

Lancaster's Contribution to York in the Flood of 1817

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

SATURDAY, August 9th, 1817, was a memorial day for the inhabitants of our neighboring town of York. A violent rain storm during the preceding night and on Saturday morning, had increased the waters of Codorus creek to an unprecedented extent. The dams on the stream were destroyed by the tremendous force of the water. The rain started to fall about 3 o'clock on the morning of the 9th, and continued in torrents, intermittently, for about ten hours. The down-pour was so great that the waters of the Codorus rose about three feet in an hour's time; and, subsequently, were five feet higher than had ever before been known,—overflowing the stream on either side for five or six hundred yards.

The violence of the flood carried all before it. Two breweries and three tanneries were swept away, in addition to forty houses, shops, etc. Many other buildings were damaged beyond repair; and the wooden bridge on George street was carried away.

This was the most appalling disaster that had ever visited the town of York; and it entailed heavy losses to those whose property bordered on the creek.

Lancaster, with its accustomed liberality, responded to the call for financial aid from the citizens of the stricken town.

The Lancaster Journal of Monday, August 25th, 1817, states:

The committee appointed by the inhabitants of the borough of York to collect subscriptions in behalf of the sufferers by the late inundation, has requested us to return grateful acknowledgements for the liberal subscriptions of the inhabitants of Lancaster. The sum collected in a very short time amounted to \$756.25."

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