



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

csac.history.wisc.edu > Ratification at a Glance > Pennsylvania > Significant Events and Outcomes Associated with Pennsylvania > The Carlisle Riot and its Aftermath

Justices John Agnew and Samuel Irwin Explain Why Seven Men Were Jailed on 25 February *Carlisle Gazette*, 27 February 1788

Whereas, we understand that a report has been propagated in the country by some persons respecting the manner in which the following persons have been committed to jail by John Agnew and Samuel Irwin, esquires, viz., Joseph Young, Samuel Greer, Thomas Dickson, Joseph Steel, Bartholemew White, William Petrekin, and James Wallace, upon the charges of being guilty of a riot. We think it expedient to testify that the said persons, together with several others being brought before us upon the said charge, and being doubtful as to the direction of a warrant from the judge of the Supreme Court, whether it was in our power to investigate the said charge, and go into evidence thereon, to commit absolutely in case bail was not offered. We thought proper to signify that they might all go at large on parole until the 25th of March, to give us time to consult the Chief Justice [Thomas McKean] upon said warrant, but all the above persons insisted to have a trial, refused to give bail, altho they could have easily obtained bail; but they would rather go to jail than accept of a parole as others did in the like situation. We therefore conceived it our duty to commit them. The above is a true state of the affair. Witness our hand this 26th day of February, 1788.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. II: Pennsylvania (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1976), 697–98.