

**AN ADDRESS IN
COMMEMORATION OF THE
TWO-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INCORPORATION OF
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS**

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An Address in Commemoration of the Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of Lancaster, Massachusetts by Joseph Willard

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JOSEPH WILLARD

**AN ADDRESS IN
COMMEMORATION OF THE
TWO-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INCORPORATION OF
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS**

Windsor Lewis, M. D.
with the sincere
AN reports of -
Joseph Willard

A D D R E S S

IN COMMEMORATION OF

THE TWO-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

OF

THE INCORPORATION OF LANCASTER,

MASSACHUSETTS.

By JOSEPH WILLARD.

With an Appendix.

BOSTON:

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Wainwright Lewis Thaxter
New England Historic Genealogical Society

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RESOLUTIONS, ETC.

At a meeting of the Committee appointed to make arrangements for the Celebration of the Two-hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Lancaster, held Dec. 20, 1852, —

Resolved, To invite JOSEPH WILLARD, Esq., to deliver the Address upon the occasion of the Celebration.

JOHN M. WASHBURN, *Secretary.*

LANCASTER, Dec. 21, 1852.

JOSEPH WILLARD, Esq.

DEAR SIR, — I have the honor to transmit to you the annexed Vote, passed last evening with perfect unanimity. Permit me to express the hope that it will suit your convenience to comply with the wishes of the Committee, and that you will authorize me so to state at their next meeting, which takes place on the 27th inst. The 15th day of June, 1853, is fixed upon for the Celebration.

Respectfully your obedient servant,

JOHN M. WASHBURN.

BOSTON, Dec. 31, 1852.

GENTLEMEN, — I have received your invitation "to deliver the Address upon the occasion of the Celebration of the Two-hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Lancaster." Accept my thanks for this unexpected honor.

I have delayed my answer, doubting whether I could adequately represent the occasion. From the interest, however, that I feel in the history

and prosperity of the old town of Lancaster,— sometime my residence,— I have been induced to put aside all question, and to accept your very kind invitation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Very respectfully yours,

JOSEPH WILLARD,

To the COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS for the
Celebration of the Two-hundredth Anniv-
ersary of the Incorporation of the Town
of Lancaster.

LANCASTER, June 20, 1853.

At a meeting of the Committee of Arrangements for the Celebration of the Two-hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of Lancaster, —

Voted, That the thanks of the Committee be tendered to JOSEPH WILLARD, Esq., for his learned and eloquent Address, delivered on the 15th instant; and that a copy be requested for the press.

JOHN M. WASHBURN, *Secretary.*

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While remarking upon the early settlers in Lancaster, and those traits in their character from which the elements of success in the present prosperous condition of the town have been derived, it would have been very gratifying to the writer of the Address to give sketches, somewhat in detail, of a number of the inhabitants who have been particularly distinguished as citizens of wholesome influence in private and social life, and, in a wider sphere, in public office, both civil and military. The general train of reflection, in coming down to the settlement of the town, would have easily led to these delineations; thus carrying out the full plan. But the limits of an address, and the very considerable additional time and labor required to collect the materials for the proposed sketches, — which, it is believed, would form an interesting and instructive portion of a history of Lancaster, — rendered it necessary to relinquish the design.

The precise day for this Celebration, after correcting the calendar from old to new style, would have been May 28, 1853. But as the true day fell upon Saturday, and also in "Anniversary week," it was thought best to postpone the Celebration; and Wednesday, June 15, was selected, for the reason stated on page 149.

The brief space of a day, or rather of that portion of a day intervening between the beginning of the services at the church, — which were unexpectedly delayed about an hour beyond the appointed time, — and the leaving of the different railroad trains several hours before sunset, rendered it neces-

sary to omit portions of the Address, and also some of the matters contained in the Appendix, which are now all printed in full.

The Publishing Committee may not have included in the Appendix all which properly belongs to it. They can only say, that they have used, in the exercise of their best judgment, the materials with which they have been furnished. On page 168, the meaning intended is, that the Rev. Dr. Hill is a native of Harvard; and, though it may not be mistaken, yet the statement, according to its present grammatical reading, is incorrect. A portion of what is referred to on page 197, as having been said by a previous speaker, will not be found in his remarks as they now stand, and was omitted in the copy which he prepared for the printers.

A D D R E S S .