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CONVENTION OF NEW JERSEY.

Proceedings of a Convention of Delegates
of the People of New-Jersey, chosen in
the several Counties of said State, and
held by public appointment at the City
of Trenton, on the 4th day of July,
1812.

The Delegates being assembled at 10
o'clock, proceeded to the nomination and
choice of a Chairman and Secretary, and
did unanimously appoint JONATHAN EL-
MER, of Cumberland, *Chairman*, and JOHN
OUTWATER, of Bergen, *Secretary*.

On motion, Ordered.—That the names
of the Delegates present be inserted on the
minutes as follows:—

Bergen County.—John Outwater, Ja-
cob Terheum.

Essex.—Aaron Ogden, Jeremiah Bal-
lard, Elias B. Dayton.

Middlesex.—James Schureman, Erau-
ries Beatty, Thomas M'Dowell, John
Pole.

Somerset.—Richard Stockton, John D.
W. Fenbrook, Elbert Stootoff, Gilbert
B. Taylor, John Wyckoff.

Morris.—John Kinney, John G. Cooper.

Munmouth.—Elias Conover, Thomas
Henderson, James H. Inlav, David Craig,
John Sillwell, William Lloyd, William
Lawrie, James Lloyd.

Hunterdon.—Aaron D. Woodruff,
William Potts, Charles Ewing, John Scud-
der, John Coryell, William S. Moore,
Joseph Phillips, John Stevens, James
Stevenson, William Maxwell, John E.
Forsman, John Carpenter, Ira Jewell,
James White.

Burlington.—John Black, William
Griffith, William Cexe, George Ander-
son, William Irick, Charles Ellis, Rich-
ard Cox, Samuel J. Read, Edward French,
William Pearson, Joseph Bolton.

Gloucester.—Franklin Davenport, Jo-
shua L. Howell, Charles French, Samu-
el W. Harrison, Samuel L. Howell, Samu-
el P. Paul, Joseph V. Clark, John
Pissant, James Batten, Daniel Carrell.

Salem.—Thomas Sinnickson, Robert
G. Johnson.

Cumberland.—Jonathan Elmer, James
Giles, Jeremiah Buck, Joel Fithrin, Sam-
M. Shute, William B. Ewing, Jonathan
Dobbs.

On motion it was Resolved, That this
Convention will proceed to consider the a-
larming state of public affairs—and particu-
larly on the means to be used for constitu-
tionally and speedily relieving the coun-
try from the grievances of War.

Whereupon, after full debate on the
principles and measures proper to be a-
dopted at this time, for the foregoing pur-
poses, it was, on motion.

Ordered, That a committee be appoint-
ed of eleven members, (each county de-
legation naming one) to draft an Address
to the people of New-Jersey, in conform-
ity to the instructions of this Convention
and that they report thereon at five o'clock
in the afternoon.

Whereupon, the following delegates
were chosen for said Committee:—

Bergen.—John Outwater.

Essex.—Aaron Ogden.

Middlesex.—James Schureman.

Somerset.—Richard Stockton.

Munmouth.—Thomas Henderson.

Hunterdon.—Aaron D. Woodruff.

Morris.—John G. Cooper.

Burlington.—William Griffith.

Gloucester.—Samuel W. Harrison.

Salem.—Thomas Sinnickson.

Cumberland.—William B. Ewing.

The Convention adjourned to meet a-
gain at five o'clock in the afternoon; and
being assembled at said hour, present as
before, the Committee, by THOMAS HEN-
DERSON, their Chairman, made report to
the Convention of the draft of an Address
to the People of New-Jersey, as had been
ordered, which, being read, debated and
amended, on the question whether this
Convention doth agree to the same, it was
unanimously determined in the affirmative,
and it was further resolved, that the same
be signed by the Chairman and Secretary,
on behalf of this Convention, that it be
published in the papers of this State, and
in one of the papers of the cities of Phila-

delphia and New-York, and that three
thousand copies thereof be printed in a
pamphlet form, and distributed among the
several counties of this State, in such
manner as may be deemed expedient by
Messrs. Charles Ewing, Garritt D. Wall,
and William Potts, who are appointed a
Committee for that purpose.

The Convention, after full considera-
tion, did come to the following further
Resolves:—

First.—As the attainment to Peace, by
a change of Men now in the administra-
tion, or some of them, is of such vast im-
portance to the People of New-Jersey, this
Convention, on that account, doth recom-
mend to the Friends of Peace in each coun-
ty to convene at some suitable time and
place, and appoint two Delegates to meet
other Delegates on Tuesday the 11th day
of August next at 2 o'clock in the after-
noon, at Trenton, for the purpose of a-
greeing on fit persons to be nominated as
Electors of President and Vice-President,
and as members of Congress for this State,
to be chosen at the ensuing fall election;
and it is further recommended to the se-
veral counties, as well in the appointment
of the above Delegates, as in the nomina-
tion of members of Council, and Assem-
bly for the state Legislature, that they en-
deavour to select persons who will use all
constitutional means to obtain a Repeal of
the War Bill, passed in Congress on the
eighteenth of June, and who will promote
the settlement of any differences with G.
Britain, on honorable terms, by Negotia-
tion—and oppose all alliance with France.

Secondly.—And it is further agreed up-
on and resolved, by this Convention, that
a Committee of Correspondence be appoint-
ed to communicate with like Committees
who may be appointed in other States, for
the purpose of agreeing on Candidates for
the offices of President and Vice-President,
and all other matters which may be of im-
portance to the Peace, Union and Liber-
ties of the United States: which Commit-
tee was accordingly appointed.

The Address of this Convention, as a-
bove agreed to, is directed to be inserted
on the minutes, and is as follows:—

ADDRESS.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

A Crisis has at length arrived in the
Administration of the public affairs of this
country, in which every one of us has a
deep and solemn concern. It is not our
purpose to review the various acts and
proceedings of those to whom the People
for twelve years past have entrusted the
management of these affairs! Unhappily
they seem to have left us little to reflect
upon but our divisions and misfortunes.
Most unequivocally, however, do we de-
clare our confidence in the great body of
citizens, whatever may have been our dis-
trust or dissatisfaction in regard to many
men in office, and the measures they have
pursued.

We believe the PEOPLE, to whatever
set of men or measures they have attached
their confidence and support, could only
mean, and did mean, the good, the peace,
and prosperity of a country rendered dear
to them by so many privileges and bless-
ings. It is to this PEOPLE, so enlighten-
ed, so independent and patriotic, (and we
may trust, so candid as to confide in our
sincerity) that we now address ourselves.

On the 18th of June, a small majority
in Congress did by a LAW declare WAR
on the part of the United States, against
the United Kingdom of G. Britain and
Ireland and its dependencies.

This act, so unexpected, so opposed to
the petitions and remonstrances of every
class and part of the community—so stead-
fastly and honorably resisted by a great
majority of the delegates in Congress from
this State, and by those of many other
States, could not be prevented. It was,
after many days struggle, in secret sitting,
carried through and became a Law.

This CONVENTION is composed of
men who would ill deserve the confidence
of their fellow citizens and dishonor their
own principles were they to attempt to
obstruct or defeat this law by any irregu-
lar opposition—by violence, by menace,
illegal combination. It must be for those
who want a good cause and distrust the
force of reason to support it, to adopt
means so unworthy of freemen and good
citizens. Some of us have contributed
early and ardently, in contending for and
laying the foundations of civil liberty, and
all of us are too deeply impressed with the
duties of submission to constitutional laws
(while they are in force) to be capable of
conduct or advice, tending to prevent their

execution, by the agency of popular pas-
sions—however such laws may during
their continuance, distress the people of
counteract their best and most important
interests. But while we feel the obliga-
tion of our duties under a law which is
deemed most impolitic and oppressive, we
also know the extent of our rights and
those of the people, enabling us and them
to bring about its REPEAL, by our E-
LECTIONS.

We address you then fellow citizens,
at this awful crisis, produced by the war
law, in the language of freemen and free a-
gents—in the consciousness of pure mo-
tives and penetrated by the profoundest fee-
lings of patriotic regard for our dear coun-
try. Our hearts and minds are filled with
this one subject and the prospect it opens
(if the voice of the people does not save
us) of lengthened public miseries. We
will not mingle in its consideration other
grievances, or any matter calculated to em-
bitter or revive party differences, on other
questions—all are lost, consummated, u-
nited in the last great grievance of War.

Little did we, individually, or those
who have confided this high trust to us in
our character of delegates of the people im-
agine, that a majority, however small
of the persons in office should be brought
to plunge this country into a WAR, and
to unite, as probably it must, our destinies
and certainly our efforts, in a common
cause with the tyrant of France.

By some fatality, incomprehensible to
us, on any principles of prudence, and
much less of necessity, has this happened.
A law, debated and passed in secret, has
placed this extensive country and all its
great interests—Union—and future pros-
perity, on the fate of WAR.

Defence, within our own borders, and
even arming our own vessels for defence on
the seas, against both French and English
aggression, was a practicable and not a
hazardous expedient. But without pre-
paration, and without trial of the means
of defence, dissension in our country, and
general opposition to war, to become the
attacking power, and to declare open, ge-
neral and offensive war against one of
the great contending states of Europe—we re-
peat it fellow-citizens is an event in the
history, even of these times, which fills
us, and we believe the great body of the
people, with grief and amazement.

We were not invaded—no power even
threatened it, we still enjoyed a tenfold
greater portion of internal and even exter-
nal happiness and prosperity than any na-
tion in the world. Our agriculture, com-
merce and manufactures, the great pro-
ducts of our fields, forests and fisheries,
growing out of the industry and enterprise
of seven millions of free and virtuous citi-
zens, were yet but little impaired, except
by our own internal restrictions, which
could at any time be suspended or remo-
ved.

In regard even to trade and navigation
on the ocean, an immense and sufficient
scope remained for all our ships, seamen
and capital, free from belligerent and tem-
porary restraints. The British orders in
council (made the principal ground of war)
only put France and Holland and a part of
Italy in a state of blockade, prevent our
merchant ships going there. The whole
world beside, was, in regard to any con-
duct of the British, as free to us as before.
China, the East and West Indies, South
America, Great-Britain and her dependencies
and all the states and kingdoms in Europe,
none of all this vast portion of the world
was affected or shut against us by the Bri-
tish orders in council; nine tenths, at least
of all our trade was free. France only, &
her dependencies of Holland and part of I-
taly were blockaded, with whom, if no
blockade of their ports existed, our trade
could be worth very little, as it was sub-
ject to every species of vexation, loss, plun-
der and prohibitory duties.

Our own coasting trade of 1500 miles
in extent, serving to employ and to support
so many of our fellow-citizens, and to trans-
port with ease and economy the surplus
productions of labor from one state to the
other by sea, affording a real profit to the
community equal to the whole of our for-
eign trade, all this too remained to us
unaffected by belligerent edicts.

Our revenue from our commerce also
was very great—equal, annually, to the
payment of every expense of the navy, ar-
my civil list, and other demands of govern-
ment, beside discharging, each year, a
portion of the old debt of the revolution.
The average of this revenue, not less than
twelve millions of dollars, annually, relie-

ving the people from any direct taxes pay-
able to the United States. In these fa-
voured circumstances of agriculture, for-
eign navigation, coasting trade and reve-
nue, was war declared, and it necessarily
shakes them to the foundation.

In regard to our political, moral, civil
and religious blessings & advantages, they
were surely great and many. Peace itself
and neutrality, at a time when all the Eu-
ropean world is convulsed and tending by
wars and famine, to dissolution and the
tyranny of one man, were to us, who al-
most solely enjoyed them inestimable
blessings. How innumerable and vast they
were, your own feelings, enjoyments, and
reflections, fellow-citizens, can better de-
termine than we describe. In great mer-
cy also, we were removed 3000 miles
from those scenes of violence and devasta-
tion—we had taken no part in them. Our
pure and free and progressing country,
had kept itself from the dangerous and
deadly grasp of French connection. This
was our fear and danger.

This war, if it is so to be continued, de-
prives us of neutrality and peace. It makes
this wide ocean no longer a barrier between
America and the ambition and ruthless
vengeance, which are scourging Europe—
destroying republics—liberty and human
happiness. We are brought by it to touch
the confines of a land steeped with blood,
oppression and crimes. In a word it
brings to the people of these states, with
all the rest of its actual and prospective e-
vils, a co-operation in the war, if not a ge-
neral alliance with France against Eng-
land. With what anxious foreboding must
every heart be torn, that thinks upon a
war which not only cuts us from so many
positive blessings, but launches this safe
and happy people into the vortex of Euro-
pean broils—into wars, which twenty years
of blood and devastation have but served
to infuriate, extend and perpetuate.

That our country had received wrongs,
both in its honor and rights, from Eng-
land, during her long contest with France
need not be disputed. What peaceable &
neutral power has not, and which of those
injured powers, embarking in a war of al-
liance with France, or alone, to vindicate
those rights, that has not suffered injuries
tenfold greater? Most of them indeed
losing their very liberties and independence
in attempting to establish minor preten-
sions, and vindicate what was called their
honor.—That Great-Britain is wrong in
preventing our trade with France, because
France interdicted our trade with England,
or that her cruizers on the ocean frequen-
ly have impressed American seamen, pre-
tending they were British subjects, or un-
der real mistakes of the fact, are undoubt-
ed wrongs; that of impressment, a most
injurious practice, and justly calculated to
kindle our resentments, and to claim from
our government prudent and persevering
means to prevent or mitigate its severity,
either by arming merchant ships for de-
fence, or agreeing with England on some
plan of avoiding the mistakes or violence
of her sea officers. Such a plan was in-
fact agreed to by England and approved of
by our ambassadors Pinkney and Monroe,
but rejected by the American cabinet.

Fellow-citizens, wrongs to our country
will ever be vindicated by us—and even
these so much insisted upon, cannot be re-
viewed by us with feelings less acute to
their real importance than by others.
Washington Jefferson and Adams, during
twenty years of administration, never con-
sidered the pretension or practice of im-
pressment, though more rigorously en-
forced then, as sufficiently justifying them to
go to war. And now that our administra-
tion in the present state of the world, and
circumstanced as it is, unprepared, and
with divided councils, should by a bare
majority declare general and offensive war
by land and sea, on such points not vitally
affecting us in our national prosperity, in-
stead of waiting for time, mutual interests
and negotiation to settle them (many of
which must end of themselves with the
war in Europe,) is an event which seems
to almost defy belief. The people—reflec-
ting citizens, are struck with amazement
and disapprobation, looking round for
means of relief from the threatened evils
of a protracted, hazardous and untimely
war—declared against England too in the
midst of negotiations, and whilst her mini-
stry and parliament were actually delibe-
rating on the very point of repealing her or-
ders.

It is then, countrymen and friends, to
this great, unlooked for and potentous
question, we claim your solemn and can-