, Pa.*

THE HOME JOURNAL AND CITIZEN SOLDIER is not only entitled to the liberal support of all who take interest in military matters, but possesses much literary attraction.—*Pennsylvanian.*





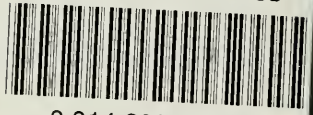
DOBBS BROS.
LIBRARY BINDING

ST. AUGUSTINE
FLA.



32084

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 209 871 4 ●