

GUARANTY TO THE TAX-PAYERS OF UNION COUNTY.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we, William Cameron, William Frick, Beyer Ammons, Eli Slifer, H. P. Sheller, Thomas Hayes, Joseph Meixell, Philip Billmeyer, John Walls, James F. Linn, James Criswell, James Hayes, Lewis Iddings, A. M. Lawshe, Peter Beaver, John Chamberlin, Charles Penny, C. D. Kline, L. Sterner, Solomon Ritter, Henry W. Fries, Jonathan Nesbit, Samuel Geddes, John Houghton, A. J. Weidensaul, David Reber, Jonathan Wolfe, G. F. Miller, of the borough of Lewisburg and vicinity, county of Union, and state of Pennsylvania, are held and firmly bound to the Honorable *Abraham S. Wilson*, President judge of the Twentieth judicial District of Pennsylvania, in the sum of **Fifty Thousand Dollars**, lawful money, to be paid to the said Abraham S. Wilson or his successor in office, to which payment well and truly to be made and done we do bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators and each of us, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals and dated the fifth day of September, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

The Condition of this Obligation is such, That if the above bound William Cameron, William Frick, Beyer Ammons, Eli Slifer, H. P. Sheller, Thomas Hayes, Joseph Meixell, Philip Billmeyer, John Walls, James F. Linn, James Criswell, James Hayes, Lewis Iddings, A. M. Lawshe, Peter Beaver, John Chamberlin, Charles Penny, C. D. Kline, L. Sterner, Solomon Ritter, Henry W. Fries, Jonathan Nesbit, Samuel Geddes, John Houghton, A. J. Weidensaul, David Reber, Jonathan Wolfe, G. F. Miller, in case the county of Union should be divided at the next session of the Legislature, and the majority of the qualified Voters should decide by ballot that the County Buildings for the Northern part, (to be called Union County,) should be located in the Borough of Lewisburg, SHALL ERECT OR CAUSE TO BE ERECTED AND CONSTRUCTED ALL THE NECESSARY COUNTY BUILDINGS AND PROCURE THE NECESSARY GROUNDS on which they are to be erected, WITHOUT TAXATION TO THE COUNTY, the Buildings to be completed within eighteen months after the location is determined as aforesaid, and not to be inferior to those recently erected in Bloomsburg in the county of Columbia, and also to be SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COURT AND COMMISSIONERS of the County in which such Buildings are to be erected, then the above Obligation to be void, otherwise it shall be and remain in full force and virtue.

Sealed and delivered
in the presence of

(Signed)

William Cameron, {L.S.}	Philip Billmeyer, {L.S.}	Peter Beaver, {L.S.}	Jonathan Nesbit, {L.S.}
William Frick, {L.S.}	John Walls, {L.S.}	John Chamberlin, {L.S.}	Samuel Geddes, {L.S.}
Beyer Ammons, {L.S.}	James F. Linn, {L.S.}	Charles Penny, {L.S.}	John Houghton, {L.S.}
Eli Slifer, {L.S.}	James Criswell, {L.S.}	C. D. Kline, {L.S.}	A. J. Weidensaul, {L.S.}
H. P. Sheller, {L.S.}	James Hayes, {L.S.}	L. Sterner, {L.S.}	David Reber, {L.S.}
Thomas Hayes, {L.S.}	Lewis Iddings, {L.S.}	Solomon Ritter, {L.S.}	Jonathan Wolfe, {L.S.}
Joseph Meixell, {L.S.}	A. M. Lawshe, {L.S.}	Henry W. Fries, {L.S.}	G. F. Miller, {L.S.}

UNION COUNTY, ss.

I, SAMUEL ROUSH, Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of Union County, do hereby certify that the foregoing Bond is a true copy of the original this day filed among the Records of the Court of Common Pleas of Union County. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this fifth day of September, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

SAMUEL ROUSH, Proth'ry.

To the Voters and Tax-Payers of Union County.

FELLOW CITIZENS!—Learning that the opponents of Division of this county are busily circulating a report through the county that it is the object of the people of Lewisburg to divide the county, and then to tax the people for the erection of costly buildings to ornament and improve our Borough, the people here, having no such design, and to give you a proof of their honesty of purpose, have drawn up and signed the above Bond. We think that that should settle the question of Taxation, beyond doubt or cavil. The Bond has been made as strong as it was possible for it to be drawn. Should, however, any citizen of the county doubt its validity, let such person draw up or cause to be drawn up a stronger, and it will be promptly signed by the same parties. As the opponents of Division have abandoned other arguments, and have placed the question almost entirely upon one issue, namely, that of Taxation, it will be less difficult for you to decide upon the merits of the question.

It must be evident to all, that if the county is not divided, soon New Buildings will have to be erected at New Berlin. Indeed, the citizens of that town have already been knocking at the door of your County Treasury for money for that purpose. They have declared by petition to your Grand Jury, that the present buildings are dilapidated and unfit for the purpose for which they are used. The leading Press of that Borough has discouraged to you on this point as follows:

"Union county is *entirely behind* the majority of her sister counties, in the beauty and convenience of her Public Buildings. Some of the citizens of the county feel this very sensible, and they find the reflection a very unpleasant one, painfully galling to their public pride and spirit; therefore are they determined that these Buildings shall fall, and another rise in their place that shall be a CREDIT TO THE COUNTY. They have already once exercised their right of petition, asking the Grand Jury to recommend the new building, but this was refused, though the *close vote* is encouragement enough to proceed. By the way, it is somewhat remarkable what marvelous changes sometimes take place, between sunset and sun-rise, as well in men's opinions as the weather; but let the Grand Jury at May Term prepare to receive a petition, so numerously signed, and couched in such language, as will *compel* them to report favorably to a New Court House, and *wipe out a foul stain on the fair face of the County.*"

Let the people stand by and see this Division movement "crushed"—let the New Berliners carry out their boasted threat of placing their heels upon the necks of those who believe that Division is advisable, or, in the more classic language of the *Union Star* of 25th May, "put the Screws on them and fasten them so tight that they will never rise again!"—

let them again feel secure—and from cringing sycophants at your feet, as they now are, they will again assume their dictatorial tone, and, to use their own language, "compel" you to erect buildings with your money to enhance their property.

We freely take the issue that they themselves have made. We admit that it is a question of money—to us, to you, and to them. To us, because the seat of justice in our more favored locality would in the end enhance our property more than the cost of buildings. To you, because you would then have buildings free of cost—and again to you, because if the site for the seat of justice remains as it is, your money must pay for the "beautiful" structures at New Berlin. And to them, because their town would thus be improved without cost to themselves.

You will bear in mind this one, fixed fact, in which they and we agree—namely, that county buildings must be erected somewhere. It is for you to decide whether you will have them free of cost, or whether you will pay Eighty or One Hundred Thousand Dollars to ornament the Borough of New Berlin—to enhance the property of a people who will not do as much as drive a nail to repair the buildings they now have, without charging the same to the county, as you will see from every County Statement published for years. We name \$80,000 or \$100,000 as the probable cost, because "our sister counties" of Montgomery, York, Chester, Schuylkill, Berks, and Lancaster, have recently spent larger sums in the re-erection of such "beautiful and convenient Public Buildings" as would "wipe out a foul stain on the fair face of the county." We name that sum also, because *half* that amount is the lowest sum suggested, for each section of the divided county, by the Press of that place, as a few references will prove. "Division," says the *Times* of 16th of June, 1853, "would bring a debt upon the county, or rather upon BOTH COUNTRIES, of Forty Thousand Dollars." Same paper of 6th Oct. 1853, puts the cost at Fifty Thousand Dollars. *Times* of 20th July, 1854, and *Volkswagen* of same date, put the estimate also at Fifty Thousand. The *Times* of 31st Aug. 1854, makes a similar estimate. Such also is the language of the Orators who New Berlin sends out to inform the people. We have no desire to call in question their sincerity; we take it for granted that those Editors and Orators reflect the estimates, DRAINS, and DESIGNS of the New Berlin people, and that they would not hazard their character for truth and fair dealing by making hasty or unfounded assertions on a question so deeply involving the interests of every citizen of the county. If, then, the New Berlin associations are correct, and suitable County Buildings for Snyder and

Union counties would cost \$40,000 or \$50,000 each, it is the fair and irresistible inference that buildings for the *whole* (or undivided) county would cost *double* that sum, and nothing less than \$80,000 or \$100,000 would satisfy the "painfully galling public pride and spirit," or "wipe out the foul stain" of the present buildings, in the view of our enterprising neighbors of the boasted "Emporium."

The whole matter, then, comes down to this: Admitting the claims of the Petition, the Press, and the Orators of New Berlin—1st, that the present buildings are unfit for the purpose for which they are used; 2d, that they, with their opportunities and long-sharpened tactics will some pleasant "sun-rise" bring such a force upon the Grand Jury "as will *compel* them" to order the erection of new buildings; and 3dly, if such buildings would cost the sum they have themselves indicated—the great question for you to decide is whether you will vote for Division without cost for buildings to yourselves; or against Division, and pay such taxes, in addition to your present galling load, for splendid buildings on the old site, as New Berlin in its pride and triumph would impose.

It is but justice to ourselves to say, that we do not contemplate such a cost for our buildings—that the peaceful and economical inhabitants of the Northern half of old Union require not such an outlay—and yet that we would have them tasty, commodious, permanent and satisfactory to both Town and Country. The above Bond of Fifty Thousand Dollars will undoubtedly cover the cost of the Buildings, which are subject to the approval of your own Court and Commissioners. "All the necessary County Buildings" covers Court House, County Offices, and Jail.

Fellow citizens—we would say to you in conclusion, that we have not chosen to delay the publication of the above Bond until just the eve of the Election. We wish you to have our proposition before you, that you may sift it to the bottom. Other localities will doubtless offer similar guaranties. We wish the opponents of Division to have every advantage of our position. We want New Berlin to have the opportunity to give a like Bond, should they wish to do so. If the property holders of New Berlin will bind themselves in the same terms to the Judge of this district to erect within eighteen months after the adjournment of the next Legislature (in the event Division does not pass) buildings not inferior to those named as above and wholly at their own cost, then the question at issue will be that of *convenience*, and you will say whether you will prefer to do your legal business at some point of trade and travel, or whether you will prefer the more quiet streets of our present retired county seat.

DIVISIONISTS OF LEWISBURG.