

The matter was again brought before the Honorable House on March 4th, 1785, and was referred to the members from Lancaster county, with instructions to report on the subject. On Friday, March 25th, 1785, the committee made its report. Again the matter was ordered to lie on the table. Whether it was subsequently acted upon—favorably or otherwise,—is not known.

William Priest in Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

IN the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., is an old and interesting volume entitled, "Travels in the United States of America, Commencing in the Year 1793 and Ending in 1797." It was written by William Priest, a musician, and was published in London in 1802.

Mr. Priest was one of the performers at a theatre in Philadelphia in the summer of 1794. On August 10th he wrote:

"Having a few weeks' vacation at the theatre, we agreed upon a scheme to give three concerts at Lancaster, a town in Pennsylvania, about seventy miles west of this city. Our band was small, but select; and our singers, Darley and Miss Broadhurst."

On August 31st, Mr. Priest wrote:

"Arrived at Lancaster, a prettily situate town of about nine hundred houses. It is reckoned the largest inland town south of New England; and, indeed, the only large town without some kind of navigation. To remedy this inconvenience as much as possible, a turnpike road (very superior to anything of the kind in America, and which will cost three thousand dollars per mile), is forming from Philadelphia, through Lancaster, to the Susquana [Susquehanna]. I told you this river, owing to the rocks and falls, was not navigable; but I forgot to inform you that the inhabitants of the back country continue to waft the produce of their plantations down the river on floats, during the floods in spring and fall; which will be conveyed by means of this new road to Philadelphia, whence it will be exported to the West Indian or European markets.

"The only manufactory in Lancaster is one of rifles; they have contracted to supply the Continental army with these 'mortal engines.'

"I have heard a hundred improbable stories relative to what has been done with the rifle by famous marksmen in America, such as shooting an apple from a child's head, etc.; to which I could not give credit: but, I have no reason to doubt the following feat, as it was actually performed before many hundred inhabi-

tants of the borough and the adjacent country. During the late war, in the year 1775, a company of riflemen formed from the back woodsmen of Virginia, were quartered here for some time: two of them alternately held a board only nine inches square between his knees, while his comrade fired a ball through it from a distance of one hundred paces! The board is still preserved; and I am assured by several who were present, that it [the marksmanship] was performed without any manner of deception.

“Lancaster was, originally, a German settlement; the inhabitants were so desirous of perpetuating their language that they established German schools for the education of the rising generation; but their descendants, finding the inconvenience of being without a knowledge of English, now send their children first to the German, and afterward to the English schools; by which means they acquire a tolerable idea of both languages. They still retain many characteristics of their ancestors; such as frugality, plainness in dress, etc.

“At our first concert, three clownish-looking fellows came into the room, and, after sitting a few minutes, (the weather being warm, not to say hot) very composedly took off their coats; they were in the usual summer dress of farmers’ servants in this part of the country;—that is to say, without either stockings or breeches, a loose pair of trowsers being the only succedaneum. As we fixed our admission at a dollar each, (here seven shillings and sixpence) we expected this circumstance would be sufficient to exclude such characters; but, on inquiry, I found (to my very great surprise!) our three *sans culottes* were German gentlemen of considerable property in the neighborhood!

“They manage these matters better at Hanover (a settlement of Germans about forty miles hence). One of the articles of their dancing assembly is in these words: ‘No gentleman to enter the ball-room without breeches, or to be allowed to dance without his coat.’

“We returned to Philadelphia, not overloaded with cash, but with more than sufficient for our expenses, which, owing to several excursions from Lancaster, were not trifling.”

Indian Chiefs In Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE following interesting news items appeared in The Intelligencer & Weekly Advertiser of Wednesday, February 4th, 1801: “On Friday evening last [January 30th] arrived in this place [Lancaster] on their way to the City of Washington, five Indian chiefs, viz. Red Jacket and three others, of the Seneca