

When Lancaster Was Pennsylvania's Capital

BY GEORGE L. HEIGES

Continued from Vol. LVII, p. 108

In the late fall of 1807 politically-minded Pennsylvanians were looking forward again with anxiety to the approaching session of the State Assembly. It would be the last gathering of the Commonwealth's legislators under the watchful eye of that old patriot, Governor Thomas McKean, who now having had three terms in the chief state office, would not constitutionally be permitted another term. Hence, it was a foregone conclusion that before the session would come to an end, the contenders for the place of governor to succeed McKean would emerge from the maelstrom of state political manoeuvring.

Still without a permanent capital, despite eight years of legislative bickering, Lancaster Borough, temporary seat of government of the Commonwealth, once more became host to the Senators and Representatives of the Assembly. On December 1, 1807, the eighteenth session of that august body was called to order in the Lancaster County courthouse.

Prior to the opening a tally of members showed that the strength of the Democrats was just equal to the combined strength of the Quids and the Federalists. The editor of the *Lancaster Journal* urged that the members-elect be on hand early for the session. Especially was he desirous of seeing the Constitutionalists there on time; and here was the reason. Unfriendly to Simon Snyder, who had been one wanting a new state constitution, Editor Hamilton sincerely hoped to see that gentleman defeated as Speaker of the House. On November 27, he surmised that "If the friends of the constitution attend on Tuesday next, Simon Snyder will *not* be the Speaker." However, one constitutionalist (Paul Appel of Bucks County) did not show up and one other constitutionalist (Samuel Carver of Philadelphia) had died, so the Democrats were able to put their champion, Simon Snyder, in the speaker's chair for another session.

It may be remembered that one item of unfinished business for this session was the impeachment proceeding against Governor McKean. It was therefore a matter which had to be called up. The Democrats pressed the charges and forced a vote on the question, January 22, 1808. By a vote of postponement the impeachment was killed but only by a majority of two.

Governor McKean, impelled by this legislative vindication, then addressed a message to the Assembly on the charges which had been leveled at him. A paragraph will suffice.

"The accusation, though not confirmed by the ultimate vote of the House, has been deliberately framed, has been openly discussed and will pass among the records into the hands of our constituents, and our posterity with all its concomitant semblance of proof and asperity of animadversion. The decision that expresses your renunciation of the impeachment affects me with its justice and its independence.... Having travelled over a wide field of accusations and defense, I shall only add the expression of a sincere wish, to close my political life in peace with all men. It has been my lot, in the tempestuous seasons of civil conflict, to oppose (what I have honestly thought) the innovations of anarchy, as well as the encroachments of tyranny; but I trust that I have never been actuated in any private or public pursuit, by envy or malice, by the love of power, or the desire of wealth."

Judge Yeates Delivers an Off-the-bench Opinion

After the thwarted impeachment proceedings against Governor McKean, the next most important action of the Assembly of 1807-1808 was concerned with attempts to amend the Federal Constitution. One resolution which was lost would have instructed U. S. Senators and Congressmen to use their offices to amend the constitution so that Federal judges would not hold office for more than ten years and could be removable by the President after a majority vote from both Houses of Congress. One day while the debate on the question was underway, Judge Jasper Yeates, Lancastrian and a member of the state Supreme Court, dropped in to a house session and listened to the forensic feast. He then went home and wrote the following letter to his superior, Chief Justice Tilghman of the state court.¹

Lancaster, Jan. 6, 1808

"The House of Representatives have been busily engaged these three days in the proposed amendment to the constitution, making the Judges dependent on the Faction of the Day. Father, Forgive them, they know not what ~~they do~~! The Ball was opened on Monday by the good man, Dr. Leib, who was answered by Mr. Sergeant and Mr. Biddle. The white-livered Boileau belched out his invectives yesterday and was opposed by a sensible young man, Mr. Minor from Luzerne County. This morning Mr. Hare made a speech, which is universally admired for its strength of reasoning and historical knowledge. He was followed by Mr. Leacock [Lacock] who with great adroitness, soon thinned the gallery of hearers. He takes up the thread of his argument to-morrow if he can possibly find it and will be answered by, I don't know whom."²

A Burdened Governor Writes to his Son

GOVERNOR MCKEAN TO THOMAS MCKEAN, JR.

Lancaster, Jan. 6, 1808

...This being Twelfth night, the Gentlemen of the Borough and some of the Legislature have invited us to a Ball. Mr. Thompson and myself intend to go to it, but I shall not stay any time.

Lancaster, Feb. 13, 1808

...Eleven of the Senate and forty-three of the House of Representatives are warmly attached to me; some of the Jacobins appear to wish some

¹ Pennsylvania Historical Society.

² Pennsylvania Historical Society.

notice from me lately but it is impossible they can be forgiven without repentance.

...I improve in health, but slowly; tho I hope to return home a healthy if not a young man, in the beginning of April.

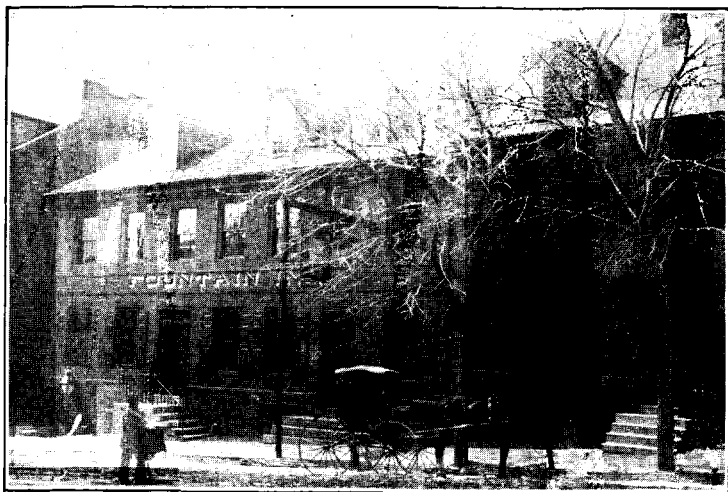
...The Jacobins in the General Assembly appear very sore and desperate. They will be watched and discomfited. I treat them with dignified reserve as becomes my station.³

Lancastrians Observe Washington's Birthday

The birth day of the illustrious Washington, was celebrated in this Borough on Monday last, with many demonstrations of respect. In the evening a splendid ball was given at the house of Henry Reigart which was attended by the most brilliant assembly of ladies we have ever witnessed in Lancaster. His Excellency, the Governor, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and a number of the gentlemen of the Legislature were present.

—*Lancaster Journal*⁴

Feb. 26, 1808



FOUNTAIN INN

The Public House of Henry Reigart on South Queen Street, where many political conferences were held when Lancaster was the State Seat of Government.

Caucuses and Candidates

About one month before Assembly adjourned, political caucuses to decide on candidates for the gubernatorial chair became the order of the day. From those meetings came the names of three men who would contend for the highest civil office in Pennsylvania.

³ Pennsylvania Historical Society.

⁴ The public house of Henry Reigart was situated in the first square of South Queen Street (present Lincoln Hotel). It was known as the Fountain Inn.

On Monday next, will be held in the Borough of Lancaster a grand caucus of Jacobin deputies from every county of the State for the purpose of making a Governor and electors of a President and Vice President of the United States.

—*Lancaster Journal*
March 4, 1808

As to the result of the caucus for Governor there can be no doubt. Duane and Leib and their satellites will have the most trying task of supporting a man who they most heartily despise. Simon the tanner⁵ will be fixed upon without opposition.

—*Lancaster Journal*
March 4, 1808

38 Constitution Members of the Senate and House met in the Senate Chamber and voted to support John Spayd for Governor and James Madison for President and George Clinton for Vice President.

—*Lancaster Journal*
March 14, 1808

James Ross was decided upon as the candidate of the Federalists at a caucus held in Philadelphia. No newcomer in the lists, Ross twice before tried to gain the chair of governor in contests with Thomas McKean. Nothing daunted, he was willing to try again.

John Spayd, candidate of the Quids, definitely a minority group, was a newcomer in state politics. President Judge of the Berks County Courts, he was projected into the political arena by his father-in-law, Joseph Heister, Revolutionary War veteran and former member of Congress and of both houses of the state assembly.

Proving the foregone conclusion of the editor of the *Lancaster Journal*, the Democrats made the only logical choice, Simon Snyder, able Speaker of the House. For years his political star had been rising, and he now shines as the one Democrat with the stature necessary for the office of Governor.

Independence Day 1808

Although the national celebration in Lancaster this year lacked the life in observances of former years, the occasion was not forgotten. "A number of Federalists and Constitutional Republicans dined together at the Fountain Inn of Mr. Henry Reigart."⁶ Governor McKean did not attend but he was honored with this toast: "He has withstood with ability and fortitude the enemies of the people, in their endeavors to destroy the constitution."

Also a number of Republicans celebrated at Graff's Spring. In the chair was Captain Jacob Weaver, a man of 1776, "one of the few surviving patriots who led us to victory and independence." Samuel Humes, another patriot of the Revolution assisted Jacob Weaver in his duties. "The Declaration of Independence was read twice—once in English and once in German."

⁵ Simon Snyder, native of Lancaster, learned the tanning trade in York when he was a young man.

⁶ *Lancaster Journal* July 4, 1808.

Honorable Simon Snyder was highly lauded in the following toast, "Simon Snyder—In the faithful and able discharge of the various public trusts with which he has been intrusted by the people, are the surest pledges that he deserves their further and higher confidence by receiving the unanimous support of all Republicans as the next Governor."⁷

Simon Snyder is Elected Governor

The campaign of 1808 which culminated in the election of Simon Snyder as governor was no tame affair. Accusations flew thick and fast. The Democrats accused James Ross of being dishonest in his personal life, of being an atheist, of being an aristocrat. The Federalists retaliated by attacking Snyder as being one wholly unfit for the office he sought, of being uncouth and ignorant, of being unfair in family matters.

The Lancaster papers were not helpful to Snyder's candidacy. The *Lancaster Journal* was downright bitter while the attitude of the *Intelligencer* was passive.

The *Journal* once printed an appeal addressed to "Members of the Society of Friends, Menonists, Dunkers, Amishers," which told those sectarians that Simon Snyder was in favor of altering the Constitution so "that those who would not take up arms should not have a right to vote."

On another occasion, the *Journal* reiterated former charges to the effect that Simon Snyder was back of the movement to remove the Seat of Government and make Harrisburg the Capital of the State.

A WORD IN TIME TO THE BLIND

Remember that in consequence of the seat of government being here, about sixty thousand dollars are annually thrown into circulation, and that almost every man is either directly or indirectly benefited thereby. Remember that if Simon Snyder is elected Governor, the seat of government will be removed. Citizens of the Borough, are you prepared to suffer so great a loss merely to serve a few office-hunters?

—*Lancaster Journal*

Aug. 12, 1808

The real enemies of the mechanics and laboring men in the Borough of Lancaster are the Snyderites who are seeking the destruction of the borough by supporting a man for governor who will exert every nerve to remove the seat of government.

—*Lancaster Journal*

Aug. 19, 1808

October 11 was election day and a greater number of Pennsylvania voters went to the polls on that day than on any previous similar occasion. More than one hundred and eleven thousand votes were cast. Simon Snyder won by a plurality of 28,400, but in Lancaster County, the county of his birth, he lost by 491 votes. Following is the official tally of the election.

Simon Snyder, Democrats	67,975
James Ross, Federalist	39,575
John Spayd, Federalist	4,006
Scattering	8

⁷ Lancaster Journal July 4, 1808.



SIMON SNYDER

Governor of Pennsylvania, December 20, 1808, to December 16, 1817. Born in Lancaster, November 5, 1759. Died at Selinsgrove, November 9, 1819.

Photo by Courtesy Penna. State Dept. of Commerce, Harrisburg.
Painted by James R. Lambdin, after the original by Thomas Sully.

Governor-elect Refuses Escort to Lancaster

Despite the lofty political ambitions of Hon. Simon Snyder, he was nevertheless a man of simple living. Moreover, he was determined to continue such a pattern of life even after he was Governor. Suggestions that he be met by a military escort on his approach to Lancaster for his inauguration brought from him definite refusals.

SIMON SNYDER TO NATHANIEL BOILEAU

Selins Grove

Oct. 3, 1808

I am aware that the success of a clodhopper Administration will very much depend on the choice of men to office...I have already received applications but have strictly adhered to my resolution not to settle any thing definitely before I come to Lancaster when I can have the advice of those in whom I have confidence. ...I have a letter from our mutual friend, Mr. Findlay, in which he suggests the propriety of my being met some distance from Lancaster by himself and other friends and thence to escort me to town. An offer from a troop of horse to escort me from here to Lancaster was not accepted because I hate and despise all ostentation pomp and parade as anti-democratic. My habits of life—the circle I have moved in unfit me for such an exhibition. I should feel extremely awkward, nay, in pain during such a cavalcade. As a similar offer made by my neighbors was not accepted, I hope I may not be forced into inconsistency through the zeal of my Lancaster friends to do me honor. I wish you to make this known to Mr. Findlay.⁸

SIMON SNYDER TO ELIZABETHTOWN FRIENDS

Selins Grove

Nov. 16, 1808

Accept for yourselves and for those at whose instance you offer me the honor of an escort, my sincere acknowledgement. Of the goodness of your intentions, I am perfectly sensible; but the principles which ever have and I trust ever will govern my conduct, forbid my acceptance.

I think it of primary importance that our actions as republicans should comport to our professions. Pomp and ostentation, with the formal adulation of congratulatory addresses, have ever been my aversion. I never countenanced them, because it required a sacrifice of feeling which I could not make; and because in my opinion, the practice is discordant with the genuine spirit of democracy.

It is a tribute of homage ostensibly intended for the office to which the individual is temporarily raised by the people, but which is often transferred from the office to the man. I lament that these experiences of monarchy were ever adopted by us and it will be a matter of high gratification if, with my induction to office, they should be discarded.

SIMON SNYDER TO FELLOW CITIZENS

Selins Grove

Nov. 23, 1808

Permit me to come to Lancaster as formerly and give me the opportunity to prove the incorrectness of the old and weighty remark that a "change of fortune always produces a change of manners—that no man was bettered by elevation."⁹

⁸ William Findlay, State Treasurer. He succeeded Simon Snyder as Governor, serving 1817-1820. Letter is at the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

⁹ Lancaster Journal.

Therefore, without any pomp or ceremony, Governor-elect Simon Snyder came to Lancaster. The only reference to his arrival is found in this terse statement in the *Lancaster Journal* on December 17. "This day arrived at the imperial city of Lancaster, Hon. Simon Snyder and took quarters at the Red Bull." Known by this name, and also as "The Sign of the Bull," it was the hostelry kept by Leonard Eichholtz.¹⁰

Governor McKean Addresses Assembly Last Time

Immediately after the convening of the 1808-1809 session of the Assembly, Governor McKean informed the two houses that the gentlemen recently elected as electors were at the Seat of Government ready to perform the duties of electors of President and Vice President of the United States. Two of the electors being absent, the joint Houses filled the vacancies. The venerable Charles Thomson, now seventy-nine, again headed the list of electors as in 1804. Without elaborating on the meeting of the electors, the newspapers of the day simply stated that they met in Lancaster and gave a unanimous vote to James Madison for President and George Clinton for Vice President.

As Governor McKean appeared before the members of the two Houses on December 8 to give them his last address, he was fully cognizant of the tenseness of the relations between the United States and Great Britain. War seemed inevitable and McKean was animated by the thought that "he could again unite with his countrymen in the mutual pledge of our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to support the declaration that these United States are and of right ought to be free and independent."

He called attention to a certain legislative pledge which remained unsatisfied—the erection of a monument at Lancaster over the grave of the late Governor Thomas Mifflin. Up to this time the two Houses had never cooperated on appropriating money for the monument. McKean also called attention to the grave of another Pennsylvanian which was altogether neglected. He said "the gallant Wayne lies buried in a distant grave without a single trophy to mark the spot."¹¹

It was only in closing his address that Thomas McKean gave vent to his innermost feelings.

Gentlemen of the Senate

and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives

In my last personal communication to the Legislature, probably the last important act of my life, I shall be indulged, I hope, in claiming some credit for feelings corresponding with the solemnity of the occasion. It has been my lot to witness the progress of our country, from a colonial to a national character, through the ordeals of many trials in peace and in war. It has been my happiness to enjoy the favor and the confidence of

¹⁰ The public house of Leonard Eichholtz was on the southeast corner of East King and Christian streets.

¹¹ The grave of Anthony Wayne at the blockhouse in Erie, Pennsylvania, was neglected from the time of his death in 1796 until 1809 when his son drove to Erie in a two-wheeled cart and took the bones of his father back to the ancestral burying ground at St. David's Church, Delaware County.

our country, in the most arduous, as well as the most auspicious stages of her political career. Thus attached by every tie of honor and of gratitude, by all the motives of social interest and affection, I contemplate the future destinies of our country with a proud but an anxious expectation. My day of exertion (of feeble exertion at the best) is past; but for our fellow-citizens and for their representatives in every department of the government, I can only implore the blessing of Providence, when I cease to exist.

Thomas McKean

Lancaster, December 8th, 1808

Simon Snyder Inducted As Governor

In the presence of the assembled Senators and Representatives in the House Chamber at Lancaster on November 20, 1808, Simon Snyder was administered the requisite oaths by the Speaker of the Senate, following which he delivered a very short inaugural address. In closing he said, "It only remains to assure you that I enter upon the duties of Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth with purity of motive and intention, and an unalterable determination to devote every faculty of my mind to the promotion of the freedom, honor and happiness of our country."

Location of Seat of Government Left Undecided

In both houses of the Assembly the question of settling the location of the state capital was given attention but in the end was again postponed. In the House, interest centered about the town of Northumberland. Petitions from several groups gave reasons why Northumberland should be selected as the seat of government. This led to the creation of a committee which brought in a report on January 20 setting forth the following:

"The contracted situation of the house now occupied by the Legislature; the dispersed situation of the public offices, their incompetency to secure the records and treasure of the commonwealth...call for the immediate interposition of this Legislature, that a permanent seat of government may be fixed, and suitable buildings erected, to afford social comfort to the citizen legislating, and perfect security to the treasures of the state.... On a view of the state map, the eye is at once drawn to the river Susquehanna as the proper water on which to fix a seat of government....The two principal branches of the Susquehanna...form a junction at Northumberland, a place nearer our geographical center than any one yet thought of for our seat of government.

"Resolved that a committee be appointed to bring in a bill to fix the permanent seat of government for this state at the town on Northumberland in the county of Northumberland."

The report sounded good for Northumberland, but the House voted to postpone action. Petitions from residents of the towns of Middletown, Sunbury, and Bellefonte received only readings and were then "laid on the table."

In the Senate, Harrisburg was looked upon with most favor, but the legislators were not ready with their votes to make the final decision. During the discussions, one new location was suggested as a site for a capitol. The suggestion came from two Lancaster county men—William

B. Galbraith and James Galbraith. They dispatched a letter to the Senate offering to the State Government, free of expense, forty-five acres of ground, the same being part of their farm "elegantly and eligibly situated on the Bank of the river Susquehanna, 18 miles from Lancaster, 10 miles above Columbia, 18 below Harrisburg and 8 miles from the borough of York." They also offered "to furnish a considerable sum of money, for the erection of fireproof buildings for the safe-keeping of the public records."¹²

From the Commissioners of Dauphin County came a proposal that offered the courthouse of Dauphin County with four large rooms attached for the use of the Legislature until suitable buildings would be erected. William Maclay in connection with the proposal offered to lay out one hundred lots of ground if necessary, adjoining Harrisburg.

Accordingly a resolution embodying the provisions of the proposal was passed. It included a clause that ten acres of land at \$100 an acre would be purchased from Maclay. When Maclay learned of this, he offered to convey to the State the ten acres *gratis*.

By the time the bill came up for a second reading, the residents of Harrisburg had received information that the inhabitants of Lancaster had made a new offer of eight acres of land and \$40,000 to induce the legislators to remain at Lancaster and make it the capital. This prompted the Harrisburg people to draft a new letter to the Senate, setting forth anew the advantages of Harrisburg. On March 2, 1809, the day of the second reading, a motion was made and passed "to postpone further consideration of the said Bill and recommend it to the special attention of the next Legislature." The *Lancaster Journal* commented that "This business is now at rest for this winter, notwithstanding all the exertions of the patriotic and disinterested citizens of Frogtown [Harrisburg]."

President Madison's Inauguration Marked in Lancaster

Upwards of sixty persons, consisting of members of the Legislature and citizens of Lancaster, celebrated the inauguration of James Madison as President on March 4, 1809, by supping together at Mr. Whiteside's tavern. Present as special guests were Governor Snyder with his Secretary of the Commonwealth, Nathaniel Boileau. The Speaker of the Senate, Presley Carr Lane, was in the chair, with Speaker of the House, James Engle, acting as vice-president.

Assembly Passes Bill to Build Bridge at Columbia

Of much interest to all of Lancaster County was the bill signed by Governor Snyder on March 28, 1809, which was an act "to authorize the Governor to incorporate a company, for the purpose of making and erecting a bridge over the river Susquehanna in the county of Lancaster, at or near the town of Columbia."

¹² The Galbraith farm was in Conoy Township.

The advantages to be derived from a bridge over the Susquehanna are so evident as to be perceived at the first glance....There needs no reasoning to show the importance of such a bridge....First thought, one feels surprised that the public attention has been so long withheld from it. ...Incredible as it may seem, there are men now living who remember the time when the first waggon was ferried over the Susquehanna at Columbia; a time when there was not a boat adequate to the service and a few boards laid across two canoes, placed side by side was from necessity substituted for this purpose; and in the short space of the life of a man it has become one of the most important ferries within the United States.¹³

—*Lancaster Journal*

Aug. 15, 1809

Andrew Ellicott is Removed by Governor Snyder

In the years since 1802 Andrew Ellicott, Secretary of the Land Office, had not only been an efficient public servant, but he had come to be recognized as a great astronomer. Moreover, by busying himself in the religious, educational and civic life of Lancaster, he had become a useful citizen. But Governor Simon Snyder did not like him, and to ease the tension, Ellicott decided to resign his office. His friends advised him to wait and force the governor to remove him. Thus, it was no surprise when the governor asked Mr. Ellicott to step aside and be succeeded by John Cochran, an associate judge of Erie County.

Wounded and broken temporarily, Ellicott wrote an open letter to Governor Snyder, from his home on North Prince Street in Lancaster, as follows:

"I presume that I have been guilty of the same crime for which you have already dismissed some of the best officers in this commonwealth. That crime was, in not taking an active part in favor of your election. But, sir, I have always done you equal justice with the other candidates and when the defects of your education, of your literacy and other acquirements were called into question, I have shewn your letters filed in the land-office to rebut as far as I was able, that argument."

"We in Pennsylvania have had philosophers of great name. These are Franklin and Rittenhouse. We have but one other living astronomer. That is Andrew Ellicott, late secretary of the land office of Pennsylvania. This honorable and virtuous citizen is dismissed from office, not for the sin of heterodoxy; nor deviating from true Whiggism, but merely because he did not support the election of a stupid, unlearned and fatuitous governor, who had neither the happiness, welfare nor the honour of his country at heart....There is one consolation which the lovers of science have in store—the name of Ellicott will go down to posterity, ornamented by science, when those of his unlearned and black-hearted persecutors will be sunk in oblivion."

Communication in

Lancaster Journal

Sept. 26, 1809

¹³ The first bridge spanning the Susquehanna at Columbia was built in 1814.

Spring and Summer 1809

It is now about two weeks since his majesty Solomon the first left Lancaster for his palace at Que in Northumberland....We did not deem it of consequence to mention his departure, because his ministers here being enabled to do as well without him, as with him, there could be no interregnum.¹⁴

—*Lancaster Journal*
May 26, 1809

A number of Republicans met at Mr. Reichenbach's Spring on the west bank of the Conestoga, to express and intermingle their gratitude and joy on this day [July 4] of Jubilee for Freemen. The Governor of the Commonwealth was among the guests. Samuel Humes and Isaac Ferree were selected to preside. One hundred and eighty sat down to an excellent collation.

At an early hour in the evening the company returned to Lancaster in procession, with laurel in their hats, marched through the principal streets of the town (saluting the Governor as they passed) and after a discharge from their cannon and repeated huzzahs, separated.

—*Lancaster Intelligencer*
July 11, 1809

Believing that the continuance of the Seat of Government at Lancaster would be of immense importance to the county generally, and that the erection of suitable buildings and the enlargement of the Statehouse would induce the Legislature to remain here for many years, if not permanently; we would recommend that a commissioner be fixed on and supported, who is favorable to that measure.

—*Lancaster Intelligencer*
August 5, 1809

The August Grand Jury recommended to the County Commissioners that an appropriation of 500 dollars be made for the purpose of enlarging the courthouse for the Legislature.

A few days ago an Italian musician of the first eminence and of genteel deportment, with an excellent band, composed of his own family, arrived in Lancaster. Hearing that 'his excellency' the governor of the commonwealth resided here, and supposing that the chief magistrate of Pennsylvania was a man of taste, he most respectfully determined on paying to 'his excellency' the civility of a serenade.

It was in the early part of a fine, still evening, while the governor and his family were sitting in the hall of 'the palace' that Signor Carusi and his three sons halted before the door and swelled the glowing breeze with the sweetest notes of Italian composition. Such superior music was indeed a novelty in Lancaster, and its dulcet reverberations delighted the ears of the wondering populace.... Its effects upon 'his excellency' and his family must have been truly astonishing. In an instant the little candle that glimmered on the casement was extinguished; and it seems that the avenue to every sense but that of hearing, was completely closed. To have offered the interesting performers a seat in the hall...or in short, to have offered them any thing whatever, might have made a momentary chasm in the delightful enjoyment.

—*Lancaster Journal*
August 8, 1809

¹⁴ The Isle of Que is an island in the Susquehanna opposite Selinsgrove, home of Governor Snyder.

Your account of the Serenade contains nothing wonderful....Any person, who can prove that Simon Snyder...in all his life, gave five dollars voluntarily to charitable uses, will be justly entitled to a leathern medal.

A Communication

—*Lancaster Journal*

August 22, 1809

Mr. Carusi will, this evening, if the weather permits, perform some of his best Italian tunes in the steeple of the Lutheran church.

—*Lancaster Journal*

August 22, 1809

The citizens of this Borough, who wish the Seat of Government to remain in Lancaster, are invited to meet at the Courthouse this afternoon precisely at 5 o'clock, to consider and adopt the best plan of altering the building for the better accomodation of the Legislature.

—*Lancaster Intelligencer*

October 3, 1809

The citizens of Lancaster, since last session, have expended eleven hundred dollars in improving the state-house; and they have subscribed nearly seven thousand dollars for the erection of fire proof buildings.

—*Lancaster Journal*

Jan. 27, 1810

Harrisburg is Selected to be State Capital

Carried over to the Assembly session which convened on December 5, 1809, as a piece of unfinished business was the matter of selecting a permanent Seat of Government for the Commonwealth. By this time there was no longer any serious doubt that Harrisburg would be the fortunate town, and looking to that ultimate decision, a bill was introduced in the Senate "establishing the seat of government of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania at Harrisburgh, in the county of Dauphin."

Again efforts were made in the Senate to stem the tide of preference for Harrisburg but to no avail. A move to substitute Northumberland for Harrisburg lost 9 to 23. Philadelphia was proposed and lost 12 to 19. Reading, too, failed 9 to 22 and Carlisle 6 to 25. Columbia in Lancaster County was proposed and it failed to come through 7 to 24. Finally a motion to substitute Lancaster for Harrisburg lost 9 to 20. The Senate passed the bill as it was introduced and it went to the House where minor amendments were added and further attempts made to swerve the opinions of house members in favor of other locations. In turn, they voted down Northumberland, Bellefonte, Columbia, Reading and lastly Lancaster, the latter by a vote of 36 to 55. The bill went back to the Senate for concurrence and passage and finally to Governor Snyder for his signature. By his signature the bill became an act as of February 21, 1810.

The act provided that Harrisburg would become the seat of government in the month of October 1812 and carried an appropriation of \$30,000

with which to erect offices. Robert Harris, George Hoyer and George Ziegler were appointed commissioners to supervise the removal of the books, records, papers and other documents from Lancaster to Harrisburg.¹⁵

During the greater part of the week there has been no government at Lancaster; Boileau, it is said, was somewhere in town; but whether asleep among the benches in the court house — or cooped up in some sly corner, is not known.

But this much we know: that Simon Snyder, governor of the commonwealth, William Findlay, treasurer, George Bryan, Auditor-General, Andrew Porter, Surveyor-General; all left Lancaster on Monday last for the renowned city of Frogtown, vulgarly called Harrisburg, for the avowed purpose of *fixing* the seat of government. They did not return until Thursday evening. In the meantime people from various parts of the state were waiting in Lancaster to get their business done in the offices.

...The governor and heads of departments have to account to a much injured public for their desertion of public duty...They had no business in Harrisburg...The law says that "the site shall be fixed by three commissioners who shall cause a plan or plans of the buildings to be drawn.

—*Lancaster Journal*

March 31, 1810

Governor Snyder's Wife and Secretary Trimble's Wife Depart This Life

Died in this borough on Tuesday evening last in the 53rd year of her age, Mrs. Clarissa Sidney Trimble, wife of James Trimble, Esq. deputy-secretary of this commonwealth.

—*Lancaster Journal*

February 10, 1810

Died in this borough, on Thursday morning, Mrs. Snyder, wife of the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Her remains are to be interred in the cemetery of the German Reformed Church. The funeral is to take place at 2 o'clock this day. The speakers and members of both houses are to attend. Mrs. Snyder, we are told, was about 33 years of age and was the daughter of Mr. Frederick Antes of Northumberland. She was the second wife of Mr. Snyder. His first wife was Elizabeth Michael, daughter of Mr. Everhard Michael, formerly of this borough. Mr. Snyder is about 50 years of age.¹⁶

—*Lancaster Journal*

March 16, 1810

¹⁵ The Dauphin County courthouse became known as the State House for it was there that the Assembly met. In 1816 the State sold Independence Hall to the city of Philadelphia for \$70,000 which helped to erect the State Capitol at Harrisburg in 1822 for \$135,000, and which served the state until fire destroyed it in 1897. See "Pennsylvania's State Houses" by Hubertis Cummings, "Pennsylvania History," October, 1953.

¹⁶ Governor Snyder was married three times. His first wife was Elizabeth Michael of Lancaster. His second wife was Catherine Antes, daughter of Col. Frederick Antes of Northumberland. His third wife was Mary Slough Scott, a widow and daughter of Col. Matthias Slough of Lancaster. By his first marriage, he had two children and by his second marriage, five children. His third wife, Mary, outlived him, dying in 1823, while Simon Snyder died in 1819.

Alexander Wilson Visits Lancaster

Enroute from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, the celebrated ornithologist Alexander Wilson paused in Lancaster, and in an effort to get subscribers for his monumental work on birds, visited Governor Snyder and some of the principal officers of government. Among the subscribers were the Governor, Robert Coleman, William Hamilton, Adam Reigart, Charles Smith, Jasper Yeates, Nathaniel Boileau and the State of Pennsylvania for their library.

The facts of Wilson's stop in Lancaster was recorded in a letter dated Pittsburgh, February 22, 1810, which he wrote to his friend and former instructor, Alexander Lawson.

"From this first stage of my ornithological pilgrimage, I sit down, with pleasure, to give you some account of my adventures since we parted. On arriving at Lancaster, I waited on the governor, secretary of state, and such other great folks as were likely to be useful to me. The governor received me with civility, passed some good-natured compliments on the volumes, and readily added his name to my list. He seems a man of plain good sense and little ceremony.

"By Mr. L. I was introduced to many members of both houses but I found them, in general, such a pitiful, squabbling, political mob, so split up, and jostling about the mere formalities of legislation, without knowing anything of its realities, that I abandoned them in disgust. I must, however, except from this censure a few intelligent individuals, friends of science, and possessed of taste, who treated me with great kindness."¹⁷

Governor Snyder Sits for a Portrait

On April 1, 1810, the Governor went to the studio of Jacob Eichholtz, Lancaster's most famous portrait painter of all time, to have his portrait painted. The results of the sitting, that is the picture, has been lost or perhaps destroyed, and the only evidence to show that the portrait was actually painted is from an entry in the day book of Jacob Eichholtz.

April 1, 1810

To Simon Snyder	£	s	d
To painting a portrait	3	— 15	
Frame	7	— 6	
To repairing the above and varnishing	1	— 2	— 6 ¹⁸

Anniversary of National Independence 1810

More than 100 Republican citizens assembled at Hershey's Spring, on the bank of Conestoga, to congratulate each other, and to inter-mingle their sentiments and feelings, for the invaluable blessings procured and established for our happy country, by the virtue and patriotism of 1776.

The Governor of the Commonwealth was accompanied to the spring by a committee of citizens. ... Joseph Lefevre was called to preside, assisted by William Bausman.

The Governor was toasted, 'May true Republican simplicity continue to characterize his administration.'

¹⁷ L.C.H.S. vol. 28, p. 123, "Alexander Wilson" by W. F. Worner.

¹⁸ Eichholtz Day Book, Pennsylvania Historical Society, p. 39.

After reading the Declaration of Independence, the company at an early hour returned to town (preceded by the martial drum and fife) in procession, each person having a green bough in his hat; and when arrived at the governor's house, gave him 3 cheers and separated.

—*Lancaster Intelligencer*

July 7, 1810

Lancaster Loses Interest in State Government

Following the decision of the assembly to establish the state capitol at Harrisburg, the newspapers of Lancaster Borough apparently lost all interest in the movements of the Governor and the officers of government. Even politics is given little space in the Lancaster papers of 1810 and 1811. Therefore there is not much news about the state government to be gleaned from the public print for those years.

On December 1810, the Legislature convened and heard an excellent message from Governor Snyder. In it, he reminded the assemblymen that "in the constitution of Pennsylvania there is no injunction more commanding than that the Legislature shall provide for schools that the poor shall be taught gratis." Further, he pointed out to them that "Nearly twenty years of repose and prosperity have been enjoyed under that constitution, yet not one school has been established." These words did not fall on entirely deaf ears for a committee actually brought in a plan of public education which provided that the counties would be arranged into small communities and the schools in each community be superintended by "a few respectable householders, expenses to be defrayed by the county." However, the plan was not adopted by the Legislature.

Caucus At Lancaster Favors Snyder for Second Term

No sooner had the legislators arrived in Lancaster for the 1810 session of Assembly than the principal subject of conversation was the approaching gubernatorial election, still however nine months away. The enemies of Governor Snyder were showing an inclination to support Chief Justice Tilghman for the office but seriously there appeared to be only one likely aspirant for the place and that was the governor himself. The following newspaper items describe the caucus which nominated Simon Snyder for a second term as governor of Pennsylvania.

Republican members of Legislature met at John Bausman's inn in Lancaster on December 17, 1810, to make arrangements for nomination of a candidate for Governor. Presley C. Lane was called to the chair and John Weber, Esq., was appointed secretary.

It was decided to call a convention of Republican members of Legislature and other representatives from counties who do not have members of Legislature on Monday, Feb. 3, 1811, in Lancaster.

—*Lancaster Intelligencer*

January 11, 1811

The editor of the *Lancaster Intelligencer* did not approve of this method of selecting candidates. He was of the opinion that "people should take this important business into their own hands and select delegates for the purpose."

On Monday last at a grand caucus of democratic members of the legislature, to which were added about fifteen delegates from various parts of the state, Presley Carr Lane in the chair and John Weber, Esq., secretary, Simon Snyder was fixed upon as the proper candidate.

The delegates might have saved themselves the trouble of coming to Lancaster, for the Snyderite members had previously fixed the business.

—*Lancaster Journal*

Feb. 27, 1811

John Burnside, State Printer Dies

Died in this borough on Monday last in the 31st year of his age, Mr. John Burnside, printer of the bills of the house of representatives.

—*Lancaster Intelligencer*

Feb. 15, 1811

A Disastrous Fire In Lancaster

According to the history of the Union Fire Company, the second great fire in the history of the town occurred in March 1811. Before the fire was halted, almost half of the buildings on the west side of the second square of North Queen Street were in ruins, with a loss estimated at upwards of \$16,000. One of the buildings destroyed was the home, book store and printing office of William Dickson, editor of the *Intelligencer*. The rival paper, the *Journal* in writing of the fire made no mention of the misfortune to the *Intelligencer*.¹⁹

About midnight on Friday last the citizens of the borough were alarmed by the cry of fire. It broke out in a back building of Mr. Philip Klein on North Queen Street and before the progress of the fire could be stopped, four dwelling houses, a blacksmith's shop, a barn and other buildings were burned. . . . The sorry condition of some of the engines did no credit to the borough; nor was the spirit and activity of many of the citizens so conspicuous as we have seen it on former occasions.

The gentlemen of the legislature generally exerted themselves with a zeal that did them honour, and justly entitles them to the gratitude of the inhabitants of Lancaster.

—*Lancaster Intelligencer*

March 8, 1811

The derangement of our Printing Materials prevents the appearance of the *Intelligencer* this week; but we hope it will be regularly published thereafter. The Sheriff has furnished a room for the printing office; and Martin Shreiner, Clock and Watchmaker, has given us part of his house for our family and bookstore a few doors north of the old stand and the 2nd door above the [State] Treasury.

—*Lancaster Intelligencer*

March 16, 1811

Several democratic prints have circulated a story that Governor Snyder subscribed five hundred dollars toward the relief of the sufferers by the late fire. As to the benevolence of Mr. Snyder, we cannot speak; because we have never seen, felt, nor understood anything on the subject, except that he gave a dinner last winter for the first time to some of his friends.

But, one thing, we are assured of. Governor Snyder has not yet contributed one single cent for the sufferers by the late fire. Some of the collecting committee called two or three times at his lodgings; but he was

¹⁹ See History of Union Fire Company.

NORTH MARKET STREET

STABLE OF PHILIP KLEIN

HOME and BLACKSMITH SHOP
of PHILIP KLEIN

TAVERN HOUSE of JOHN HATZ
OCCUPIED by GEO. KONIG

INTELLIGENCER SHOP,
BOOKSTORE and HOME of
WILLIAM DICKSON

HOME of PETER SHINDLE
and ISAAC BENDER, BAKER

NORTH QUEEN STREET

WEST ORANGE STREET

Diagram Showing Location of Fire of 1811

not at home. Although he seldom goes out, he was very unfortunately not at home every time the committee called.

The following gentlemen have subscribed and paid the sums respectively attached to their names, viz.

Robert Coleman—150 dollars

William Montgomery—100 dollars

John Hubley—100 dollars

James Hopkins—100 dollars

Adam Reigart, junior—100 dollars

William Kirkpatrick—100 dollars

Christopher Mayer—100 dollars

—*Lancaster Journal*

April 12, 1811

Legislature Cancels Claim Against Lancaster County

Dating back to the year 1786, there was a claim for arrears in taxes against the County of Lancaster which amounted to the sum of \$12,018.34. Finally on April 2, 1811, Governor Snyder signed an act of Legislature which relinquished this claim of the State against Lancaster County.

The origin of the debt is interesting, and involves William Henry, the famous Lancaster gunsmith, as well as holder of important state offices. He was Armourer in the Braddock Expedition, member of the Pennsylvania Assembly and member of Congress. From 1777 to the year of his death, 1786, he was Treasurer of the County and it appears that in his last years he became confused in his accounts which resulted in the Commonwealth entering a claim against his estate in the amount as specified. One explanation states that "At the time of his death the State owed him a large amount, and the difference in value of Federal and State money made it very difficult to adjust the accounts."²⁰

One of the sons of William and Ann Henry was John Joseph Henry, who from 1793 to his death in 1811 was Judge of the Second Judicial District composed of the counties of Chester, Lancaster, York and Dauphin. It seems that during his lifetime he paid to the state out of his own pocket the sum of \$1600 to in some degree satisfy the claim of the Commonwealth against his father's estate.

In 1811 almost at the closing of the next to the last meeting of Legislature in Lancaster courthouse, and realizing that the county had been host to the state government since 1799 and had used the courthouse rent free, they speedily acted to remove this charge against the county and against the estate of William Henry.

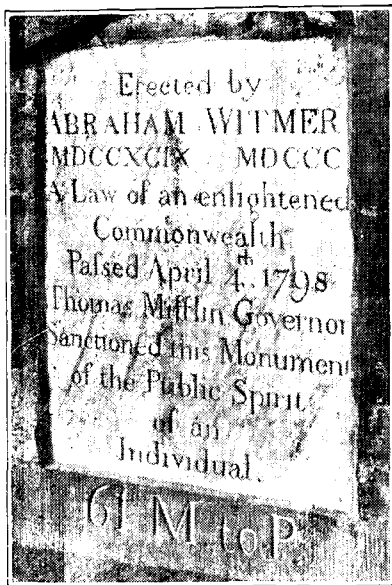
The text of the act follows:

"Whereas it appears that there is due to the Commonwealth from the estate of William Henry, deceased, formerly treasurer of Lancaster County, the sum of \$12,418.34, being part of the arrears of State taxes due from the county of Lancaster; and whereas it appears that the county of Lancaster has incurred some expense and inconvenience, in furnishing the

²⁰ L.C.H.S. vol. 3, "Ann Henry" by George Steinman, Esq.; vol. 54, "William Henry" by Herbert H. Beck; vol. 6, "John Joseph Henry" by F. R. Diffenderffer.

Legislature with a Statehouse and other accomodations for a number of years past, Therefore

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania...that, as soon as the commissioners of the county of Lancaster shall have paid unto John Joseph Henry, the sum of 1600 dollars; then the claim of the Commonwealth to the sum of 12,418.34 due from the estate of William Henry, deceased, shall be relinquished to the Commissioners of the county of Lancaster, for the purpose of purchasing and making free, the bridge built by Abraham Witmer over the Conestoga Creek, in the same county."



MARKER ON ABRAHAM WITMER'S BRIDGE

Opened for Traffic in November 1800, it spanned the Conestoga at the eastern end of Lancaster. It was purchased by the Lancaster County Commissioners in 1827.

Without a doubt, the Legislature was moved to put this bill through because the Lancaster County commissioners at no time during the years when Lancaster was the seat of government, asked for any remuneration whatever for the use of the courthouse. Further, it was an adroit way to end the litigation over the arrears of taxes dating back twenty-five years. Also, it provided the Lancaster commissioners with some ready cash to help in the purchase of Witmer's Bridge.

A communication signed "Public Good" in the *Lancaster Journal* suggested that "with some of the money which the county would get a cistern to hold 100 hogsheads of water be completed in the public square." His opinion was that "the extent of the roof on the courthouse would be sufficient to keep the cistern filled on two or three heavy rains." However,

the money received from the state did not suffice to purchase the fine stone bridge built by Abraham Witmer in 1798. It cost the commissioners exactly \$26,000 to buy the bridge in 1827.²¹

Two weeks after the Governor signed the bill which brought an end to the litigation between the estate of William Henry and the Commonwealth, Judge John Joseph Henry, son of William, passed from this life.

The resignation of John Joseph Henry of his office of President of the Courts of Common Pleas in and for the counties of York and Lancaster and Dauphin, being the second district, was received and this day accepted by the Governor.

—From the *Daily Journal*
of Governor Snyder
Jan. 14, 1811

DIED

On Monday last in this borough, in the 53rd year of his age John Joseph Henry, Esq., late president of the 2nd judicial district of Pennsylvania.

—*Lancaster Journal*
Friday April 19, 1811

State Telescope Taken from Andrew Ellicott

Still living in Lancaster in 1811 was Andrew Ellicott, esteemed as a citizen and famous as an astronomer and who until removed by Governor Snyder was Secretary of the Land Office. If any further gesture was needed to show Ellicott how much in disfavor he was with the Snyder administration, it was provided by a legislative resolution signed by the Governor on February 6, 1811, "Authorizing the Secretary of the Commonwealth to demand and receive from Andrew Ellicott the telescope and apparatus belonging thereto the property of the Commonwealth."

In April 1811 Andrew Ellicott was appointed to settle the long-contested boundary between Georgia and North Carolina. The *Lancaster Journal* in reporting this assignment stated that "Mr. Ellicott has been more extensively concerned in the scientific determination of state and national boundaries than any person who ever lived."

Ellicott removed from Lancaster with his family in 1813 to become Professor of Mathematics at West Point Military Academy.

The Fourth of July 1811

The 35th anniversary of this joyful day was celebrated with much spirit by the Republicans of Lancaster. The morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells, and the newly organized corps The Lancaster Phalanx paraded in honor of the day.

At 2 o'clock, more than 120 Republicans assembled at Hershey's Spring. The Governor of the Commonwealth who attended by invitation was conducted to the spring by a committee selected for the purpose. ... After spending a few hours in the most pleasing recollections of the event of our Independence, the company at 5 o'clock, in consequence of the unusual warmth of weather and dustiness of the road, separated without marching into town, as has been usual.

—*Lancaster Intelligencer*
July 6, 1811

²¹ L.C.H.S. vol. 20, "Abraham Witmer's Bridge" by Judge C. I. Landis.

Simon Snyder Reelected Without Opposition

Not since the elections of 1790 and 1796 when Thomas Mifflin was elected for his first and third terms as Governor did any candidate for that office win the prize with as little opposition as that which attended Simon Snyder's second election. Also, never in the long history of Pennsylvania from 1811 to the present did any elected governor of the Commonwealth receive such a large proportion of the total votes cast. The election of 1811 was marked by disinterest. Slightly more than one-half as many Pennsylvanians voted as in 1808. Then James Ross waged a hard campaign against Snyder for the chair of governor, and 111,564 persons voted. In 1811 the records indicate a total of only 57,593.

The actual results of the election for governor of Pennsylvania in 1811 were:

Simon Snyder, DEMOCRAT	52,319
William Tilgham, FEDERALIST	3,609
Scattering	1,675

The second inauguration of Simon Snyder as governor took place, as did his first inauguration, in the Lancaster courthouse — known to state officials as the State House — on December 17, 1811. To be more exact, it was in the Chamber of the House of Representatives which occupied the first floor of the building. There "seated in the front of the Speakers the oaths required by the Constitution and laws to qualify him to perform the duties and Office of Governor were administered in due form by the Speaker of the Senate."

Governor Snyder then addressed both houses of the Legislature. It was a five-minute address which began with these words:

"Fellow-citizens:

"Three years have this day elapsed, since in this house, surrounded as I now am by the Representatives of the people of Pennsylvania, I solemnly swore to devote all the energies of my mind, to the promotion of their happiness.

"I have a well-grounded reason, to believe, that my zealous efforts have not been unsuccessful; because they have received the approbation of a free and enlightened community. My re-election and the circumstances attending it, fill my heart with gratitude, and produce a more perfect, and entire devotion if possible of all my faculties to the service of the people, who have thus honourably distinguished me."

Following the address, the Governor retired, and attended by a joint committee, and the officers of the government, went in procession to his house.

For his second term, Governor Snyder reappointed and commissioned the following men to serve in his cabinet: Nathaniel B. Boileau as Secretary of the Commonwealth, and James Trimble as Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth.²²

More than passing notice should be given to James Trimble, for his record of service in one office has perhaps never been matched in Penn-

²² See P. M. H. B. vol. 5, "James Trimble" by Mrs. Paul Graeff.

sylvania. This man held the post of Assistant Secretary of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania—the secretary being Timothy Matlack—from 1777 until his appointment by Governor McKean as Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth in 1791. When the British occupancy of Philadelphia forced the removal of the offices of the state government, it was ‘Jimmy’ Trimble who supervised the packing of the state papers for hauling to Lancaster where the Supreme Executive Council met from September 22, 1777, until June 27, 1778, and it was he who saw them safely back again in Philadelphia. Again in 1799, when the seat of government was removed to Lancaster, it was the same Mr. Trimble who had the responsibility of transporting the documents of the state government. Having received reappointment as deputy secretary from Governor Snyder, he could look forward to supervising another removal job, this time the transferring of state books, papers and paraphernalia from Lancaster to Harrisburg. He also had to arrange for a sale of various items belonging to the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, which would not be needed in Harrisburg. Thus on February 7, 1812, there were sold at public auction in Lancaster, windsor chairs, arm chairs, windsor desks and stools, maps, a stone jug, bookcases, tables, a candlestick, ash kettle and ashes. Preserved at Harrisburg is the inventory of the items with the following receipt, “Received from James Trimble Depy. Sect. the sum of forty-six dollars and twelve cents on account of the proceeds of the sale of furniture belonging to the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.”

James Trimble not only carried through the removal project and saw the Department of State properly settled at the capital town on the Susquehanna, but he continued to serve as deputy until 1836. He died in 1837, age 82, with a record of having filled the office continuously for almost sixty years, 1777 to 1836. Unfortunately, there are extant few personal Trimble papers.

State Offices Move to Harrisburg Ahead of Schedule

Although the act which established Harrisburg as the state capital provided that the official life there would begin in October 1812, the state offices were moved from Lancaster speedily after adjournment of the Assembly in March 1812.

The public offices records and papers belonging to this commonwealth, have been removed from Lancaster and deposited in the new fire-proof offices at this place.

—*Pennsylvania Republican* (Harrisburg)
April 7, 1812

The Aftermath—Vendue in Lancaster of Unwanted Furniture

Concerning the public vendue which was held in Lancaster on April 18, 1812, and at which vendue the Commonwealth disposed of furniture which supposedly would not be needed at Harrisburg, no information has thus far been found in the public press of the day. It must not have been advertised. But there was a vendue at Lancaster without a doubt because

the facts are evident in the list of purchasers recently uncovered at Harrisburg by researchers of the National Parks Service.²³ And it is also known that in 1802 a decision was made by a legislative resolution to bring certain chairs and tables from the statehouse in Philadelphia to Lancaster and "direct the sale of the residue of the furniture." Among this furniture according to the resolution were "chairs now occupied by the legislature." Thus, it will be seen that it took ten years before the vendue actually took place.

The list of successful bidders at the vendue shows that the ninety-two separate purchases were nearly all for chairs and tables. Were there among the chairs sold at this time some of the "elbow chairs" which graced the old house chamber in Independence Hall and in which perhaps the signers of the immortal declaration sat during those stirring sessions when the nation was born? Who knows? It is certainly safe to say that the furniture sold at Lancaster on April 18, 1812 was historic furniture for most of it, if not all, was transported to Lancaster directly from Independence Hall. From this point readers are free to conjecture as they will.

True the furniture did not bring big prices. Chairs went at prices which ranged from 2 for 63 cents to two for \$1.90, depending no doubt on their various conditions. Altogether one hundred and ten chairs were sold. Three desks too were on the list and brought \$4.00, \$1.30 and \$1.90. Successful bidders obtained thirty tables at prices which began at 65c and went no higher than \$3.00. A "Mapp" brought four dollars.

From the list of buyers at the Lancaster vendue the following names have been extracted.

John Jungling	John Gundecker
Henry Shippen	Mr. Clarkson
Peter Reis	John France
Mr. Hopkins	Abraham Royer
Phillip Messenkop	Esaph Newcomb
Mr. Voight	John Peters
Wm. Hamilton	John Hoover
Michael Hambright	Mr. McLaughlin
John Harris	John Seinor
J. Wolf, Esq.	Mr. Carpenter
John Bowman	John Rudy
Daniel Ehler	John Upperman
John Hoff, Esq.	Benjamin Shaum
Mr. Harnley	Jonas Dorwart
Jacob Harshey	Samuel Fordney
Mr. Humes	John Haines
Charles Smith	John Benjamin

²³ A photostatic copy of the vendue report was presented to the author by Dr. Edward M. Riley of the National Park Service. The original may be found in the Division of Public Records, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Also the preserved written record of the sale informs us that the total purchases amounted to only \$120.72 and that the expenses were \$8.62.

	\$120.72
Paid Cryer, Clerk & men for moving furniture	8.62
	<hr/>
	\$112.10 Balance
to be paid into Treasury	

As a dispersal at public sale of the personal property of a family marks the end of a chapter in the life of that family, so it would seem that the public vendue in Lancaster of the unwanted furniture belonging to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania signalled the end of a chapter in the official life of the Commonwealth—that chapter entitled “When Lancaster was the Capital of Pennsylvania.”