

Governor Clinton in Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

DE WITT CLINTON, statesman, was born in Orange county, New York, March 2nd, 1769; and died in Albany, New York, on February 11th, 1828. He served his native state in several offices throughout his life, having been a member of the state legislature, United States senator, mayor of New York city and governor of the Empire State.

Mr. Clinton was in Lancaster on Tuesday, August 9th, 1825. Where he spent the night is not known. The Lancaster Journal of Friday, August 12th, 1825, contains the following:

“Governor Clinton was in this city on Tuesday night. He arrived very late in the evening, and set out early in the morning for Philadelphia. We regret that the citizens of this place had not an opportunity of testifying, in a public manner, the exalted opinion which they entertain of the merits and services of this distinguished individual, who may be justly styled the Father of Internal Improvement of this country.”

The Great Fire of 1825

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ON Wednesday, October 19th, 1825, the city of Lancaster was visited by the most destructive fire, that, so far as known, had ever occurred in the town. It was caused by some one carelessly throwing live coals on a heap of refuse matter. The fire spread instantly to an adjoining livery stable, owned by William C. Hull. The weather being very dry and a high wind prevailing, the flames ignited near-by buildings, and in a comparatively short period totally destroyed two large brick houses on West King street, a barn owned by Jacob Fry, Jr., Mr. Jacob Lindy's brick house, and a brick building next door occupied as a hatter's shop.

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, October 21st, 1825, states, “Fortunately the wind moderated soon after the commencement of the fire, or there is no calculating the extent of the damages that might have been sustained. The jail [located at Prince and West King streets] was in danger, the roof of Mr. Krug's bark house [site of the present Stevens House] was repeatedly on fire, and a number of houses at a considerable distance caught in the roof from the cinders lodging in the joints of the shingles. Great and praiseworthy exertions were made by the citizens to arrest the progress of the flames, but, unfortunately, the scarcity of water very much retarded their efforts. A number of gentlemen from