

An Early Threshing Machine in Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

LATE in the summer of 1806, a threshing machine, invented in Scotland, was erected at David Witmer's mill in Lancaster county, Pa. The machine was capable of threshing 35 bushels of oats in an hour, of threshing and cleaning 100 bushels of wheat in eight hours, and of threshing other grain in proportion. The owner notified the public that he intended to thresh every Monday, from 10 to 11 o'clock, for four consecutive weeks, in order to give persons desirous of seeing the machine in operation an opportunity to gratify their curiosity.

That the machine would serve the farmers in Lancaster county satisfactorily is evident from the following testimonial which appeared in The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser of Tuesday, September 9th, 1806:

"Witmer's Tavern,
"September 3rd, 1806.

"We, the subscribers, having seen the threshing machine lately erected by Mr. David Prentice, at Mr. David Witmer's, in operation, do hereby certify, that, in our opinion, the workmanship is well executed, and that the machine will answer the purpose for which it is intended, to the fullest extent.

"Henry Witmer, James Crawford, Thomas Evans, John Harman, Michael Rine, Peter Root (miller), John Buckwalter, Abraham Carpenter, Samuel Herr, John Herr, Henry Herr, Henry Miller, Jacob Neff, Jr., Samuel Miller, John Kendig, Francis Kendig, Henry Bowman, Daniel Witmer, John Carpenter."

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence Celebrated in Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON June 20th, 1826, Select and Common Councils of the city of Lancaster passed a resolution recommending the mayor to call a town meeting for the purpose of making arrangements for the celebration of the semi-centennial of American Independence. A meeting for that purpose was held on Thursday evening, June 22nd. Nathaniel Lightner, mayor of the city, was chosen chairman, and John Mathiot was appointed secretary. The object of the meeting was stated by James Buchanan; after which a com-