

# Public Meeting to Restore Lancaster's Form of Government From a City to a Borough

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**L**ANCASTER was incorporated as a borough May 1st, 1742, and enjoyed that form of government for nearly seventy-six years when, by an Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, dated March 20th, 1818, it was created into a city. However, a number of inhabitants were opposed to the expense of operating a city form of government and desired to return to the status of a borough.

Within two years and a half after the incorporation of the city, a public meeting was held, at the house of John Rupley, (Wednesday, August 16th, 1820) for the purpose of discussing the subject of a return to the borough form of government. At this meeting the following action was taken:

“Resolved, That from the experience we have had, and taking into view the sinecures with which some individuals are provided for, together with the high taxes our citizens are annually subjected to in consequence of having Lancaster erected into a city by an Act of the Legislature, we will use our best endeavors to procure signatures to a petition to be forwarded to the next Legislature praying to have the law repealed erecting the borough of Lancaster into a city.

“Resolved, That we, as freemen and friends of the State of Pennsylvania, are determined not to support any candidate, for either state or county office, (without respect to name or party) who will not, as we suppose, use his best endeavors to have the salaries of officers generally reduced.

“Resolved, That this meeting adjourn to meet again, on the first Saturday in September next, at the house of John Michael, innkeeper, North Queen street.

“Jacob Lindy, chairman,

“Peter Reed, secretary.”

Whether or not a meeting was held at the time appointed, and if it was, what action was taken, is not known, as no references to it appear in the local papers.