

CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT, PA RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION # 8904

DATE 6-20-19

TITLE

Resolution Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Death of Michael Ross, Founder and Proprietor of Williamsport

Whereas, Michael Ross was a prominent figure in the early history of Williamsport, and the Lycoming County Historical Society desires to call attention to this notable anniversary by recalling some facts of his life at a public ceremony in Williamsport Cemetery on June 20, 2019;

Whereas, Michael Ross was born July 11, 1759, purportedly of Scottish lineage;

Whereas, Michael Ross was living in Philadelphia with his mother in 1772 when he signed (with an "X" mark) an indenture to be apprenticed to Samuel Wallis, serving him for a period of seven years as a farmer and surveyor's assistant;

Whereas, in 1779, at the conclusion of this indenture, Samuel Wallis presented Michael Ross with a high written recommendation and 100 acres of land;

Whereas, Michael Ross married Ann Corson in 1788.

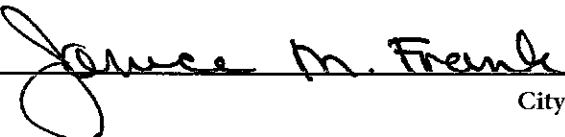
Whereas, Michael Ross acquired additional land, including the patent for a 285 acre tract named "Virginia" in 1794;

Whereas, in 1795, at the "urging" of William Hepburn, Michael Ross began to develop an area of approximately 110 acres on his "Virginia" tract adjacent to the Susquehanna River, and "employed William Ellis and Joseph Williams to lay out the town";

Whereas, Michael Ross gave the lots of land for a Court House and Jail for the new county which was being formed at the time;

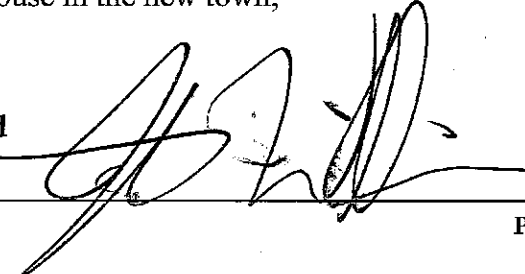
Whereas, "William's Port" was subsequently fixed as "the seat of justice" for the newly erected County of Lycoming;

Whereas, Michael Ross sold a lot of land at the northeast corner of East Third and Mulberry Streets upon which James Russell erected the first house in the new town;



City Clerk

Approved



President

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Whereas, “the first sale of lots, which took place on the 4th of July, 1796, was made the occasion for a public demonstration and an ox-roast,” with lots sold to John Adlum, John Courson, William Hepburn, John Titsworth, John Kidd, and Evan R. Evans;

Whereas, on March 1, 1806, the town of Williamsport was incorporated as a Borough by an Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, signed by Governor Thomas McKean;

Whereas, the children born to Ann and Michael Ross were Elizabeth Ross Vanderbelt, Margaret Ross Huling, William Ross, John Ross, and Ann Ross Low;

Whereas, Ann Corson Ross died on July 31, 1818 in the 55th year of her age;

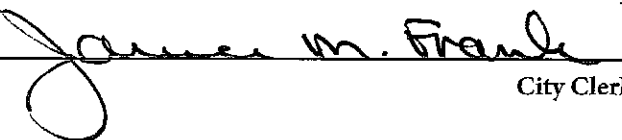
Whereas, Michael Ross died on June 20, 1819 in the 60th year of his age, both he and his wife being originally interred in the Public Burying Ground on Pine Street, and later reinterred in Williamsport Cemetery;

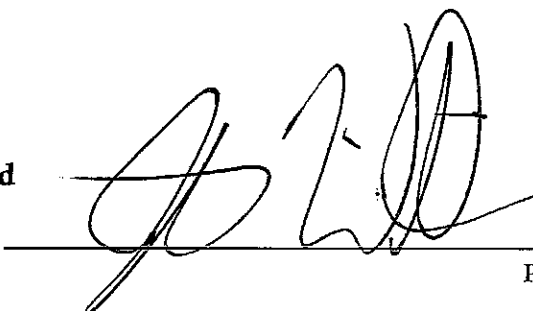
Whereas, Michael Ross has been described as having a well-balanced “business ambition, public spirit and unbounded energy”;

Now therefore, the City of Williamsport recognizes and supports the Lycoming County Historical Society’s efforts to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of Michael Ross, “founder and proprietor of Williamsport.”

And directs that a copy of this citation be transmitted to the Lycoming County Historical Society, 858 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA, 17701.

Approved


City Clerk


President