



Exploring Diversity in Pennsylvania History

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
with THE BALCH
INSTITUTE FOR ETHNIC STUDIES

The Philadelphia Riots of 1844
Reporting Ethnic Violence

Student Handout

From *A Full and Complete Account of the Late Awful Riots in Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: John B. Perry, 1844.



A "Boarder" armed and ready for active service



Fight between the rioters in Kensington

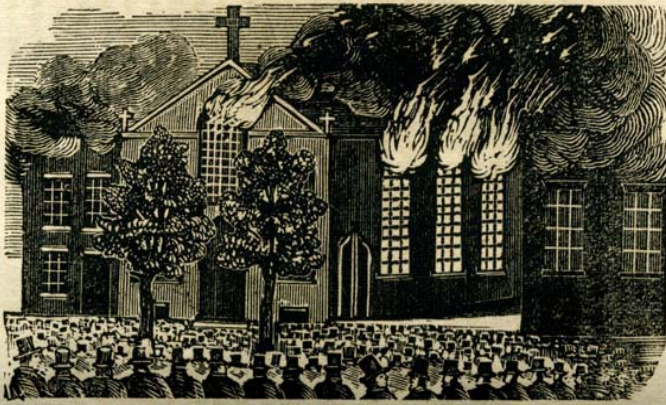


Scene of the conflagration



Rubble from the riots

Burning of St. Michael's Church, on Wednesday afternoon, May 8.



West View, on Second street, with the Residence of the Rev. Mr. Donahue.

Burning of St. Michael's Church

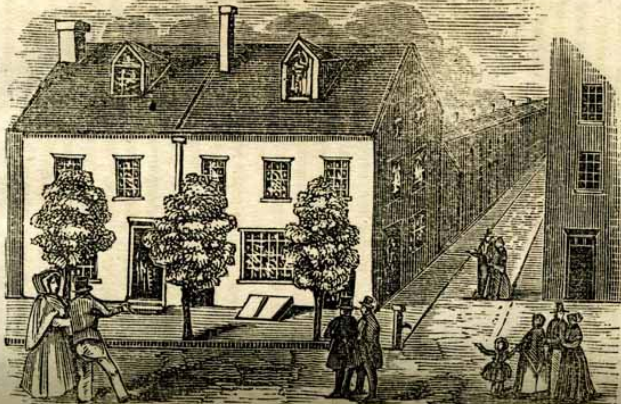
Burning of the Nunnery or School House,



On Wednesday afternoon, May 8.

Burning of the Nunnery or School House

Alderman Hugh and Patrick Clark's Houses,



Which were attacked by the mob on Wednesday afternoon, May 8.

Alderman Hugh and Patrick Clark's Houses



St. Augustine's Church



Detachment of Volunteers and the Boarders attached to the Princeton.

The latter, when in a body, presented a formidable appearance, attracted much attention, and looked like men who intended to use their weapons, should there be occasion for them, and we believe their presence tended to cool the angry spirit of the mob, as much if not more, than all the rest of the armed military and civil posse put together. Each "Boarder" was armed with a brace of pistols, of no mean size, a large knife of the "Bowie" order, some twelve inches in the blade, a cutlass which, when wielded by a powerful and active hand, would cleave a man to the shoulders, and a boarding pike or lance, about eight feet in length; an ugly instrument to deal with, and quite convenient to dig a hole under a fellow's ribs. This fine body of men were under the immediate command of a gallant lieutenant of the Princeton, and several dashing mid-dies, all armed cap-a-pie, who looked and behaved remarkably well, eliciting the admiration of the thousands who witnessed their erect and warlike bearing, as they marched through our streets. Captain Stockton, his officers and crew, deserve the thanks of the community, for their prompt and efficient aid in the hour of need

Detachment of Volunteers and Boarders

Major General Patterson and the First City Troop of Cavalry passing up Chesnut street, on the morning of the 12th.



Patterson and the Cavalry