

COLUMBIA COUNTY REMOVAL CONVENTION.

In pursuance of a call, signed by a large number of citizens residents of different townships, delegates met at the house of Charles Doebler, in Bloomsburg, on Saturday, the 7th day January, 1843, and organized by appointing

ISAAC KLINE, President.
ANTHONY DENGLER, JOHN KNORR, JAMES McDOWELL, DANIEL PURSEL, Vice Presidents.
George H. Willits, Neal McCoy, Secretaries.

Upon calling over the election districts, seventeen out of twenty were represented, and the following delegates appeared and took their seats in the Convention.

Bloom—H. Webb, Caleb Barton, jr., George Weaver, John Gritz, John Hess, jr., Briercreek—John Hess, John Freese, jr., Isaiah Salmon, John Knorr.

Cattawissa—Michael Brobst, Michael Fornwald, John F. Mann, James Pleasants, Abram Ludwig.

Derry—John F. Derr, James McDowell, Neal McCoy.

Fishingcreek—John Lazarus, John Peal, jr.

Greenwood—Jesse Gray, Peter Girton, Edward Crawford, Jonathan Le-nons, George W. Morris.

Hemlock—Wm. Robison, Joshua Mendonhall, John Shoemaker, Baltis Appelman jr., Frankin McBride, V. Erwine, A. D. Guile, Adam Straup, Peter Appelman, Daniel Pursel.

Jackson—Iram Der, Josiah Lockart.

Limestone—Frederick McBride, Daniel Folmer, jr.

Madison—Thomas A. Funston, Samuel Kianer, Daniel Welliver, John Welliver, William McCarty, William Dildine, John Kelemer, Henry Ebert.

Monteur—George H. Willits, John Deterich, George Heffley.

Mount Pleasant—William J. Ikler, John Martin, jr., John Martin, sen., Abraham Jacoby, John Ruckle, Issac Musgrave.

Mahoning—Charles Conner.

Orange—Daniel Fornwald, Isaac Kline, John Auchenbauch, Issiah Conner, John B. Edgar.

Paxton—Samuel Waltman, Charles Michael, Charles F. Mann.

Roaringcreek—Michael R. Hower, Henry Mentz, Daniel Keller, Jacob R. Hower, Charles M. Runk, Anthony Dengler.

Sugarloaf—Isiah Cole, Abraham Young.

The object of the meeting of the Convention having been stated, on motion, a committee of one from each election district was appointed to prepare proceedings for the consideration of the convention, to wit—

Bloom—Henry Wood,
Briercreek—John Freese,
Cattawissa—James H. Pleasants
Derry—John F. Derr
Fishingcreek—John Lazarus
Greenwood—George W. Morris
Hemlock—William Robison
Jackson—Iram Derr
Limestone—Daniel Folmer, jr.
Monteur—John Deterich
Mount Pleasant—William J. Ikler
Mahoning—Charles Conner
Madison—Thomas A. Funston
Orange—Daniel Fornwald
Paxton—Charles F. Mann
Roaringcreek—Michael R. Hower
Sugarloaf—Isiah Cole

The Committee unanimously reported the following, which were unanimously adopted by the Convention.

Resolved—That as the election of member of the Legislature from this county, at the last October election was contested expressly upon the local question, and that every man cast his vote for the purpose of settling this vexed subject.

Resolved—That as the question of Removal or no Removal, was the only question upon which the election in this county turned at the last election, and as it resulted in the election of Daniel Snyder, the removal candidate, by the large majority of 875 he having received more than three fifths of the votes, we think the legislature cannot refuse that justice, for which we have contended for the last thirty years, & which has been so wrongfully withheld.

Resolved—That with a view of placing the matter fairly before the legislature, we make the following candid and impartial statement of facts, as they have heretofore occurred in relation to the removal question.

The county of Columbia was erected out of a part of old Northumberland, by the Legislature in 1813 and extended across to the West Branch of the Susquehanna.

Three Commissioners were appointed by the governor to locate the county seat, according to the direction of the Legislature, near the centre, as the situation thereof would admit. But two of the Commissioners attended. And after a hasty and incomplete survey of the county, they located the county seat at Danville. With this location a majority of the citizens of the county were dissatisfied, and resolved to appeal to the Legislature.

Accordingly, on the opening of the session of 1814, a large number of petitions were presented, for a removal of the seat of justice from Danville to Bloomsburg, which were referred to a committee. That committee reported that a mere inspection of the map was sufficient to show that the location at Danville was not in accordance

with the letter or spirit of the law enacted by the Legislature. But their report was laid upon the table.

In 1815 twenty petitions for the removal were again presented, read, and recommended to the early attention of the next Legislature. While these proceedings were going forward, the citizens of Chillisqueque and Turbut townships on the West Branch petitioned the Legislature, and were re-annexed to North's co. by which alteration Danville was thrown much farther out of the centre both of population and territory. Under this new aspect of affairs, petitions for the removal were poured into the Legislature in great numbers.

In 1816 the citizens of the county petitioned for a law to suspend the public buildings in Columbia county, and to refer a location of the seat of justice to a vote of the people of the county.

In 1821 petitions were again sent in for a removal, and refused.

Again in 1831 the Legislature were earnestly petitioned for a removal.

The matter then rested until 1833, though a subject of continual anxiety within the county. In that year the Grand Jury reported the public records in danger of destruction by fire, for want of suitable buildings. This aroused the people, who had resolved that no more money should be expended upon buildings in Danville, excepting from absolute necessity. Petitions were immediately signed by two thirds of the taxables in the county, and presented, referred, and bills reported in both branches of the Legislature.

In 1834 bills were again reported, but too late for action.

In 1835 another effort was made, and bills reported. That in the senate passed by a large majority, but was not reached in the house.

During the session of the Legislature of 1842, about twenty eight hundred citizens of Columbia county, again petitioned for the passage of a bill, removing the seat of justice from Danville—a committee was appointed and a bill reported in the house, in favor of the prayer of the petitioners, which was afterwards defeated. At the extra session Mr. Snyder, the member from the county, introduced another bill, of a similar tenor, with a proviso, that it be accepted by a majority of the legal voters of the county. This bill passed the house, but was not acted upon in the senate. Thus the question was again left open, without any decisive action being had upon it. The prayer of more than three fifths of the legal voters of the county had been rejected, nor had they been allowed to test the question upon the bill by their votes, the consequence was the arousing of a still deeper feeling in the county. The friends of removal knowing the justice in their cause, and confident of the correctness of their assertion, that it was desired by a large majority of the citizens, resolved to bring forward their candidates for the Legislature, upon the local question exclusively. Accordingly two conventions were called for that purpose, and they both met at Bloomsburg on Saturday the 29th of August, 1842. The removal convention was composed of delegates from nineteen districts out of twenty, and unanimously nominated DANIEL SNYDER, the former member, and as unanimously passed the following resolutions. They place Mr. Snyder distinctly before the people as the candidate of the removal party, pledged to support removal and oppose division.

Resolved—That as the members of this convention have been elected as opposed to Division, and in favor of the Removal of the seat of Justice of the county, and to carry out the wishes of our constituents, we will not place in nomination for the Assembly any candidate who is not an open uncompromising advocate of our views upon these two questions.

Resolved—That this convention, in placing the name of Daniel Snyder before the people of the county, as a candidate for the Legislature pledged as he is by his acts in the Legislature, opposed to division and in favor of removal, are but carrying out the positive instructions of our constituents—and we confidently ask for him the support of every man in the county who is friendly to removal, and opposed to division, not only upon the grounds of his worth as a citizen, but that while they are sustaining him, they are approving his course in the last Legislature upon the local question, and voting directly against division, and in favor of removal, a measure which our opponents refused to have submitted to their decision by an act of the Legislature.

The Anti-Removal Convention, consisting of delegates from fifteen election districts out of twenty nominated Richard Fruit. Mr. Fruit, soon after the nomination, in answer to enquiries made of him by citizens of the county, publishes the following letter.

JERSEYTOWN, Sept. 14th, 1842.
To Isaac Welsh, John E. Auten, Russell P. Welliver, and George Runyon,

Gentlemen—Having been placed in nomination for Assembly, by a Democratic County Convention of my fellow citizens, I hold it to be not only proper, but my duty, to answer questions, such as you have submitted.

I always have been, and am now, opposed to Divisions of Columbia county, and if elected, will oppose, and vote against, a Division, if that question comes up for legislative action.

I shall also, if elected, oppose, and vote

against a removal of the seat of Justice from Danville to Bloomsburg, should that question again be brought up in the legislature.

Either a Division, or a Removal, would unquestionably increase the county rates and levies, and as a heavy debt, and high taxes have been imposed upon the community by imprudent and too much legislation it is high time, in my opinion, to arrest the present wild spirit of local speculation, in the legislative halls.

With due consideration and respect,
 Your fellow citizen,
RICHARD FRUIT.

Both conventions truly performed the duty required of them by the people, by selecting their candidates in express reference to the local question, and both parties hoisted the flag of either removal or no removal, with both candidates pledged against division. That the question was well understood by the people, no one will deny, as the newspapers friendly to either candidate, avowed their preference for their friend because he was favorable to their side of the question, and in every meeting held in the county, the same grounds were taken, in the resolutions passed and speeches made. At a removal meeting, held in Roaringcreek township, it was

Resolved—That they would vote for Snyder "because he obeyed the instructions of twenty eight hundred of his constituents constituting a large majority of the whole by sustaining and voting for the passage of a bill removing the seat of justice from Danville." At a meeting in Greenwood township, the question was truly stated thus—"that the question may be fairly weighed through the ballot boxes, political feelings have been sacrificed, and all parties feeling to removal will give their vote for Daniel Snyder, the removal candidate, while those of Danville and Berwick, will unite upon Richard Fruit." These are but a few of the many meetings held throughout the county, in favor of the removal candidate, at all of which resolutions of a similar tenor were passed. In addition, the bill which passed the house, at the last session, was also spread before the people. The friends of Richard Fruit, were alike active in his support because he was opposed to removal in addition to Fruit's pledge against removal, the Danville Intelligencer, the organ of the opponents of removal, of Sept. 23d, after denouncing Daniel Snyder, for sustaining the removal, says, "Let the voters bear this in mind, and also remember, that Richard Fruit, is against removal, and against cutting and carving and dividing our county." Oct. 7th, it further says, "Go to the polls early, in every township; get out all the voters; and our word for it, FRUIT will be ELECTED, the county will not be divided, the SEAT OF JUSTICE WILL NOT BE MOVED." In Roaringcreek it was resolved by their friends, "that they would not vote for Snyder, because he voted for a removal of the seat of justice of this county," and would vote for Richard Fruit because he is "OPPOSED to the REMOVAL of the seat of justice." In the resolutions of a meeting held in Briercreek, reported by a gentleman of Berwick, they resolved to oppose Daniel Snyder, because he voted to "secure the passage of his own favorite local bill." In Millin, Derry, and other townships, similar resolutions were passed at meetings got up to oppose the election of Snyder. Thus it will be seen that the question was fairly and distinctly placed before the electors, and that they all voted understandingly. It was in fact, one of the most warmly contested elections ever held in the county, there being more votes polled than at any former election, and resulted in the election of DANIEL SNYDER, the REMOVAL CANDIDATE, by the triumphant majority of 875, as will be seen by the following official returns.

SNYDER. FRUIT.

Bloom. (Bloomsburg.)	370	3
Briercreek, (Berwick.)	184	77
Cattawissa	274	51
Derry,	80	188
Fishingcreek,	143	2
Greenwood,	218	7
Hemlock.	164	11
Jackson,	52	
Liberty,	3	158
Limestone,	19	77
Mahoning, (Danville)	3	514
Monteur,	84	49
Millin,	111	89
Madison,	144	111
Mr. Pleasant,	103	2
Orange,	164	24
Paxton,	58	22
Roaringcreek,	168	140
Sugarloaf,	180	4
Valley,	6	125
	3527	1652
	1652	
Majority,	875	

The members of the Legislature will thus perceive that the location of the seat of justice at Danville was under protest from the majority of those interested; and that it has only been kept there by a continual struggle. The leading argument of the Danville people, which has always been most powerful, by its appeal to the sympathies of legislators, that the solemn contract of the state would be violated—their property depreciated, and themselves ruined, is most uncandid and untrue. No man has purchased property in Danville, ignorant of the fact that the removal of the seat of justice was demanded by a large majority of the

citizens of the county, and that the question could never be settled until the removal was effected. And the state does not locate a county seat for the benefit of a single village. Nor is her faith pledged to the smaller interest, regardless of the greater. The solemn compact of the state is with her citizens to act for the greatest good of the greatest number. And the citizens of Columbia county now respectfully ask the members of the Legislature to grant those petitions and establish those rights which have been unvaryingly urged for thirty years. We ask it with great confidence because we have now placed the real wishes of the people before the legislature in a light which cannot be obscured by the misrepresentations and shifts of former years.

We would further remark, that Danville is as far from the centre of business as from the centre of population in the county. It draws a large portion of its business and supplies from a neighboring county, by which it is almost surrounded and thus acts as a continual drain on the circulating medium of the county. Scarcely a single dollar of the money expended by suitors and others attending court, can ever find its way back into the interior of the county—there is no trade between them, and no reciprocity of interest between the interior of the county and its metropolis. On the other hand, Bloomsburg is not only very near the centre of territory and population, but it is also the centre of business.—It is the natural outlet and commands the trade of Hemlock, Madison, a portion of Derry, Greenwood, Sugar Loaf, Fishing Creek, Mount Pleasant, Bloom' Orange, Jackson, and a portion of Brier Creek townships. It is also in the line of communication for a large portion of the county, with the markets of Pottsville, Mauch Chunk, and places below those points.

With a knowledge all these facts and circumstances, it is with the deepest sense of injuries sustained, and the unnecessary inconvenience they have laboured under for many years past that a large majority of the Citizens of Columbia county, once more make their appeal to the Legislature for relief—they ask no boon, but as freemen they appeal to that natural sense of justice, inherent in the breast of every honest and unprejudiced man, & demand a restoration of valuable rights and privileges, unjustly withheld from them.

Resolved—That our member in the senate, and our member in the house, be, and they are hereby requested to press the removal question upon the notice of their respective bodies to a successful termination, and to consider the great vote given Daniel Snyder as positive instructions to that effect.

Resolved—That as our cause is just, it being but a demand that the rights of two thirds of the citizens of the county should be restored, until that justice is meted out to us, which is our just and rightful due, to wit, the removal of our county seat.

Resolved—That we are decidedly opposed to a division of Columbia county, as a measure ruinous in its consequences to its citizens, and so well satisfied were the opponents of removal that the county generally was opposed to such a measure, that the candidate against removal was compelled to pledge himself against division, to insure him any thing like a vote in the county.

Resolved—That the aid which the Danville party are now rendering the agitators of the division question, after their strong protestation during the late election canvass against such a measure, is a gross insult to the intelligence of the people, and shows conclusively, that their opposition to removal, is based wholly upon selfish motives, regardless of the general good.

Resolved—That John Freese; Henry Webb; Charles F. Mann; George W. Morris; John Knorr; Issiah Salmon; Isaac Kline; William Robinson; George H. Willits; William McKelvy; Joseph Paxton; John Auchenbauch; Leonard B. Rupert; John F. Derr; James McDowell; Jacob Eyer; Elijah G. Ricketts; Thomas A. Funston; John McReynolds; William G. Hurley; John Lazarus; Daniel Pursel; Samuel Kianer; Iram Derr; and John F. Mann, be a committee to prepare and forward the proceedings according to the requirements of the last resolution, and also to visit Harrisburg to press upon the Legislature the importance of the passage of a bill removing the seat of justice of Columbia County.

Resolved—That each township be requested to send a delegate to Harrisburg to urge their claims upon the Legislature for a removal of the seat of justice of the county.

Resolved—That the proceedings of this convention be signed by the officers, as the unanimous expression of its members, and be printed, and a copy forwarded to each member of the senate and house, and that our members in either branch be requested to lay a copy before their respective bodies.

ISAAC KLINE, President.
ANTHONY DENGLER, JOHN KNORR, JAMES McDOWELL, DANIEL PURSEL, Vice Pres'ts.
George H. Willits, Neal McCoy, Secretaries.

Up to the hour of going to press, we had received nothing definite as to the action of the house upon the removal bill though report says that it passed by a large majority.

DEMOCRAT.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"
BLOOMSBURG:
SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1843.

We are compelled to omit even a synopsis of the proceedings of the Legislature, to make room for the Governor's message, and for the proceedings of the Removal Convention. We will, however, hereafter endeavor to give a correct history of its proceedings.

The Removal Convention, held at the house of Charles Doebler, on Saturday last, was well attended notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather and roads. It will be seen that all the removal township were represented, except Millin, & we learn that delegates were appointed in that township, but did not arrive in time to take part in the proceeding.

On Tuesday last, James Buchanan, was elected United States Senator, from this State for six years from the fourth of March next. The vote was for James Buchanan, 74. John Banks, 54, and 2 scattering.

THE LEGISLATURE.
 On Wednesday the 4th inst, Wm. J. P. Andrews, was elected clerk to the house of Representative, and E. M. Stedman, of Northumberland county, sergeant-at-arms. Charles W. Higghens, was elected clerk to the Senate, and James M'Cauley, Sergeant-at-arms. On Saturday last, Mr. Snyder, reported a bill, in the house, removing the seat of Justice of Columbia county, from Danville, which was made the order of the day, for last Wednesday, Mr. Heady, also reported a bill in the Senate, for a new county out of parts of Columbia and Luzerne, to be called Madison. The Danville faction are doing all they can to effect this division project.

We mentioned last week, that Mr. Wright, of Luzerne, was elected speaker of the house. Upon taking the chair, he delivered the following very pertinent address,

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, I thank you. I thank you kindly for the honor conferred upon me, and I will preside over your deliberations.—It will be my pride and ambition to attempt to discharge the duties, the important and arduous duties, of the chair with fidelity and impartiality, and if I succeed in this, I shall have accomplished my end—my aim—my object. If, Gentlemen, you will extend to me that courtesy I shall attempt to extend to extend towards you, I am quite sure we shall progress with the public business with despatch.—This is most certainly desirable to us all, and important, as the legislation of the present session will be as short as the public business committed to our charge will permit. As the responsibility rests upon us, I will guarantee that on my part every facility will be extended to make a short session. The times require it, and the people whom we represent look for it, and demand it.

Gentlemen, you will excuse me for making an allusion to a subject connected with the public welfare. Perhaps in doing so I may go beyond parliamentary usage—if I do I ask your indulgence. It is in reference to the necessity of preserving public faith and the public credit. It seems to me its importance demands a notice at this time and in this place, to come from the presiding officer of the House of Representatives at the organization of the body. Not that any thing I can say will prove a good tendency, but that the station itself would add to its character and importance. The public debt in good faith has been contracted—in good faith let every farthing of it be paid—our means, and resources are abundant—and the great mass of the people admit its justice, and will not flinch from the payment of it.

That there has been an attempt in some portions of Pennsylvania, to repudiate, we have abundant evidence. It is to be hoped there will be an end of it.

The public credit is the corner stone of the government, and the moment it is destroyed the consequences are most fatal and alarming. Let those who would be so dishonest, as to deny the liability of the state to pay its engagements, and openly desert, receive the censure of the civilized world—they deserve it, but I trust and hope that the law making body of Pennsylvania will never shrink from their duty on this important subject. And from the unanimity of this House on a former occasion, I am convinced repudiation will not find a lodgment within these walls.

For even this brief allusion to the subject, Gentlemen, I ask your pardon, but it occurred to me I would do remiss in my duty did I suffer the occasion to pass without giving it a notice.