

The Society of Weavers

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

WEAVERS of the borough of Lancaster met at the house of William Boys on Saturday, March 6th, 1813, and formed themselves into a Society, in order to advance their trade to an equality with those of other mechanics, which they believed themselves entitled to do. George Hartly was appointed chairman, and William Buck, secretary. They unanimously agreed to a scale of prices for various kinds of weaving, a list of which was published in the Lancaster Journal of Thursday, March 18th, 1813.

The following weavers were present: D. Donoughey, Terrance McGrann, George Brooks, Hugh McGrann, Jacob Shirtz, Joon Slater, Samuel Wilson, Henry Mintooh, John Henslinger, Arnold Peters, Robert Isherwood, Conrad Yost, John Garlagh and John Culbert.

In the Lancaster Journal of Thursday, April 22nd, 1813, appeared a song, which was published by request. It contained four stanzas, of eight lines each, and was sung at a meeting of weavers in the borough of Lancaster.

Cotton Transported Through Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

In the Lancaster Journal of Friday, May 20th, 1814, appeared the following:

“About 200 wagons, loaded with cotton, within two months have passed through this place on their way to the northward and eastward. Many of them were from Savannah, Georgia, bound as far eastward as Providence, Rhode Island. The expense of this land carriage is immense. In some cases the drivers have been compelled to sell part of their loads to enable them to pay their way.

“When we consider that the whole of this produce of our soil might have been transported from Georgia to Maine in a few schooners, at a trifling expense, we cannot help considering at the same moment how much we have to sacrifice in this *war against ourselves*.”

The Lancaster Journal was bitterly opposed to the United States entering into a state of war with Great Britain in 1812; and the editor, William Hamilton, lost no opportunity of attacking those who supported the measure.