FREDERICK COUNTY NOVEMBER COURT 1749 Page 237.

Several of the inhabitants of the Conococheague and others to the Court here the following petition: To-Wit.

To the worshipful, the Justices of the Frederick County November. The motive of your petitioners address themselves by way of a petition which we humbly lay before you praying your inspection into the same for had we not sufficient grounds and reasons we shall not trouble the Worshipful Bench but taking a general view of our disabilities and calamities and the labours we struggle under to pay unnecessary expenses and particularly this one that we think and which the opinion of many others that it is superfluous and that there is no necessity of a FERRY to be kept at the mouth of the Conococheague excepting it be to support idleness and run the County to charges and whereas the inhabitants of this County are so seldom obliged to make use that we hope it will be your favorable opinion and we doubt not that for your Worships will be convinced of the same for such extravagant expenses doing no good but only impoverishing poor people. Your humble petitioners doubt not but you have inadventenly been influenced upon to grant and appoint a FERRY there and likely some will do their endeavours out of self interest though they know it to be no credit to the County to continue it but when we consider your Worships worthiness in considering the most proper methods for the easement and imterest of the County in your rejoicing to see these parts flourish and not your petitioners as shall be made in opposition we hope will have no influence but rather appear that any endeavoring so to be is not for the good of the County your petitioners as duty bound etc.

Upon reading which petition and considering thereof had it is adjudged by the Court here that the same be rejected.

FREDERICK COUNTY NOVEMBER COURT 1749 Page 247.

Several of the inhabitants of Conococheague and Antietam prefer to the Court here the following petition: To-Wit.

To the Worshipful Judges of Frederick County sitting. A petition of several of the inhabitants of Conococheague and Antietam do humbly sheweth that whereas we are informed there is a petition now preparing to be laid before your Worships setting forth the ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ unnecessary burdens of the free FERRY across Conococheague, and that there is a large sum allowed for a ferry crossing said creek which is no use to the people, and that your Worships were imposed upon by artful contricance of a man whose only view in the thing was to secure a debt due to him from the present Ferryman.

We beg leave to assure your worships that it is a Ferry of as much public utility as any in the County, which may be manifested by the Ferrymans book who has taken account of the numbers that have crossed that Ferry since it has been made free-but that the design of that petition proceeds only from a root of malice against the Gentleman therein, pointing at and not from any real regard for the public, as evidenced from several circumstances.

And as their petition carries in it a false and unworthy invective against a Gentleman who has been of great service to this part of the County, as a good Magistrate and useful and active in the services of the public on all occasions. We make no doubt of its having a due weight with your Worships had the petitioners prayed that the County might not be burdened with the expense of free ferries generally, and that everybody might pay their own ferriage, as well across the Monocacy and Conococheague, we might join them, but since it appears that the Ferry across the Conocheague is as necessary and to as much used by the public of this neighborhood as any of the three Ferries of the Monocacy can be by the inhabitants there etc.

Upon reading which petition and considering thereof had it is adjudged by the Court here that the same be rejected.