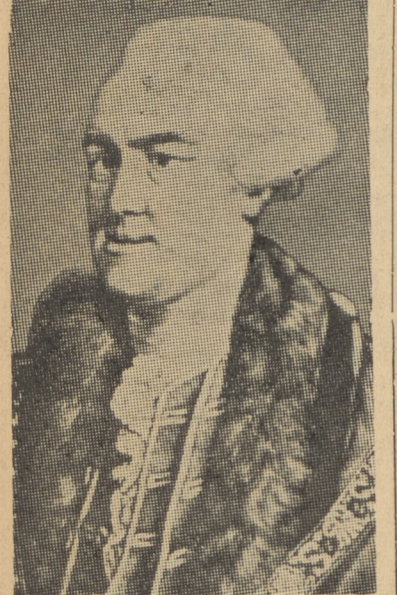


Free Press Owes Much To Courage Of John Wilkes

Man For Whom College Was Named Defended American Freedom

In naming the recently-chartered community institution of higher learning, formerly Bucknell University Junior College of Wilkes-Barre, Wilkes College, officials and trustees of the college have honored John Wilkes, English patriot and defender of American freedom, who was responsible for the establishment of three of the fundamental rights that belong to American today.

These "gifts", include freedom



from arbitrary arrest, freedom of the press, and the right of electors to choose their representatives without dictation from any authority. Wilkes is one of the great names in English history and his fight against King George III and his supporters forms one of the most fascinating chapters in the story of the struggle by American colonists for freedom.

Wilkes was well-born but broke away from his family and entered political life and at a relatively early age became a member of Parliament. He became a political writer of note and founded the North Briton.

The North Briton attacked the King and his supporters in every issue, but little official attention was paid to it until Issue No. 45 came from the press. This edition was not as strong in its language as many earlier ones, but did attack the King's message to Parliament in severely critical tones.

As a result, a general warrant was issued against the authors, printers and publishers and Wilkes was arrested and sent to London Tower for "treasonable practices" which were defined as libelling the government.

Wilkes was subsequently freed and government handed him and his supporters a 100,000-pound fine for damages and legal expenses.

Later, Wilkes was tried by the Court of the King's Bench on a case involving the North Briton and another case concerning other writings. He was convicted in both instances. At the time, Wilkes was in Paris. When he failed to appear for sentence, he was declared an outlaw.

Returns To England

Wilkes returned to England and continued his fight against the King and his government and was re-elected to Parliament. The court, however, sentenced him to 22 months in jail and he was imprisoned.

In the meantime, his battles aroused much enthusiasm in the colonies and he was honored as a hero in defense of freedom by the colonists. He was expelled from the House of Commons but was elected again from the county of Middlesex.

The House refused to seat him on three occasions. The King's ministers were being attacked at the same time by Edmund Burke and other lovers of liberty. Finally, the King lost many of his supporters, who became disgusted with his tyrannical reign.

Released from prison, John Wilkes assumed the office of Alderman of London and his place in the House. It was at this time that two printers published accounts of the speeches in Parliament. The House of Commons passed a resolution forbidding the "indignity" of reporting their debates.

The printers were summoned before the House but Wilkes staged a coup and his constable freed the printers.

Three times Wilkes was directed to appear before the House and three times he treated the notice with contempt. Finally, the House gave way and he was never bothered.

Thus was struck the blow which permitted free reporting of the speeches of Parliament and as such the reporting of all actions of governmental bodies which continues to this day.

Laing Fire Auxiliary Holds Annual Banquet

Henry M. Laing Fire Company Auxiliary held its annual banquet at Clayton's Tea Room Tuesday evening. Program consisted of a talk by Robert Haines of Wyoming; songs and dances by Rosanne Pavlick, Ann Marie Dunham and Barbara Fitch; news flashes by Mrs. Maude Eipper.

Present were: Mrs. Ralph Fitch, Mrs. Helen Veitch, Mrs. Della Bellas, Mrs. Mary Kamor, Mrs. Earl Monk, Mrs. Stephen Sedler, Mrs. Guy Dunham, Mrs. Steven Pavlick, Mrs. F. B. Schooley, Mrs. Russell Case, Mrs. Nelson Shaver, Mrs. Maude Eipper, Mrs. R. J. W. Templin, Mrs. Grant Shaner, Mrs. Marcus Ide, Mrs. Mary H. Girvan, Mrs. Elva Wagner, Mrs. Ralph Brown, Mrs. Morris Harris, Mrs. Frank Barry, Alice Shaver. Rosanne Pavlick, Ann Marie Dunham, Barbara Fitch, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Newman, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Adamez, Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Meade, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Casterline, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Parrish, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kepner, Mr. and Mrs. James Besecker, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wallo.

Robert Clinton Updyke Is Christened Sunday

Robert Clinton, two-months old son of Sgt. and Mrs. Herbert Updyke, Washington, Pa. was christened last Sunday afternoon at 2 at Trucksville Methodist Church by the pastor Rev. George Roberts. Miss Martha Hadsal, Robert's aunt, was godmother.

Following the service a reception was held at the home of the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Hadsel of Franklin Street, Dallas.

Attending were: Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Page, Miss Dorothy Page, Mrs. Hattie Page, Mrs. John Cadugan, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Cadugan, Miss Lois Cadugan, Miss Carol Cadugan and Billy Cadugan of Scranton; Mrs. Emory Hadsal, Idetown; Arthur Updyke, paternal grandfather, DeMunds; Mr. and Mrs. David Youlls, Huntsville; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ratigan, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Updyke, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Banta and Dianne Banta, Trucksville; Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Hadsal, Sgt. and Mrs. Herbert Updyke and Robert Clinton.

The Updykes who have been spending several days with the Hadsals returned to their home in Washington, Pa. on Thursday. Sgt. Updyke is stationed there in charge of supplies for the 111th National Guard.

Drill At Fernbrook Park

Employees of Sordoni Construction Company are making test borings at Fernbrook Park to determine rock structure to aid the architects in preparing foundation plans for the new plant of Bloomsburg Mills which will be erected there shortly.

John Wilkes later became Lord Mayor of London and Chamberlain of London. He continued to lead the fight on behalf of the colonists of America, while holding these posts as well as the position as a member of the House of Commons.

London citizens would have no part of the King's efforts to enslave Americans and it was Wilkes, along with other leaders, who kept this spirit alive.

Wilkes' long battle with the King finally brought recognition from the ruler, the Parliament and the English courts that every man has the right to be protected against arbitrary arrest by any governmental authority.

His elections to the House which were ignored three times before finally being accepted proved that the people had the right to make their own, untrammelled selections of representatives, and Wilkes' battle to report the speeches in Parliament brought about our freedom of the press as we know it today.

John Wilkes died in London on December 26, 1797, at the age of 70, and was buried there.

Mrs. Margaret LaBar Is Hostess To Dallas WCTU

Mrs. Margaret LaBar entertained members of the Dallas WCTU at her home on Norton avenue Tuesday.

The program consisted of the reading of "The Middle Cross", an Easter story by Lois Kiefer; an Easter poem by Mrs. Z. E. Garinger; and reports from committees. Mrs. William Higgins reported that enough strips had been knitted to make three afghans for soldiers and sailors.

On May 20th the spring convention will be held in the Westminster Presbyterian Church. Mrs. George Smith, victim of an automobile accident is reported slowly improving. Mrs. Edna Pace is ill at her home in Wyoming. The next meeting will be held in the Lehman Church on April 20.

Present were: Mesdames Ernest Fritz, Z. E. Garinger, C. S. Hildebrandt, Wilbert Hoover, H. M. Howell, Emory Hadsel, Charles James, Emily Parrish, Harold Payne, Della Parrish, Dorey Rogers, Carlton Reed, H. R. Riley, Marvin Scott, Edward Stair, Ray Shiber, William Tretheway, D. A. Waters, A. A. Neely, Claude Zuber, Wesley Hilbert, O. L. Harvey, Grover Anderson, Sarah

Baker, Jessie Rogers, Susan Orr, Charles Smith, Edith Fiske, Margaret LaBar, Dora LaBar, Della LaBar, and Mrs. R. C. Antrim Jr.

Mrs. Alfred Rogers Is Hostess At Alderson

Mrs. Alfred Rogers entertained members of the Alderson WSCS last Thursday evening, assisted by her mother, Mrs. Asenath Davis.

Mrs. Reynolds had charge of the worship service and gave an interesting talk on "Christianizing Japan".

In spite of inclement weather, the following were present: Mrs. George Taylor, Mrs. Richard Williams, Mrs. Lee Zimmerman, Mrs. Morrison Witter, Mrs. Gilbert Carpenter, Mrs. Raymond Garinger, Mrs. George Armitage, Mrs. Marion Avery, Mrs. Guy Scouten, Mrs. Giles Comstock, Rev. and Mrs. James Hilbert, Miss June Kistler and the hostess.

President Mrs. Raymond Garinger announced that there would be a study group in the music room of her home on Thursday evening with the Ruggles WSCS as guests.

Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction, Saturday, July 10.

F.H.A. Girls Entertain At Leap Year Party

Lehman F.H.A. Girls entertained a number of boys at a theatre party last Friday. They saw "The Voice of the Turtle."

Attending were Betty Ide, Ellen Gibbons, Goldie Ide, Alice Culp, Charlotte Culp, Janet Rice, Albina Paul, Catherine Smith, Joanne Sebolka, Ruth Katchmar, Gladys Anderson, Shirley DeRemer, Lois Ide, Catherine Casper, Jane Brown, Miss Ruth Shelhammer, Miss Julie Bertley, Mrs. Glen Johnson; boys, Bernard Mazar, Jerry Scott, Donald Britt, Kenneth Hunter, Alden Wagner, Arthur Nuss, Burl Updyke, William DeRemer, Fred Murray, Charles Nuss, William Rinker, Dale Keller, Robert Bonning, Arden Hunter, Joe Wyda, John Klanssek, William Walp and Glen Johnson.

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