

formed out of the Missouri Territory, are entitled to the warmest thanks of every friend of humanity."

These resolutions were unanimously adopted; after which, the meeting adjourned.¹

¹ Published in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, November 26th, 1819.

Efforts to Make Conestoga River Navigable

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

In the Lancaster Journal of Friday, February 5th, 1808, appeared the following communication, over the signature of "A Citizen":

"It appears that the commissioners, appointed by law, have advertised that on the 18th, 19th and 20th of February, they will attend, at the house of Mr. Jacob Slough [White Swan tavern], in the borough of Lancaster, to receive subscriptions of stock for the purpose of making the Conestoga navigable from its mouth to Abraham Hostetter's mill.

"The importance of this water communication from a place so near the borough to the river Susquehanna, must be obvious to all acquainted with the superior advantages of water carriage. The utility it will be to the borough in obtaining stone-coal, wood and lumber, is evident. It will operate on those who may bring coal down the Susquehanna to furnish an ample supply of that article when they can bring it up the Conestoga, at one dollar a ton, which will be the amount of the toll, supposing the distance from Hostetter's mill to the Susquehanna to be 15 miles. It is said coal has been brought from Philadelphia to Lancaster, for the use of our smiths, the cost of which is from four shillings and six pence to four shillings and eight pence per bushel; when the expense of that article, brought by way of the proposed communication, may not exceed two shillings, or two shillings and six pence, per bushel.

"The practicability of the work cannot be doubted, when we know that a common mill dam makes the Conestoga boatable from one to two miles. The only necessary to a dam is a lock for the passage of boats. Indeed, the locks will be the principal if not the sole expense, for it may be safely presumed that the advantages of water works, which may be erected at each dam, will be equivalent to the expense of erecting the dam. Besides, it will be recollected that if the work is substantially executed, there is little or no reparation will be required, except to the gates, as they will be made of wood will want to be occasionally repaired.

"With these considerations in view, it cannot be doubted but the inhabitants of Lancaster, as well as those on each side the Conestoga, will step forward and subscribe to an improvement which will contribute so much to the advantages of both."

It was not until January 2nd, 1827, — nearly nineteen years later—that this dream was realized and the Conestoga was made navigable.

On Saturday, July 8th, 1815, a meeting of citizens of Lancaster was held, pursuant to public notice, for the purpose of taking

into consideration a proper method for removing all obstructions whatever in the river Conestoga as far as it is declared navigable by law. The members were determined to bring to justice all persons infringing on the law. Jacob Fordney, Jr., was appointed chairman, and Gustavus Stoy, secretary. At the meeting it was

“Resolved, That we form ourselves into an association for preventing all obstructions whatsoever may be erected in the river Conestoga as far as it is declared navigable by law.

“Resolved, That there shall be a committee appointed whose duty it shall be to examine and thoroughly investigate at all times whether there be any obstructions contrary as aforesaid, and shall make report to the president and secretary thereof; and (if in their opinion necessary) shall call a special meeting for the purpose of carrying into effect the intention of this association.

“Resolved, That the president and secretary shall use their utmost endeavors, by applying to the proper authorities, to have obstructions removed, if any, according to law.

“Resolved, That the said association will support the president and secretary in all measures to carry the aforesaid resolutions into effect.

“Resolved, That there shall at the next meeting be a committee appointed to form a constitution for the government of this association.”

An association was perfected, and a constitution adopted, for the government of the organization. It is to be regretted that the constitution was not published in the local papers as well as the names of the members of this most worthy organization. In the Lancaster Journal of Wednesday, September 27th, 1815, was a reference to the association, and section 15 of its constitution was printed as follows:

“Any member found guilty of destroying fences or other property belonging to any farmer, citizen or inhabitant, living or residing on or near the river Conestoga, shall not only be expelled but it shall be the incumbent duty of this association to assist the individual thus injured to bring the guilty member, or members, before legal authority in order that he, or they, so offending on the premises may be lawfully dealt with.”

The editor stated that section 15 was published merely to give some idea of the intention of the association until he was able to publish the constitution in its entirety.

Meeting of Friends of Peace in 1812

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON the day before Congress declared that a state of war existed between the United States and Great Britain, a large and respectable meeting of the Friends of Peace, consisting of at least four hundred farmers, was held in Lancaster borough on Wednesday evening, June 17th, 1812. The Lancaster Journal states that there was no distinction of party, for men of all parties were present and gave their assent to the proceedings.