

THE CENTENNIAL

Of the Formation of the Town Government of Wheeling

To Be Celebrated at Mozart Park on the 23d Inst.—The Plans for a Big Event All Perfected, and the Details Being Carried Out.

A celebration of the centennial anniversary of a meeting, held at the home of Joseph Caldwell, July 23, 1795, to take the initial step to form a town government at this point, will be held, on a large scale, at Mozart Park, a week from next Tuesday, and promises to attract a large number of people to that resort.

At the meeting of first settlers above referred to, John McIntyer, Andrew Woods, Henry Smith, Archibald Woods, James Nelson, Robert Woods, Abraham Martin, and William Waddle, gentlemen, were selected as trustees for the proposed town, which was to be called Wheeling. Lots were accordingly laid off, on lands of Ebenezer Zane, and at the session of the Virginia Legislature, held the following winter, an Act was passed, on Christmas day, 1795, formally constituting the town, with the above trustees, who were empowered to settle all disputes as to the bounds of lots, and purchasers of said lots were "to have and enjoy all the rights, privileges and immunities which the freeholders and inhabitants of other towns in this State, not incorporated, hold and enjoy" as soon as the said lots should have houses built thereon.

That was the formal and lawful beginning of the present city of Wheeling and it is the centenary of the first meeting of the settlers which it is proposed to celebrate on the 23d inst.

It is proposed to open the day with a salute of artillery, ringing of bells, etc.; at midnight on the 23d. The programme at Mozart Park will open at noon, and during the afternoon there will be a mass-meeting there, Mayor Caldwell presiding, at which addresses are to be made by Congressman Dovenor, Hon. John O. Pendleton, Hon. John A. Howard, Dr. C. F. Ulrich, in German, and Hon. G. W. Atkinson. Daylight fire-works upon an elaborate scale will follow, and in the evening there will be a pyrotechnical display of very considerable magnitude. Dancing, bowling, and other amusements will be provided.

The details of the affair are in competent and energetic hands, and many of the arrangements have already been made, ensuring one of the largest times ever seen in this city.