

LANCASTER  
COUNTY  
OBSERVES  
PENNSYLVANIA'S  
TERCENTENARY

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## **Sketches From Early Lancaster County History**

*Dear Reader:*

On May 10, of this year, Lancaster County will celebrate 250 years of existence as a county. On May 10, at 10:45 a.m., in the lobby of the Court House, the County Commissioners will approve a resolution adopting an official county flag, and accept a copy of the act creating Lancaster County. A birthday party will follow, complete with cake and ice cream to be supplied by local businesses. On May 12—all day—at the County Park—a Family Day will be held. Our residents are invited to attend and participate. Food, games, crafts, music, fireworks and much more—will be part of the day-long festivities.

The 250th Anniversary Committee, Lancaster Newspapers, Inc. and the advertisers listed in this supplement are pleased to provide the readers of the *Intelligencer Journal* and the *New Era* with some sketches of early Lancaster. We think you will find these essays informative and interesting. They tell the story of how and why Lancaster was founded, and what kind of people came here during its early years. The sketches also include a description of the occupational activities, religious orientation, social life, transportation, Indian life, architecture, and early towns. Naturally, these short essays do not purport to be a comprehensive history but rather are intended to give the reader a brief, popular account.

We asked a few of Lancaster's most historically knowledgeable citizens to prepare these essays. We are pleased to present them to you virtually as they wrote them. Thanks publicly should be extended to John Aungst, John Jarvis, Charles Kessler, Jim Kinter, John W. W. Loose, S. R. Slaymaker, II, John Snyder, Jr., John Rengier, Dorothy Parmer and our editor Susan Baker.

G. Terry Madonna  
Chairman, 250th Anniversary Committee

The materials contained in this booklet originally appeared in a 1979 publication issued during the observance of the 250th anniversary of Lancaster County.

The members of the 300th anniversary committee of 1982 organized to plan celebrations for the tercentenary of the Commonwealth, believe that the value and popular appeal of the sketches will enhance Lancaster County's commemorative observances of William Penn's "Holy Experiment" begun three centuries ago.

Members of the 300th Anniversary Committee

The following pages were reprinted from a supplement that appeared in the *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal* and *New Era* on May 8, 1979.

## Contributing Authors

### John W. Aungst, Jr.

John W. Aungst, Jr. was born in Lancaster and educated at Harrisburg academy and Dickinson College. He is Administrator of the Lancaster County Historical Society and is associated with many historical groups: past President and Board member of the Historical Preservation Trust of Lancaster County; Board member for the James Buchanan Foundation (Wheatland); American Association of State and Local History; National Trust for Historical Preservation; Pennsylvania German Society; Society of Architectural Historians; Victorian Society in America. He is a member of Lancaster County's 250th Anniversary Committee.

### John A. Jarvis

John A. Jarvis, born in London, Great Britain, educated at St. Andrew's University in Scotland, earned an M.S. degree in Education at the University of Pennsylvania and is now Headmaster of the Lancaster Country Day School. He is an elder of the First Presbyterian Church, a member of the City Planning Commission, of the Charlotte Street Association, of Sphinx, and of the Pequeanauts.

### Charles H. Kessler

Charles H. Kessler, was born in Pottstown, PA and educated at the University of North Carolina and Franklin and Marshall College. He is a newspaper reporter and writer, presently for the Lancaster New Era. He is a member of the 250th Anniversary Committee.

### Jim Kinter

Jim Kinter, was born in Homer City, Indiana Co., PA and studied at Indiana State Teachers College in the Art Department. He is a newspaper writer, having been with the Intelligencer-Journal for over thirty years. He is a member of the Lancaster County Historical Society and an author of historical publications.

### John Ward Willson Loose

John Ward Willson Loose, a native of Lancaster who studied at Millersville State College and the Pennsylvania State University. "Jack" is now chairman of the department of social studies at Donegal High School. He has also held the Public Office of Prothonotary of Lancaster County. He is associated with a myriad of historical organizations (local, state and national) and has held office in many of them, being the current president of the Lancaster County Historical Society and the Union Fire Company No. 1. The most recent of his writings to be published is "The Heritage of Lancaster" and the most recent of his numerous awards is the citation by the Lancaster Sertoma Club for Service to Mankind. He is a member of the 250th Anniversary Committee.

### G. Terry Madonna

G. Terry Madonna, born in Lancaster and educated at Millersville State College and the University of Delaware, is now Professor of American History and Politics at Millersville State College. He is a member of the Lancaster County Historical Society and of the Organization of American Historians; a member of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Historical Association; and is author of publications and articles dealing with local history. In addition, he is a former County Commissioner, a former trustee of Embreeville State Hospital, and is now President of the Lancaster County Emergency Medical Services Council. He is also Chairman of Lancaster County's 250th Anniversary Committee.

### Dorothy Pontz Parmer

Dorothy Pontz Parmer, born and educated in Lancaster, is a soprano soloist who presents original programs of music and drama throughout Eastern Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland. She is also Music Director of her church. She is a charter member of the Lancaster Opera Workshop, a past President of the Musical Art Society, and currently the State chairman of Sacred Music for the Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs.

### John B. Rengier

John B. Rengier, was born in Lancaster, and was educated at Lemon Street School, Lancaster Boys' High School, Franklin and Marshall College, and the University of Pennsylvania. A Lancaster lawyer of many years' standing and an author and dramatist, the affiliation he considers noteworthy is with the Slumbering Groundhog Lodge of Quarryville, PA. He is a member of the 250th Anniversary Committee.

### S. R. Slaymaker II

S. R. Slaymaker II, born in Lancaster and educated at the University of Cambridge, is now a free-lance writer, publishing material on historical and outdoors topics. He is with the Historical Foundation of Pennsylvania (Harrisburg) and a Director of the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame (Philadelphia) and is National Secretary of the Society of the War of 1812. His historic family home, White Chimneys, is open to the public in July and August. He is also a book reviewer of British and American History books for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

### John J. Snyder, Jr.

John J. Snyder, Jr., was born in Harrisburg, PA, studied at Dickinson College, earned a graduate degree in the University of Delaware's Winterthur Program and is currently a doctoral candidate in Art History, consultant, antiquarian and author, and is Director of the Lancaster Architectural Survey 1978-79. He is a board member for the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, the Wheatland Foundation, and the Lancaster County Arts Consortium. He is also a life member of the Lancaster County Historical Society.

# ***The Founding of Lancaster County***

After William Penn received his charter from King Charles II in 1681, he proceeded to establish a system of government in his new colony. To help him govern Pennsylvania, Penn appointed a governor (or deputies). A provincial council and a general assembly were to be elected by the freemen of the colony. All laws were to be similar to those that prevailed in England. Three counties in Pennsylvania—Bucks, Philadelphia, and Chester—and three lower counties in what is now Delaware were established in 1682. Although Penn, the peaceful and humanitarian Quaker, tried to establish the most free, tolerant, and enlightened government known up to that time, the new settlers lost no time in stirring up all sorts of controversy, and making demands for rights. William Penn revised much of his government to conform to the wishes of the freemen, but there was no way to satisfy them completely. The “Holy Experiment” turned into a shambles, with English officials questioning whether or not Penn had created a monster that was beyond his control. Much of Penn’s time and efforts were spent trying to defend his colony against rising criticism. Even Penn himself finally appeared to despair over the lack of gratitude his colonists showed for responsible democratic government.

## **Did Stick Together**

Disputes in the colony rose to a fever pitch as Scot Presbyterian and German settlers moved into the hinterlands in ever increasing numbers. The Germans did not concern themselves much with freedoms offered by the government, but they did stick together, bargaining skillfully for the best land. The Scots, who hated the English and the Irish, found Quaker pacifism frustrating when they tried to obtain military defense against the Indians. To make matters worse, the Germans refused to get involved, and when they did, they generally sided with the pacifist Quakers. With the Philadelphia Quakers embattled with the frontiersmen, the Anglicans (Church of England) saw their opportunity to denounce the Quakers as inept, and therefore not capable of governing Pennsylvania. By this time William Penn was dead, and his three sons, John, Richard, and Thomas, after a long court case, became the proprietors. The sons were Anglicans, not Quakers. Their views on Englishmen’s rights differed greatly from the philosophy of their father. Meanwhile, governors were being appointed and replaced at a fast rate, and the colony was not in good shape. To bolster its sagging economy the Pennsylvania government issued two series of paper money, much to the dismay of the British government.

## **Additional Townships Created**

As settlers in the hinterlands of Chester County increased in number, additional townships were created by the Chester County court. Sadsbury, which was an old township, was extended west of the Octorara Creek. In 1718 the settlers were clamoring for constables to help keep the peace, so Conestoga Township was established in all the land west and north of the Octorara Creek. Further surges in population led to the formation of West Conestoga Township in 1720; it included all the land north of the Pequea Creek. By 1722 the Scots managed to have the name changed to Donegal Township, depriving the detested Indians of the honor. A Pequea Township was formed in 1721 where Caernarvon, Brecknock and East Earl townships are now located.

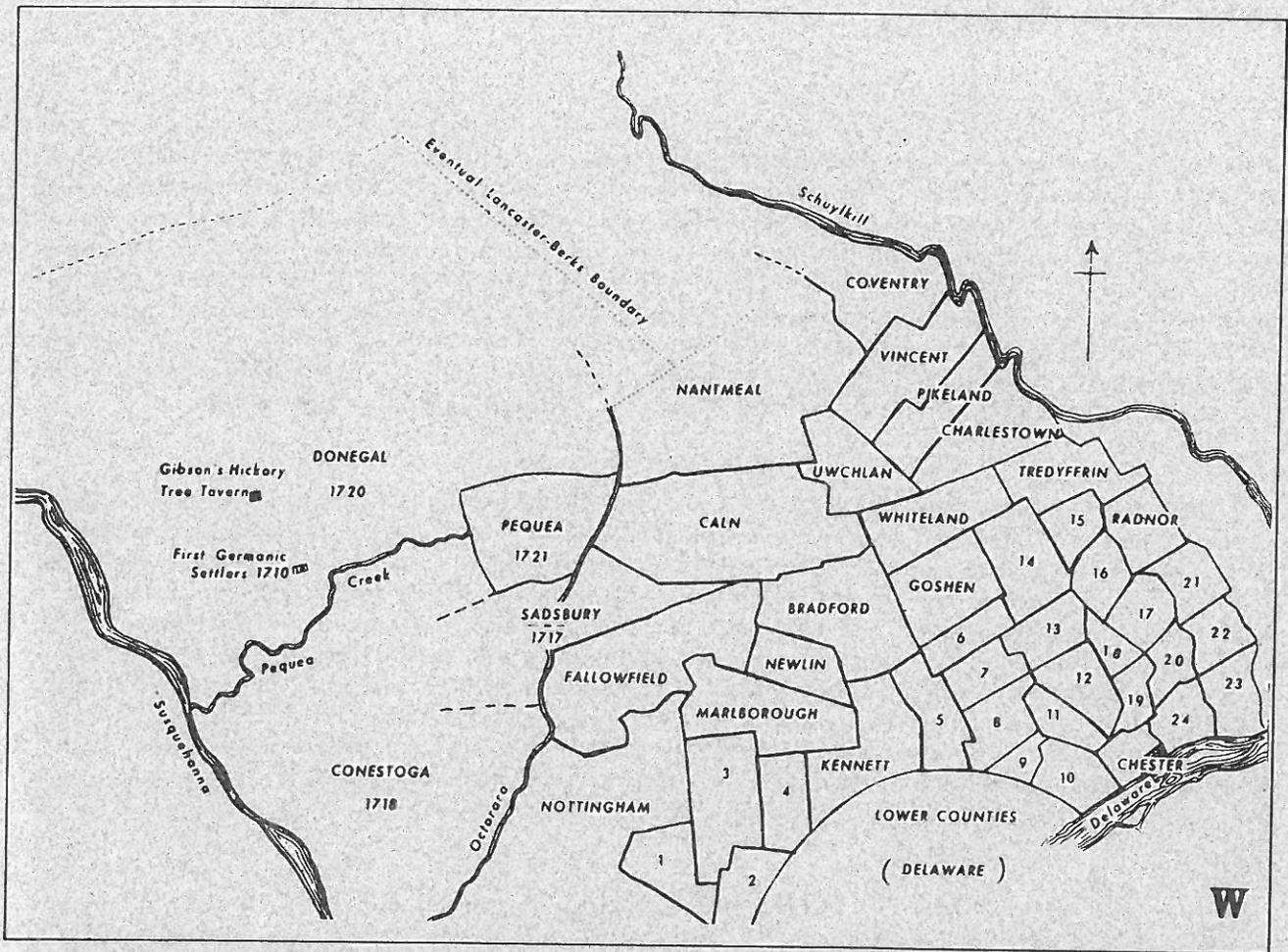
Development of civilization and law enforcement in the older portions of Chester County drove lawbreakers and habitual scoundrels into the hinterlands — west of the Octorara Creek. Their presence bothered the settlers, whereupon a petition was presented to the colonial government requesting the establishment of a new county, complete with courts, sheriff, and the other symbols of law and order. The “other symbols” to the Germans meant taxes, and they opposed efforts to create a new county. Finally, in 1728, those Chester County residents along the Susquehanna River decided a two-day trip to Upland (Chester) on the Delaware River to attend legal business and court was too inconvenient. On 6 February 1728, this petition was laid before the Provincial Council at Philadelphia:

## ***Petition To Erect A New County Out Of Upper Chester County***

**At a Council held at Philadelphia, February 6th, 1729,**

**A petition of the inhabitants of the upper parts of Chester County was laid before the Board and read, setting forth, that by reason of their great distance from the county town, where Courts are held, offices are kept, and annual elections made, they lie under very great inconveniences, being obliged in the recovery of their just debts, to travel near one hundred miles to obtain a writ; that for want of a sufficient number of Justices, Constables and other officers, in those parts, no care is taken of the high-ways; Townships are not laid out, nor bridges built, when there is an apparent necessity for them; and further that for want of a Gaol there, several vagabonds and other dissolute people harbour among them, thinking themselves safe from**

# TOWNSHIPS OF CHESTER COUNTY PRIOR TO 1729



1. New London 2. London Britain 3. London Grove 4. New Garden 5. Birmingham 6. West Town 7. Thornbury 8. Concord 9. Bethel 10. Chichester 11. Aston 12. Middletown 13. Edgmont 14. Willistown 15. East Town 16. New Town 17. Marple 18. Upper Providence 19. Nether Providence 20. Springfield 21. Haverford 22. Upper Darby 23. Darby 24. Ridley

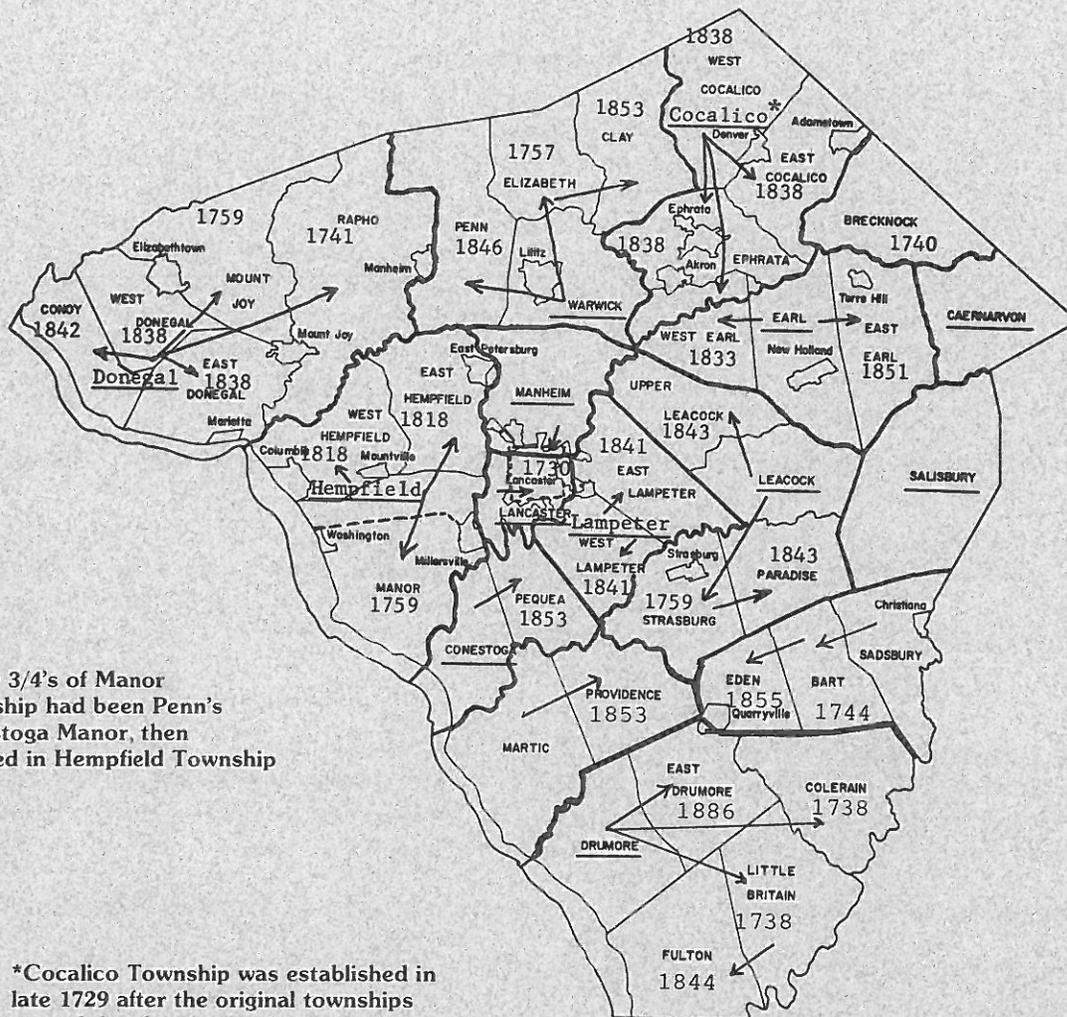
**justice in so remote a place; and therefore praying that a Division Line be made between the upper and lower part of said county, and the upper part thereof erected into a county, with all the immunities, rights and privileges which any other county of this Province does now enjoy.**

Lt. Governor Patrick Gordon commented that by virtue of his commission he could grant the prayer of the petition, but that other matters were involved that he thought required the mature deliberation of the Council before action be taken. The next day, Lt. Gov. Gordon explained a new county would require the establishment of courts of judicature which would have to be adapted to the conditions of the frontier. Penn's original formation of the colony provided for the total government and justice based on traditional English concepts of relationships between civilized white persons. Moreover, the back country was not equipped with sufficient men of learning in the law. Backwoods sheriffs and constables were expected to be "English-style" law enforcers just as Western American sheriffs and marshals started out to be one and one-half centuries later. Gordon hoped the Council would be unanimous and wholly supportive of his decision if he agreed to the creation of a new county beset with problems before its birth. The Council adjourned to meet again 20 February 1728.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Gordon informed the Pennsylvania General Assembly of the petition. The General Assembly, or House of Representatives, at this time was dominated by the Quakers of Bucks, Philadelphia, and Chester counties. The House concurred readily with the governor, pleasing that gentleman greatly, for in this untried venture he wanted full backing of the Council and General Assembly. In a sense the creation of Lancaster County ranked only second to the founding of Pennsylvania itself in forging new concepts in democratic government involving Englishmen and Indians. The House thought Gordon would be well-advised to select six persons from the lower part of Chester County and six

# TOWNSHIP ORIGINS AND DATES ESTABLISHED

(Original townships of 1729 are in bold face capital letters)



Lower 3/4's of Manor Township had been Penn's Conestoga Manor, then situated in Hempfield Township

\*Cocalico Township was established in late 1729 after the original townships were defined and named.

persons from the upper part to supervise the running of the boundary line. Gov. Gordon agreed, and chose for the six soon-to-be Lancaster Countians: John Musgrave, Thomas Edwards, Andrew Cornish, Samuel Blunston, Tobias Hendricks, and John Wright. Chester County's surveyor, John Taylor, was to run the line for them, from "the most northerly or main branch of (Octoraroe) Creek Northward. . . to Schuylkill River." The line was to be as straight as practical, making use of natural landmarks, to eliminate dispute. The southern boundary of the Province was to be the southern border of the new county. Into the new county was to go all the area west of the Octorara Creek, Schuylkill River, and beyond the forks of the latter river along its northern or eastern branch. It would include all that became later the western half of Berks County, and the lands north and west of present-day Lancaster County exclusive of lands not then purchased from the Indians in northwestern Pennsylvania.

## Council Was Pleased

The Council was pleased on 20 February 1729 when Gov. Gordon informed them of his decision and the concurrence of the General Assembly. The pleasure did not extend to the Provincial Government and Proprietors of Maryland. On 19 March 1729 Gov. Gordon received a letter from the governor of Maryland, cautioning the Pennsylvanians to use care in running the line. It seemed Maryland was rife with stories that the surveyors were going to start at the mouth of the Octorara Creek (which is in Maryland) instead of at the creek's head. The Council instructed Gordon to send a copy of the order to Maryland's governor "so no umbrage might thereby be given."

On 17 March 1729 eleven of the twelve commissioners of the surveying party (Samuel Nutt of Chester County apparently was indisposed) met near the northern head of the Octorara Creek, and ran the line as directed. It started at a white oak along the eastern side of the creek at John Mitchell's, and ran in an almost straight line to another white oak

along the Schuylkill River. One may wonder how much fortification against the late wintry blasts was provided for the surveying party. Possibly the task was completed by (it would be nice to imagine!) the party, teeth chattering, and faces windbitten, saying to John Wright, "Well, here is the county. We would be pleased to honor thy birthplace by naming it Lancaster!" The report was presented to the House of Representatives, which approved it.

### A New County Erected

Lt. Gov. Patrick Gordon proclaimed to the Council on 10 May 1729 an accomplished fact: that he had, indeed, this day passed into law an Act erecting a new county which was to be called Lancaster County.

Work had only begun on the internal establishment of county government. At the time of its creation, Lancaster was given eight magistrates: John Wright, Samuel Blunston, Andrew Cornish, Thomas Edwards, Tobias Hendricks, Caleb Pearce, Thomas Reid, and Samuel Jones. All of these men were significant leaders in Chester County, and some had established the dividing line. All were of British ancestry, and most were Quakers. A month later, 9 June 1729, these magistrates met at John Postlethwaite's tavern in Conestoga Township. The day was spent in deciding how to subdivide the county into townships, and what names to call the new districts. There were many implications to be considered, and the work had to be continued on an informal basis during the next month. Evidence suggests some portions of the work under study did not reach the magistrates in time for their 5 August 1729 meeting. At this meeting the following townships and their boundaires were confirmed:

*Drumore, Martock (Martic), Conestoga, Sadsbury, Salisbury, Lampeter, Lancaster, Manheim, Hempfield, Donegal, Warwick, Lebanon, Leacock, Earl, Caernarvon, Derry, Peshtank (Paxtang, Paxton)*

Before the year was completed, the German settlers of Cocalico had their way with the county magistrates. In what is now Berks and Lebanon counties the townships (previously districts) of Robeson and Tulpehocken were given full status. From this time on, townships were created regularly by the Lancaster County Court of Quarter Sessions, many of them in present-day York, Adams, Franklin, Cumberland, Dauphin, Northumberland, Lebanon, and Berks counties.

### Officers Were Appointed

Inasmuch as the county was born after the annual elections of county officials, the 1729 officers were appointed. Robert Barber became sheriff. In October, Barber and John Galbraith were returned as candidates for sheriff. In those days, the voters selected two high winners, and the governor would select one for the office. Barber was an English Quaker; Galbraith was a Scot Presbyterian. Barber won. Other first officials were:

#### Members of the General Assembly 1729

John Wright	James Mitchell
Thomas Edwards	Thomas Reid

#### Coroner 1729

Andrew Galbraith

#### Prothonotary 1729

Samuel Blunston

#### County Commissioners 1729

John Davis	George Stewart
Andrew Cornish	George Howard

#### Treasurer 1729

John Postlethwaite

#### Assessors 1729

Patrick Campbell	Joshua Lowe
Richard Huff	John Dearer
John Caldwell	Isaac Robinson

#### Clerk to County Commissioners 1729

Richard Marsden

### Not To Be Taken Lightly

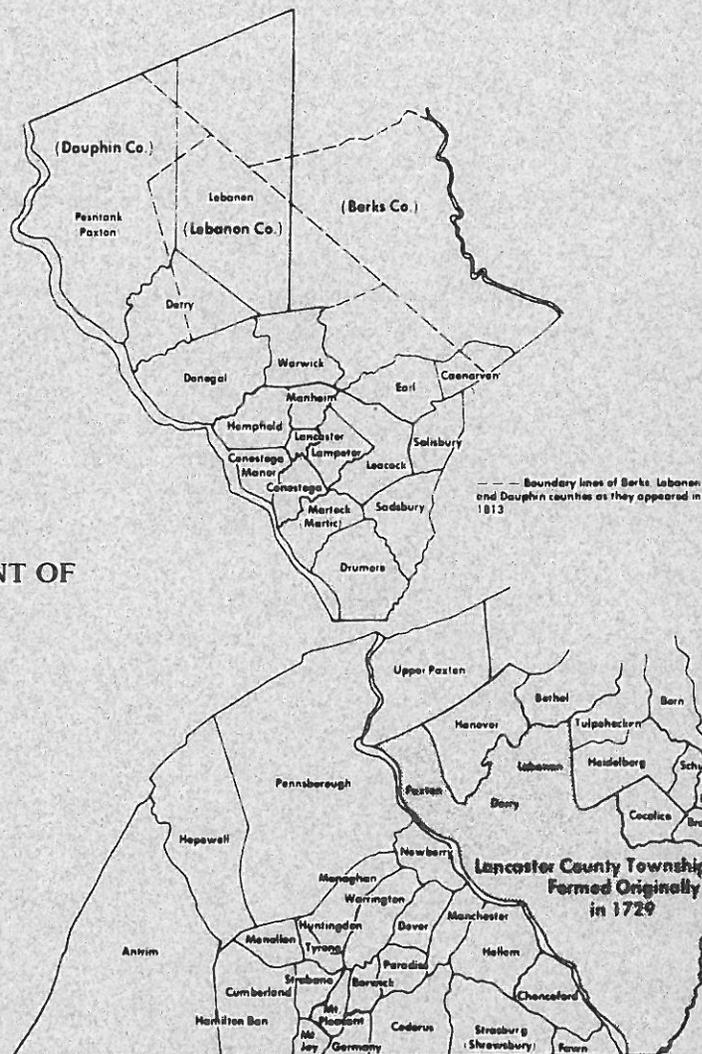
Creating courts was a matter the English authorities found disquieting. The place of rule by law, the tradition and reverence for law, and the unique position of common law in England were not matters to be taken lightly. In English practice, justices never should be elected by popular vote; that well might defeat the purpose of the independent judiciary which is the genius of English justice. In early Pennsylvania, then, we find justices and all other judicial officers (sheriff, clerk, prothonotary, register, coroner) appointed rather than elected directly. The justice of the peace, usually untrained in the legal profession, was selected from the most prominent and reputable citizens. His innate sense of right, of fairness, his "noblesse oblige," and above all, his practical common sense, more than compensated for his lack of legal forms and niceties. The justices usually had available some person learned in the law — perhaps a clerk or the area's most respected lawyer. Whatever their sources of legal knowledge, the early justices of Lancaster County set a standard of excellence worthy of our commendation 250 years later.

Those early justices were:

John Wright, Presiding Justice	Tobias Hendricks	Andrew Cornish	Samuel Jones
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# THE 17 ORIGINAL TOWNSHIPS OF LANCASTER COUNTY

Erected 9 June 1729



## DEVELOPMENT OF TOWNSHIPS: 1730-49

Later in 1729: Thomas Edwards and Andrew Galbraith were added.

1730: Caleb Pearce was added.

1734: Edward Smout and Derrick Updegraff were added.

1739: Thomas Lindley, Anthony Shawm, Samuel Boyd, James Armstrong, Emanuel Carpenter and John Kyle were added.

1746: John Postlethwaite and Conrad Weiser were added.

These early courts and the law enforcement officials were kept busy with petty crimes. More serious were the periodic incursions of Marylanders intent upon claiming parts of Lancaster County—particularly that west of the Susquehanna River—for themselves. The sheriff, assisted by constables and all able-bodied men willing to bear arms (who often were mighty few!) would go in pursuit of the invaders, frequently starting nasty fights that ended on the desk of the Governor in Council. The fight over the proper location of the Pennsylvania-Maryland Boundary would not be settled until 1767.

It should be pointed out that Lord Baltimore believed, with good evidence, that the line ran along the 40° parallel—through Millersville State College campus and Vintage. York would have been in Maryland. Penn, on the other hand, had reason to think his charter gave him a province that extended south to the “beginning of the fortieth degree of northern latitude.” Baltimore’s charter established the line at that “which lies under the fortieth degree of northern latitude.” The question was “Where does the 40th degree start?” If the answer is the first second past the thirty-ninth degree, then Pennsylvania would have touched the northern point of the District of Columbia!

### **First Criminal Trial**

When the lawmen and justices were not chasing Marylanders they had plenty to do keeping order at home. The first criminal trial held in our county featured Morris Cannady who was charged with the larceny of 14 pounds 7 shillings from Daniel Cookson, a miller in the Welsh Mountain. His sentence was to make full restitution, pay the miller for his inconvenience, pay the government a like amount as that stolen, pay court costs, and be publicly whipped with 21 lashes well laid on his bare back. He made restitution but couldn't pay the fines, so the defendant went to jail for a year after which he was sold by the sheriff for six years' labor.

Robert Barber's jail at Wright's Ferry was used by the County until the 1730's when a log makeshift structure was built at West King and North Prince streets. From time to time this was rebuilt in stone and enlarged. A workhouse was added for the debtors. Until 1834 Pennsylvanians could be put in prison for owing money on debts.

### **Brick Courthouse**

At the same time a brick courthouse was begun in the middle of Lancaster's square. By 1737 it was fairly complete, and court could be held in it rather than in local taverns. When the juries found the defendants guilty as charged, which was often, the public could expect a good show. Whippings, with lashes laid on bare backs, male and female, until blood was drawn, were common. The pillory and whipping post stood in the northwest corner of the square, about where the pedestal with historical information now is located. Defendants found guilty of murder and even burglary with weapons were sentenced to be hanged in public. The public hangings became private affairs in the 1830's. A woman was among the early victims of the hang rope: she had killed her illegitimate child. Lesser crimes meant long sentences at hard work. Uncooperative prisoners were fastened in wrist and leg irons to the cold, damp stone walls until their dispositions improved.

### **Juries Were Handpicked**

Early Lancaster County juries were handpicked by the sheriffs to be certain the "twelve men, good and true," represented the highest quality male citizens "whose sense of moral outrage always was tempered by Christian humility, compassion, and justice." Revenge and sadism had no place in the administration of justice. Punishment was to deter, not to entertain others. Rarely did the curious public share in those loftier notions of justice. So the handpicked jury continued for many years.

## **Petition To Create County Of Lancaster**

**Submitted February 6, 1729 To Gov. Patrick Gordon**

*To the Honourable Patrick Gordon, Esqr., Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, New Castle, Kent, and Sussex on Delaware and Council:*

The Petition of the Inhabitants of the upper part of the County of Chester, Sheweth, that by Reason, of the Great Distance we live from the County Town where Elections & Courts are held, and Publick Offices kept, The arm of Justice is weakened, The benefit of many good and wholesome Laws almost if not Intirely Lost & ye person who has Occasion to apply to them, put to great and Burdensome Expence, Thieves, Vagabonds & Ill people Boldly infest our parts (Counting themselves beyond the Reach of Law) to the Disturbance of the Peace & very great Damage of the Inhabitants it being almost Impossible to take and Secure such Villains where Justices & Constables are so thin plac'd as not one in Twenty or thirty miles & Assistance Difficult to be raised on Such Occasions Amongst people who would freely Serve but are Deterred by want of Ready cash, to bear ye Charges of a Journey of Eighty or a hundred Miles to the County Jail, And as we are mostly now Settlers far from a Market, and Trade and Commerce among our Selves mostly by way of Barter, Money cannot be Supposed plenty. Therefore when Law Suits prove Necessary to Recover our Just Debts, the trouble and Expense of Traveling to Obtain a Writt or Summons, having it Served bringing Evidence (when Needful) attending Two or Three Courts, the Repeated Journeys amount to three or four hundred miles, besides the loss of much time, All which being a ready Money Charge makes the Recovery of a Small Sum more detrimental than the loss of it, and is a very Great Oppression of the Debtor, and in debts, under forty shillings which cannot be recovered, without an Execution. The Action Drops rather than Cause so great a charge as would Accrue if the party be sent to Jail & taken from his friends (if any) who might assist him. Runaway Servants & Suspicious persons who often come this way to hide among us or Escape into the back parts of Maryland are seldom taken up. The Reward for Runaways not Answering the Trouble, and to far to send. Suspected Person til they can make proof of their Clearness. Our highways are unrepaired.

Townships undivided nor Bridges Built, where they are wanted, nor can our Taxes be as Regularly Laid or our Grievances likely to be Redressed when the mean distance to the nearest place of Appeals is at lease fifty miles, And Neither Comishoner nor more than one Assessor (if that) Elected in many years within the Circle of five hundred families. These and many more Inconveniences of the like Nature & from the same Cause which may occur to you on a serious Reflection we humbly offer to your Consideration — Hoping, as we are His Majesties' Liege Subjects, and Justly Entitled to all the ease & advantages the Law will afford. You will in your Care, for the Publick good be Ready to Redress. And in Order thereto as most of your petitioners Living fifty or Eighty miles from Chester & some much further, and ye Bounds yearly Enlarging.

We humbly pray you would be pleased to Order a Division to be made between the uper and lower part of Chester County, which uper division when so made may be a County, and called ye County of ————— with Privilidge granted to Elect Representatives. A Sheriff & other officers in number and manner as they are now Elected in Chester County and have all other Officers. Officers' powers and privilidges Equal with other countys.

This we humbly conceive would be the most Effectual means of Redress, of Great Ease and benefit to your Petitioners, and no ways Prejudicial to Chester County or the province in General and for which your Petitioners as in duty Bound shall pray &c.

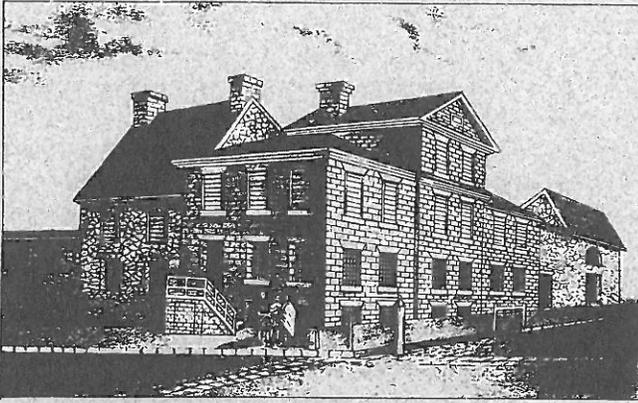
Pat Anderson, Ephrm Moor, Hugh Scott, Andrew Kilbrath, Caleb Pierce, Jno. Walter, Alex White, Robt. Allison, David Jones, Thoms. Tinball, Wm. Meben, John Wright, Tobias Hendrick, Sam'el Blunston, Ed Smout, (illegible), Robt. Barber, John Postelthwait, Thos. Gaill, Saml. Taylor, Jno. Swift, Jun., Jno. Davis, Thos. Owen, Jno. Linvil, Albertus Hendrix, Jos. Low, Frances Worley, Joseph Jarvis, Jno. Cowin, Da'd Cowin, Christian Stoneman, Dan'el ffiere, Jacob Miller, Thos. Folkins, John Musgrove, Henry Carpenter, John Stowfer, Gordon Howard, Jno. Sterrett, Zacharies Moor, Jno. McLean, Jno. Catherwood, Jno. Miller, Jno. Allison, Jno. Harris, Saml. Scott, Wm. Allison, James Smith, James Robinson, Moses White, James Miers, Jno. Macfarland, Thos. Howard, James Patison, Jno. McCurry, Jacob Bar, Saml. Bar, Abraham More, Christian Mosar, Jacob Funk, Jacob Fincher, James Hendrix, Joseph Higingbotham, Caleb Baker, Jos. Minhall, Geo. Middleton, Casper Loughman, Wm. Lindvii, Isaac Woodrow, Simon Woodrow, Peter Lemon, Christian Lemon, Gabriel Carpenter, Hans Grove, Robt. Cloud, Jno. Musgrove, John Sickray, Jno. Huwoll, Jacob Lawson, Robt. Cleas, Thos. Wilkins, Wm. Hayes, Jno. Killbrath, Jno. Griffith, Ri'd Hastings, Sm'l Taylor, Nat Watkins, Jno. Killbrath, Jur., James Gibson, Jos. Kennedy, Thos. Hains, Thos. Willson, Jos. Thatcher, James Killbrath, Jr., Pat McKinley, Saml. Parker, John Kellso, Moses Thomson, James Killbrath, Robt. McFarlan, Arthur Patison, Jno. Miller, Caleb Worley, James Hendrix, Jr., Geo. Hill, Jno. Hendrix, Robt. Wilkins, Enock Davies, Tobias Hanspaker, Charles Jones, Hugh Brown, Wm. Hughes, Jno. Futhey, Saml. Jones, Morgan Jones, Henry Jones, Francis Jones, John Minshall, Evan Evans, Ric'd Moor, John Walker, William Willis, Alex McKeen, Saml. McGomrey, Geo. Muffet, John Muffet, Walter Tidiford, Robt. Killbreth, James Crody, Wm. Allison, Sam'el Hunybrook, James Doke, Richard McLewie, Jno. White, Jno. Taylor, Thos. Mitchell, Abraham Sott, Jas. Work, Ed. Dodgery, James Swafford, John Klemson, Jno. Miller, Ben Heath, Thos. Clark, John Boyle, Pat Black, Geo. Bohnson, John Mitchell, Ri'd Allison, Jonas Davenport, Wm. Brian, Hugh White, Thos. Black, Pat Campbell, James Stuart, Geo. Stuart, Wm. Richardson, James Morris, Joseph Mays, Geo. Thomas, John Powell, Saml. Swallow, Daniel Cookson, John Abbott, Saml. Vernor, Dav'd Vernor, John Williams, James Gelt, Wm. Willson, Dan'el Harmon, Ri'd Owen, Thos. Edward.

## ***Political Development Of Early Lancaster County 1729-1776***

After the erection of Lancaster County in 1729 the area was represented by four members in the General Assembly. The first few years (terms lasted one year) saw Lancaster County being represented by three Quakers and one Scot. Gradually the Quaker dominance decreased and was replaced with political influence of the Scots. From 1734 to 1739 James Hamilton, the father of Lancaster town, and an Anglican, was the political leader and served in the General Assembly. During his service in the legislature the power shifted from the Quakers to the Scots, with Hamilton keeping a steady hand on the process. After 1739 many German settlers took the oath of naturalization, and became voters. Almost immediately the German influence was felt. Not having any leaders of their own groomed, the Germans combined with the Quakers to restore Quaker domination over the county legislative delegation. In 1747 Peter Worrall, the first German assemblyman, was elected.

### **Loss Of Population**

In the 1750s, following the French and Indian Wars, many Scot Presbyterians moved from Lancaster County to lands in western Pennsylvania. Loss of population contributed to the gains of the Quaker-German combination. As the



View of Lancaster jail stone building (1774) which replaced early log structure.

Revolution approached many Quakers and Germans were forced to review their positions on military preparations. Accordingly, the Quakers and Germans representing Lancaster County during 1760-1774 tended to become less doctrinaire in their pacifism. Moreover, a subtle division was growing between Philadelphia Quaker aristocrats and the rural Friends. The English also were taking sides, some supporting the Proprietors' interests (Penn heirs), and others supporting Quaker domination of the Pennsylvania government. Generally the Provincial Council supported the Penn interests, while the General Assembly was more interested in the welfare and economy of Pennsylvania.

With the start of the American Revolution, the traditional representation of the Lancaster County assemblymen was thrown out, and the Scot

Presbyterians were elected in a vast sweep of power. When the new commonwealth settled down, and began adjusting its radical Constitution of 1776 to real conditions, Lancaster County started furnishing a well-chosen mixture of moderately conservative Germans, Scots, and English to the General Assembly.

## **Act Creating County of Lancaster**

**Adopted May 10, 1729**

"An Act for erecting the Upper Parts of the Province of Pennsylvania, lying towards Susquehanna, Conestogoe, Dunnegal, etc. into a county.

"WHEREAS, A great number of the inhabitants of the Upper Part of Chester county have by their Petition humbly represented to the Governor and Assembly of this Province, the great hardships they lie under by being at so great a distance from the town of Chester, where the Courts of Justice are held, and the Public offices kept; and how hard and difficult it is for the sober and quiet inhabitants of that part of the county to secure themselves against the thefts and abuses almost daily committed upon them by idle and dissolute persons, who resort to the remote parts of the Province, and by reason of the great distance from a Court or Prison, do frequently find means of making their escape; for the removing which inconveniency, and relief of the said inhabitants. Be it enacted by the Honourable PATRICK GORDON, Esq., Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, etc., by and with the advice and consent of the Free men of the said Province, in General Assembly met, and by the Authority of the same, That all and singular the lands within the Province of Pennsylvania, lying to the Northward of Octoraro creek, and to the Westward of a line of marked trees, running from the North Branch of the said Octoraro creek, north-easterly to the river Schuylkill, be erected into a county, and the same is hereby erected into a county named, and from henceforth to be called LANCASTER COUNTY; and the said Octoraro creek, the line of marked trees, and the river Schuylkill, aforesaid, shall be the Boundary Line or Division between the said county and the counties of Chester and Philadelphia.

"II. AND be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That the said County of Lancaster, shall have and enjoy all and singular the Jurisdictions, Powers, Rights, Liberties, Privileges and Immunities whatsoever, which any other county within the Province of Pennsylvania doth, may or ought to enjoy, by any Charter of Privileges, or the laws of this Province, or by any other ways or means whatsoever, excepting only in the number of Representatives to serve in the General Assembly of this Province, in which case, it is hereby provided and enacted by the authority aforesaid, that, until it shall be otherwise ordered by the Governor and Assembly of this Province; the Freemen and Inhabitants of the said county, qualified by the Laws of this Province to elect, shall annually meet at or near the Court House of the said county, at the same time the other counties of this Province shall meet for such like purpose, or at such place where the Courts shall be held, until such Court House shall be erected, and there proceed to choose Inspectors, and to elect four Representative or Delegates to serve them in Assembly, in the same manner, as by the said Charter and Laws of this Province is directed: which said four Representatives, when so chosen, shall be Members of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, and sit and act as such, as fully and freely, as any of the Representatives for the other counties within this Province do, may, can or ought to do.

"III. AND be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all taxes already laid within the bounds of the said County of Lancaster, by an Act of General Assembly of this Province, which are not already paid, shall be collected by the respective collectors within the bounds aforesaid, and paid into the hands of the Treasurer of Chester County; and

that all persons concerned in the levying, receiving and paying of the said taxes, shall have the same power and authority, and be under the same penalties and restrictions, for the collecting and paying the same, as by the said acts, by which the said Taxes were assessed, are expressed and directed, until the whole be collected and paid as aforesaid.

"IV. AND be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the several Courts of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace and Gaol Delivery, and the Courts of Common Pleas for the said County of Lancaster, shall be holden and kept on the first Tuesday in the months of February, May, August and November, in every year, at some proper place within the said County, until a convenient Court House shall be built; and when the same is built and erected in the county aforesaid, the said several Courts shall then be holden and kept at the said Court House on the days beforementioned: And the Election of Representatives to serve in General Assembly. Assessors and all other officers of the said County, who are or shall be appointed to be annually elected, shall be made and elected at or near the said Court House, at the same time and in the same manner, as by the Charter of Privileges and Laws of the Province of Pennsylvania is directed to be done in the other Counties of this Province. And it shall be lawful for the Freemen of the said County for the first year, to choose three persons for Commissioners, for raising County Rates and Levies for the said County.

"V. AND be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for Caleb Pierce, John Wright, Thomas Edwards and James Mitchell, or any three of them, to purchase and take assurance to them and their Heirs, of a Piece of land, situate in some convenient place in the said County, to be approved of by the Governor in Trust and for the use of the said County, and Thereon to erect and build, or cause to be erected and built, a Court House and Prison, sufficient to accommodate the public service of the said County, for the ease and conveniency of the Inhabitants.

"VI. AND be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That for the defraying the charges of purchasing the Land, building and erecting the Court House and Prison aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Commissioners and Assessors of the said County, or a majority of them, who are hereby required to assess and levy so much money as the Trustees, or any three of them, shall judge necessary for purchasing the Land and finishing the said Court House and Prison. Provided always, The sum of money so raised do not exceed Three Hundred Pounds, current money of the Province.

"VII. PROVIDED always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no action or suit now commenced and depending in the county of Chester, against any Person living within the bounds of the said county of Lancaster, shall be stayed or discontinued by this Act, or by anything herein contained, but the same actions already commenced or depending, may be prosecuted, and judgment thereupon rendered, as if this Act had not been made, and that it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of Chester county to issue any judicial process, to be directed to the Sheriff of Lancaster county, for carrying on and obtaining the effect of their suits; which Sheriff shall be obliged to yield obedience in executing of the said writs, and make due return before the Justices of the Court of the said county of Chester, as if the Parties had been living and residing within the same."

## ***Who Were The Early Settlers?***

### ***Germans***

The Germanic settlers formed the largest group that settled in Lancaster County. They can be divided into two based on their religious beliefs and reasons for coming to Pennsylvania. The earliest group being referred to as Sectarians or Plain Sects came to secure religious freedom and to get away from religious oppression. The second group was referred to as Church People or the Wordly Group, and they came to secure a better life.

The Plain Sects or Sectarians originally consisted of the Mennonites, the Dunkers, and the Amish, each of which as time progressed evolved into factions or subdivisions. The first group of settlers in what is now Lancaster County, the Mennonites, came in 1709 and secured a tract of ten thousand acres north of Pequea Creek, this land surveyed to them and the warrant recorded on October 23, 1710. Families included in their original settlement included Bowman, Bundley, Funk, Herr, Kendig, Meylin, Miller and Oberholtzer, followed shortly thereafter by Bachman, Guldin, Houser, Schlegel, Tschantz, Venerick, Weber and Yordea.

### **Organized Church In Conestoga**

The Dunkers or Brethren originally came into this area in 1719 and organized a church in Conestoga in 1723 under the leadership of Peter Becker. Other early names associated with this group were Beisel, Eizelberger, Frantz, Hildebrand, Longenecker, Mack, Pfautz and Stall. It was Conrad Beisel who withdrew shortly after 1729 to organize the Seventh Day Baptist Brethren at the Ephrata Cloister.

The final Sectarian group to arrive here was the Amish, a few of whom may have been here as early as 1727. Their first settlement in the county was the Conestoga congregation near Morgantown. It was formed near the middle of the eighteenth century, and from there spread westward and southward along the Conestoga and Pequea Creeks. Some early Amish families were Beiler, Fisher, Glick, Koenig, Lap, Mast, Miller and Yoder.

### **Recorded First Baptism in 1729**

The first settlers from the Church People or Wordly Group were the Lutherans. They recorded their first baptism in 1729, and under the leadership of Christian Schultze, organized the Trinity Lutheran Congregation of Lancaster in 1730. From that time until the present this congregation has played an important part in the Lancaster community. Some of the early Lutheran family names were Graf, Gross, Hager, Heinitsh, Hubley, Jung, Koch, Kuhn, Muhlenberg, Schreyak, Stein, Trenkel and Yeiser.

The next group of Germanic Church People is that of the Reformed Church, many of whom came from the Palatinate of Germany. Although they had not settled in one concentrated area of the county, by 1736 they had enough members to organize a congregation and erect a church building near Orange Street in Lancaster. Since that time this denomination has played a continuous part in the religious and educational life of Lancaster. Important early leaders of this group were John Bartholomew Reiger and John Jacob Hock. Some of the early families included Balspach, Basler, Dorr, Gomer, Keller, Muller, Ramersberger, Strubel and Weidman.

### **Individual Missionaries**

The Moravian Church, or Unitus Fratrum, came into Lancaster County in a slightly different manner. Individual missionaries or "pilgrims" went out to preach to the Indians and white settlers. By 1745 they had sufficient members to organize a Lancaster Congregation and plan a building, while the older Lititz congregation planned their first permanent meeting house in 1746. This Lititz (originally Litiz) settlement went on to become one of the Moravian centers in America. Early families associated with the Moravians here included Bender, Erb, Kiesel, Klein, Neibert, Neil, Nyberg, Palmer, Rauch, Scheffler, Scherzer and Vertries.

All of the foregoing Germanic groups cooperated most of the time with the English and other ethnic peoples living in this early melting-pot in America. This continued spirit of cooperation has resulted in the unique Lancaster County we live in today.

## **Scots-Irish**

The first immigrants to Pennsylvania had been English and Welsh, but they were soon followed by the Scots-Irish, who came in large numbers to Lancaster County in the 1730-1760 period. In fact, the great bulk of 18th century emigrants to America from Great Britain were the Scots-Irish, frequently characterized, much to their disgust, simply as "the Irish." The Scots-Irish were Scots who left their native Scotland in the early 17th century for Northern (Ulster) Ireland. Economic improverishment, hostile English and Scottish landlords, and growing Scottish Presbyterianism brought heavy pressure to bear upon Scottish peasants. Many Scots fled to Northern Ireland where land was available on fairly easy terms because of the English government's attempt to colonize Ireland.

In Northern Ireland, they raised sheep, grew potatoes, quarreled with the native Irish and soon found themselves in a bitter religious struggle with English officials attempting to impose Episcopal rule. Life was generally prosperous, however, until the early 18th century when the cloth industry decline and rent gouging tactics by landlords added greater problems. The result was a mass migration of an estimated 200,000 Scots-Irish to the English colonies in the first decades of the 18th century.

Most of the new Scots-Irish immigrants came as indentured servants, a system that required a minimum of labor service before permitting the servant to strike out on his own. Many came in this capacity to Lancaster County. The Scots-Irish tended to settle separate from but close to one another in communities that alternated with those of the Germans and English. The first Scots-Irish settlements in the county were made along the Octorara Creek (1718 or 1719) and soon extended along the Octorara from Sadsbury (Township) to the Susquehanna and then along the river to the Conestoga. These settlements were, of course, in what was then Chester County, until 1729 when Lancaster County was created. The Scots-Irish population then increased very rapidly, particularly west of Pequea Creek in what would become Donegal Township. In fact, Donegal Township was created in 1722 when West Conestoga Township had its name changed, in deference to the Scots-Irish settlers who were the largest group living there.

By 1760, the Scots-Irish comprised nearly 20% of the county's 26,000 residents. The total proportion of Scots-Irish in the population declined sharply thereafter. In 1780, it stood at 13% of the county's 47,000 people. Three townships in the Southern and Eastern parts of the county — Drumore, Colerain, and Salisbury — had Scots-Irish majorities, while Martic, Sadsbury and Lampeter had significant Scots-Irish populations.

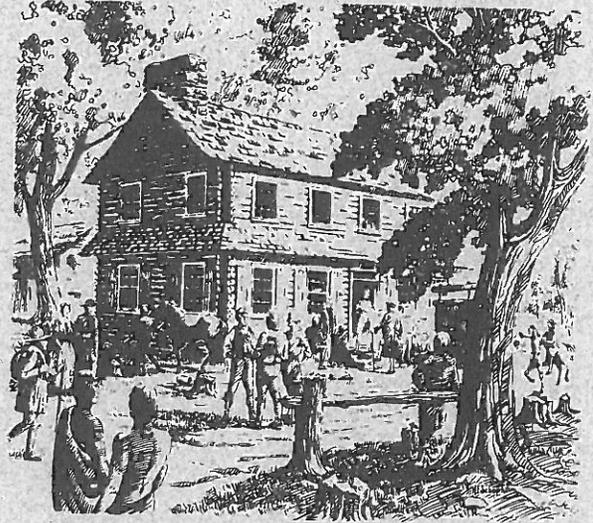
## English And Welsh / Anglicans And Quakers

At the time Lancaster County was formed, The Quaker-dominated General Assembly was beset by political pressure from two forces: the Scot Presbyterians, who insisted upon a greater voice in the government and more money appropriated for defending the frontier; and the Anglicans, who had only disgust for the Quaker principles of religion and hoped to displace them as the dominant political power in Pennsylvania. The Anglicans (members of the Established Church in England) regarded the pacifist and humanitarian-oriented Quakers as wholly incompetent to govern a colony. "Government belongs to the strong and hardheaded realists who march beside the State Church in winning victories on earth." Most of the English and Welsh Anglicans lived in urban areas such as Philadelphia and along the Main Line.

### Established At Churchtown

The first Anglican Church in Lancaster County was established at Churchtown (Bangor) about 1733. Most of its members were Welshmen. The present building is not original, but the congregation continues through support offered by its "daughter" parishes. Services are held every Rogation Day and Memorial Day.

St. James's Church in Lancaster was formed in 1744. Among its early members were Thomas Cookson, first Chief Burgess of Lancaster, and John Postlethwaite, proprietor of the tavern near Conestoga where the first courts met. James Hamilton, the founder of Lancaster, was an Anglican, as were many of the Revolutionary War generation: General Edward Hand, George Ross, Robert Coleman, to name a few. St. James's Church continues on the same site with a remarkable heritage of 235 years of extremely active service. During the Revolution the church was closed, but it was reorganized as St. James's Protestant Episcopal Church in the new Republic. Other "younger" Episcopalian churches in the county trace their origins to St. James's.



Postlethwaite's Tavern, the site of Lancaster County's first court sessions.

### Remained True To Principles

The Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, came to Pennsylvania with William Penn, a Quaker himself. Penn, persecuted in England, resolved to create a colony where religious freedom flourished for all denominations and faiths of the Jewish-Christian tradition. The Quakers did not lose any time taking hold of the reins of government, although they always remained true to their principles of tolerance and pacifism.

The first Quaker meeting in Lancaster County apparently was the Sadsbury Preparative Meeting, set up near Christiana in 1724. This was in Chester County's Sadsbury Township at the time. In the mid-1740's a stone meeting house and cemetery were built. These both remain in fine condition.

When the three leading Quakers of Lancaster County, John Wright, Samuel Blunston, and Robert Barber, settled at Wright's Ferry just before the formation of Lancaster County, they held meetings in their homes. As soon as conditions permitted, a log meeting house was built. The Wright's Ferry Meeting was under the jurisdiction of the Lampeter Meeting near Bird-in-Hand. Eventually a brick meeting house was built on Cherry St. The Wright's Ferry (or Columbia) Meeting was "laid down" nearly a century ago.

### The Building Survives

The Lampeter Meeting became the Leacock Preparative Meeting in 1732. The building survives but the meeting was "laid down" many years ago. The fourth Quaker meeting of Lancaster County was the Lancaster Meeting, established in 1753. It did not flourish after the Revolution, and was "laid down" in 1802. In 1796 Eastland Meeting was formed; it is still in existence as an active meeting. Eastland and Little Britain (Penn Hill) meetings are under the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The others are under the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Quakers in eastern Pennsylvania generally do not have an established clergy. Their principles focus on the "Inner Light" and the spirit of the indwelling God. As a result a member of the meeting may feel moved to address the others on some matter that weighs heavily on his mind, and others are just as likely to be moved to respond or add their approvals. This procedure encouraged democratic leadership and developed the ability to speak persuasively with moral conviction. A liberal spirit with inclinations toward religious humanism made the Quaker presence quite a contrast to the rigidly Calvinistic Scots and the fairly high liturgical procedures of the Anglicans, Lutherans and Roman Catholics.

Tradition has given the Germanic and Scot Presbyterian settlers of Lancaster County the most prominent roles in its history. While numerically the Germans and the Scots comprised the largest portions of the county population, the less visible settlers from England and Wales played important parts in the making of early Lancaster County.

### **English Influence**

English influence can be seen in the naming of the early townships. Warwick and Lancaster are shires (counties) in England. Salisbury is a large British city and Sadsbury is a mere hamlet. Hempfield is an English parish, and Martic (Martock) is a town in Somerset. Welsh place names are seen in Caernarvon, Brecknock and Lampeter. Caernarvon (Caernarfon) is a city and county of Wales. Brecknock (Brecon) also is a town and county of Wales. Lampeter (Llanbedr) is an important township of Wales. The story about a lame man named Peter is completely false. The Welsh place name means church of Peter, or Peter's village.

English names appear early in what became Lancaster County, but the owners of the names often did not show up to see their lands. The purchase of tracts was considered a good speculative investment. Unlike the Germans and Scots, most of the English and Welsh settlers here arrived some years earlier in Philadelphia or Chester County. Gradually they moved westward into the frontier of Chester County, and had become established in scattered settlements when Lancaster County was erected. Generally the area occupied by the English was a triangle with its base along the upper Octorara Creek and its vertex at Columbia. There were no English communities but the Welsh tended to stay together in eastern Earl. Caernarvon, Brecknock, and upper Salisbury townships.

Both English and Welsh settlers belonged to either the Church of England (Anglican) or the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). After the Revolution the Anglican Church became the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Some of the earliest English families in Lancaster County were named Wright, Barber, Blunston, Cartledge, Chambers, Kyle, Cox, Taylor, Postlethwaite, Pearce, Reid, Marsden, and Cookson. Among the Welsh settlers are found these names: Jones, Atkinson (son of At's cousin), Lewis, Olds, Jenkins, Roberts, Richards, Morgan, Evans (Johns), Williams, and Edwards.

### **Blacks**

The black population in Lancaster County remained quite small during the colonial period, but did expand rather markedly in the early 19th century. Pennsylvania was one of the colonies with the smallest black population, amounting to about 2% of the population. Lancaster's early black community existed in several forms. A portion fled slavery in the south and constituted a group of runaways usually helped by the County's Quakers. A second group were freed ex-slaves, manumitted either in the County or elsewhere. Thirdly, a portion of Lancaster's blacks were slaves or indentured servants, with slavery being the most common status of the two. Most of the slaves brought to Pennsylvania were reimported from the West Indies, unlike those brought to the south directly from Africa.

### **Evenly Divided**

In 1780, the slave population approximated 800, about evenly divided between males and females. The slaves were dispersed throughout the County, but the heaviest concentration was in Donegal and Salisbury Townships and Lancaster borough. Most were owned by Scots-Irish settlers but English, German, Welsh and other national groups owned slaves as well.

Perhaps two reasons account for the paucity of slavery in colonial Lancaster. First, it never became vital to the economy of the area, though slaves performed a variety of economic activities. Second, Lancaster's pietistic religious groups had a strong antipathy to the institution. In fact, many Quakers actively participated in the effort to abolish slavery, a drive partially successful in 1780.

### **Social Institution**

Slavery seems to have been significant as a social institution. Most of Lancaster's important and richest families owned slaves, at least if they had no religious or moral reasons for not. Yet, few owned more than one or two slaves. The large plantation system common in the South Carolina tidewater region did not exist in Lancaster. Slaves did however, work in a variety of occupations, including mining, farming, crafts and domestic work.

### **Jews**

Attracted by William Penn's "Holy Experiment" and its promise of religious freedom, Jews trickled into the back county of Pennsylvania in the early 1700s to create a new life in a new world. The Jewish residents of Spain had been expelled in 1492 by King Ferdinand and Isabella. A handful went to remote South America and established trading posts and farms on territory under Brazilian control. But the Inquisition eventually followed them.

In 1654, a small number sailed from Brazil to New Amsterdam, and received permission from the Dutch government to stay. Other Jews with Spanish backgrounds followed. Among those coming to North America was Isaac Miranda who ran a farm and trading post in an area of Pennsylvania that one day would become Lancaster County.

### Established Trading Post

A small group of Jewish people established a trading post and settlement about 1705 near a continuously flowing spring and called it Heidelberg after their German home. This also would be part of original Lancaster County, but was renamed Schaefferstown in the 1750s. (Today, it is in Lebanon County.) By 1740, a Jewish community under the spiritual leadership of Joseph Simon had been established in the Borough of Lancaster. Most of the men became merchants who supplied the community with a wide variety of merchandise, both home-produced and imported from Europe.

Joseph Simon and his nephew, Levy Andrew Levy, were among the leading Indian traders in America, often traveling as far west as the Mississippi River to acquire furs and hides in barter for beads, combs, scissors, mirrors and the like. They dealt with the Franks and Gratz families in Philadelphia and Simon was related to Gratz through several marriages. During the Revolutionary War, Simon, in association with David Franks of Philadelphia supplied food to British and Hessian prisoners through arrangements with the Continental Congress. Simon was a business partner for many years of Alexander Lowery, colorful leader of the Scots-Irish settlers in Donegal Township.

Pennsylvania Jews of colonial times didn't have the right to vote or to hold public office, but, unlike the ghettos of Europe, they wore no yellow badges, no peaked caps, no earlocks and no black caftans (robes). Except for their religious beliefs they were indistinguishable from non-Jews.

### Established A Library

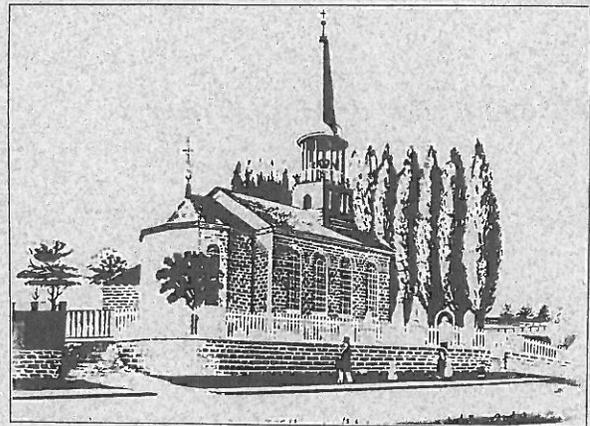
Simon was among those who established a library in Lancaster in 1759 and the Union Fire Company in 1764. But the Jewish people gradually moved away and newcomers to Pennsylvania went elsewhere. By 1804, when Simon died, only one Jewish family remained in Lancaster.

When Lazarus Levy, of Denver, died in 1807, his will requested that "if the weather permits, they shall carry my body to the Borough of Lancaster to be buried in the Jews' burial ground according to their custom." He was the last Jew in Lancaster until a new wave of refugees arrived from Europe in the 1840s.

## The Roman Catholic Community

Although the number of Roman Catholics that settled in early Lancaster County was not very great, they were here, and they required ordained clergymen to celebrate the sacraments, hold mass, and the other activities essential for the devout. The mere fact that Lancaster then was in the boondocks, and that a priest might have to travel nearly a hundred miles to care for a handful of the faithful did not prevent the Jesuits from taking on the task. They had long experience in working among the Indians in this area, the Jesuit missionaries having come into the Susquehanna Valley as early as 1640.

Missionary activity in Lancaster occurred during the 1730s. As early as 1734 the missionary working in Lancaster was observed carefully lest he be a French spy. Happily, he was not. The Pennsylvania Mission was an outpost of the Maryland Province of the Jesuit Society. One of the first to serve the Lancaster community was Rev. Henry Neale, S.J. He could not limit his efforts solely to Lancaster, so large was his charge. From 1741 to 1748 Lancaster was served by Rev. William Wappeler, S.J.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BUILT IN 1762

The priest was a German, and that fact did not hurt in Lancaster. The first prominent lay Catholic in Lancaster was Thomas Doyle who had arrived here in 1727. As a hatter, fur trader, and real estate developer, Doyle became fairly wealthy. He left a family that married well and made its mark.

Approximately July 1741 the congregation known as St. Mary's was formed. Mass was said in a rented house. A year later Father Wappeler acquired two lots on which to build a church. A problem arose. Because the priest was a German, he could not take title to the lots, whereupon Father Neale, a British subject, was sent for. After this obstacle was overcome, Thomas Penn, son of the late and tolerant William, learned that James Hamilton was giving the lots to the Roman Catholics. The younger Penn, an Anglican, desired to keep all Roman Catholics out of Pennsylvania, and did everything he could to discourage their settlement. Hamilton, also an Anglican, did not share the anti-Catholic bias of the Proprietor. A church was built on the present lot of St. Mary's in the mid-1740s. The Lancaster Mission was named "St. John Nepomucene" which apparently was continued until a new stone church was built in 1760. At this time the parish was named "St. Mary of the Assumption." The Lancaster Mission continued to be St. John Nepomucene throughout the time the Jesuits provided the ministry.

In 1744 Father Richard Molyneux, Superior of the Bohemia Jesuit Mission, visited Lancaster to participate in the Indian Treaty talks. He served as an interpreter as well as negotiator.

The Rev. Theodore Schneider, S.J., was the next priest to serve Lancaster. He had received a superb education in Germany, and was considered one of the church's leading intellectuals. The Anglicans, who disliked the Quaker's penchant for religious tolerance, now complained bitterly Southeastern Pennsylvania was becoming a "nursery of Jesuits," all because the Quakers refused to keep them out. From 1752 to 1758 Rev. Ferdinand Farmer, S.J. was the third pastor of St. Mary's. During his time he established the Donegal Mission (St. Peter's) at Elizabethtown. In 1757 a census of Catholics was ordered by the Governor. In Lancaster County there were:

Germans: 108 men — 94 women                      Irish: 22 men — 27 women

The Rev. James Pellentz, S.J. was the fourth priest at St. Mary's, serving from 1758 to 1768. In 1760 the log chapel at St. Mary's was burned by an arsonist, an act that outraged the entire community. A new church of stone was erected within two years, and it survived until 1881.

Father Pellentz in later years became Vicar-General of the Diocese of the U.S. He was succeeded at Lancaster by Rev. James A. Frambach, S.J. in 1768. Father Frambach, on loan from Conewago Mission, was replaced in 1770 by Rev. Luke Geissler, S.J. the last of the German-educated missionaries to serve St. Mary's. In 1773 Pope Clement XIV disbanded the Jesuit order, and Father Frambach ministered to St. Mary's as a secular priest to the end of his life.

## ***What Did They Find?***

### ***Physical Bases Of Lancaster County***

Lancaster County is a low undulating plain southeast of the Appalachian ridges. The bench mark of the U. S. Geologic survey on the Courthouse at North Duke and Grant Streets shows an elevation of 369 feet above sea level. Most hills in the County rise to a uniform height of 450 feet although some hills at Chicques and in the Welsh Mountains crest at 600 feet and a few mountain knobs in the eastern side of the County reach 1,000 feet.

#### **Crystalline Rocks**

The southern part of the County is underlaid with very old crystalline rocks, the middle section is underlaid with ancient Paleozoic limestone (accounting for its fertility and our best farmland) and the northern portion is composed of Triassic sandstones and shales. Our winds are mainly from the southwest and are dry but east and south winds bring rain. Rainfall averages 40 inches per year. The physical description of Lancaster County by H. Justin Roddy in Klein's History is true for the County in 1729 except for dams, quarries, mines and the erosion of rocks and soils by wind, rain and frost.

## ***Amphibia Or The Frogs, Toads And Salamanders***

Dr. H. Justin Roddy and others with him have established that the following occur or may likely occur in Lancaster County: The Mud puppy and Hellbender in the Susquehanna occasionally; The Northern Red, Duskey, Spring, and Spotted; The red-backed, slimy, two-lined, cave or longtailed and red salamanders under stones, logs, leaf mould, swamps, shallow streams and caves; The American toad and perhaps Fowler's toad; The cricket and swamp tree frogs, the tree frog and the spring peeper; The leopard, pickerel, wood, green and bull frogs.

## ***Botany***

Lancaster County was the home of Henry Ernest Muhlenberg, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church and first President of Franklin College and whose home in the parsonage at 33 North Duke Street still stands.

His avocation was botany and he published the following: "Flora Lancastriensis" presented to the American Philosophical Society in July 1785; "Index Flora Lancastriensis" arranged according to Linnaeus containing 454 genera with nearly 1,100 species. (1794) A Supplement to the Index was made in September 1796. In all, Muhlenberg identified 1380 species of native or cultivated plants in Lancaster County. The original manuscript of Index Flora Lancastriensis is a part of the College Archives at Franklin and Marshall College. The vellum bound book contains not only the listing of flowers (including the dandelion) but a discussion of the medicinal properties of many plants. He carefully notes those plants which were not native of Lancaster County.

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## ***Mammalogy***

Herbert H. Beck reports that in 1923 there were 38 species of mammals in Lancaster County, only six less than in 1700. The extinct species are the bison, the elk, the martin, the Fisher, the gray wolf, the panther, the black bear and the beaver. Opossum and deer are more plentiful now than in 1923. Beck's list of rodents includes the gray, black fox, flying and red squirrels, the chipmunks and the groundhog. The groundhog thrives throughout Lancaster County. Of the mice and rats he lists the deer mouse, the white booted, house mouse, the field mouse, Norway rats and the muskrat. The meadow jumping mouse is listed as rare. The lowland cottontail or rabbit is common. Of the flesh eaters only the red fox, grey fox, skunk, weasel and raccoon seem to flourish, the wild cats and mink are rare. Three species of shrew and two of moles are listed but only the naked-tail or common mole is common, though rarely seen. Seven species of bats are listed but only the northeastern large brown bat is common.

## ***Mineralogy***

The mineral history of the County centers around the various mines — The Pequea silver mine, Wood's Chrome Mine, Gap Nickle Mine, Bamford Zinc Mine, the iron mines of Martic and Providence Townships and of the northern part of the County. Herbert H. Beck's article and the references therein in Klein's History are source material.

## ***Ornithology***

In 1923 Herbert H. Beck noted 105 nesting species, 34 winter visitants, 34 stragglers, 6 extinct and 3 introduced birds in Lancaster County in his article in Klein's history. The article documents the history of the passenger pigeon in the County from 1780 until 1910. The article lists the Pennsylvania Dutch names of birds. Since the list was compiled glossy ibis, cattle egrets and house finches may be added to the list. The mockingbird is now a permanent resident.

## ***Reptilia***

Turtles — Eastern Box, Eastern Mud, Musk, Spotted, Wood, Muhlenberg, Eastern Painted, Common Snapping, Red-Bellied and Map, Red-Eared sliders bought as pets and released in streams and ponds can also be seen occasionally.

Snakes — Black Racer, Black Rat, Northern Brown, Copperhead, Eastern Garter, Ringneck, Ribbon, Worm, Smooth and rough Green, Northern water, Queen, Milk, Eastern King and Timber Rattlesnakes rare in Lancaster.  
Lizards — Northern Fence Lizard.

## **Trees**

William Penn explored his province in 1682 and in August 1683 he reported to The Free Society of Traders in London:

“The natural produce of the country, of vegetables, is trees, fruits, plants, flowers. The trees of most note are the black walnut, cedar, cypress, chestnut, poplar, gumwood, hickory, sassafras, ash, beech, and oak of divers sort, as red, white, and black, Spanish, chestnut, and swamp, the most durable of all; of all which there is plenty for the use of man.”

“ . . . Here are also peaches, very good, and in great quantities, not an Indian plantation without them; but whether naturally here at first I know not. However, one may have them by bushels for little. They make a pleasant drink, and I think not inferior to any peach you have in England, except the true Newington . . . ”

The following trees are listed in Illick Pennsylvania Trees as existing in Lancaster County (this is a partial listing):  
PINES: Red, Austrian, White pine, Yellow pine, Scotch pine. SPRUCES: White, Blue, Norway. WILLOWS: Pussy Willow, Black Willow, Glaucous Willow, Weeping Willow. ASPENS and COTTONWOODS: American aspen, Large-toothed aspen, Cottonwood. WALNUTS: Heartnut, Butternut, Black Walnut, English Walnut. HICKORIES: Shell-bark hickory, Big shell-bark hickory, mocker nut hickory, pignut hickory, butter nut hickory, Hickan. BIRCH: Red birch, Black birch. BEECH: Beech, chestnut (extinct) chinquapin. OAKS: White oak, post oak, swamp white oak, yellow oak, chestnut oak, scrub chestnut oak, red oak, pin oak, scarlet oak, black oak, Spanish oak, scrub oak, Blackjack oak, Willow oak. NETTLES: Slippery elm, American elm, Hackberry, Osage orange, Red mulberry. MAGNOLIA: Laurel magnolia, Cucumber tree, Umbrella tree, Tulip tree, Yellow poplar. ROSE: Wild black cherry, choke cherry, wild plum, Cockspeer thorn, scarlet hawthorn, Shad bush. PULSE: Honey locust, Redbud. CASHEW: Poison sumach, Staghorn sumach, Dwarf sumach. MAPLE: Mountain maple, Sugar maple, silver maple, red maple, Box elder. OLIVE: White ash, Black ash, Red ash, Fringe tree. ALSO: Carolina Hemlock, Red cedar, American hop horn beam, American horn beam, Smooth alder, hazelnut, Paulonia or Princess, Common papaw, Sassafras, Witchhazel, Buttonwood, American holly, Hercules' Club, basswood, flowering dogwood, Alternate-leaved dogwood, Black gum, Mountain laurel, Great Laurel, Common persimmons, Catalpa, Sweet viburnum, Black haw. The forest originally covered all of Lancaster County.

*(Thanks are extended to Richard Busch of the North Museum for his invaluable assistance in preparing the foregoing material.)*

## **Indians In Lancaster County**

Strange drawings of birds, animals and people etched in stone centuries ago lie today beneath the water of the Susquehanna River near Safe Harbor — one of the few remains of the Indians of Lancaster County. Gone are the proud people who inhabited this land for 11,000 years. Gone are their villages, their hunting grounds, their pow-wows, their customs, their language. But there was a time when the white man courted Indian favor and respect. William Penn, the founder and proprietor of Pennsylvania, visited the Conestogas at their village near the shores of the Susquehanna River, many other early leaders of Pennsylvania.

### **Pledged Friendship**

In the early 1700s, five governors journeyed through the “Hundred Mile Forest” from Philadelphia to the home of the Conestogas to sign solemn agreements with the Indians, pledging friendship and good will forever. Penn held the Indians in high regard, believing that they were descended from the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. Because of this and his innate desire for peace, Penn’s first friendship treaty with the Indians, signed in Philadelphia in 1682, said: “We meet on the broad pathway of good faith and good will. No advantage shall be taken on either side, but all sides shall be openness and love . . . We are the same, as if one man’s body were divided into two parts; we are all one flesh and blood.” Penn stayed in his new province for almost three years, spending his time establishing good relations with neighboring Maryland, New Jersey and New York, buying land and meeting his “flock.”

Before returning to England in 1684, Penn took a three-week journey through the woodlands to meet the Indians and inspect the land, going as far west as the Susquehanna River. He found that the people of the Lower Susquehanna, mostly Conestogas, were fairly well acquainted with the white man, especially Marylanders.

The most important village on the Lower Susquehanna, on a flat plateau near the conflux with the Conestoga Creek, was typical of the many permanent Indian towns of the Northeast. A stockade of upright, pointed logs surrounded a collection of huts, loghouses and wigwams. Most Conestogas lived in rectangular, bark-covered buildings with barrel-shaped roofs. Their wigwams conical or dome-shaped, were formed by straight or bent poles, and covered with mats, bark or hides.

Clothing was made of skins and men wore breech cloths, shirts, leggings and moccasins. Women's garments included a skirt and jacket and, in cold weather both sexes wore skin robes. Penn saw patches of cultivated land, "ploughed" by pointed sticks and planted with corn, squash and beans. The Indians had cleared fields by the slash-and-burn technique and planted crops between stumps.

### **One Domesticated Animal**

The Conestogas had only one domesticated animal, a small pointed eared dog. They hunted with bow and arrow and fished the way their ancestors had for centuries. The method was to block off a small, shallow creek by making stone dams to imprison the fish. Then by dragging leafy twigs through the water, they drove the fish into pockets where they could be snatched out by hand or spear. Sometimes the Conestogas used metal fish hooks, obtained from Marylanders in trades for fur and land.

When John Smith visited the area in 1618, he found the Susquehannocks, then at their zenith, living in elaborate dwellings. But a century later, when Penn arrived, the Susquehannocks had been virtually annihilated by the Iroquois raiders from the north, replacing the Susquehannocks, in addition to the Conestogas, were the Conoys, where Bainbridge now stands, and the Pequehans at the mouth of the Pequea Creek.

All of Lancaster's tribes fell under the aegis of the Five Nations, a confederation of powerful Indian tribes, formed to establish inter-tribal cooperation and avert bloodshed. Later, the Tuscaroras moved into the Lower Susquehanna from the South, and the confederation became the Six Nations. The Iroquois and some other tribes were extremely cruel, torturing captives to test their courage, and indulging occasionally in cannibalism. It was this streak of cruelty inflicted against the white settlers, that led to long years of frontier warfare.

Although the Indians were of different tribes and nations, those who lived in the area stretching from Canada to the Carolinas spoke the same language, Algonquin, described by some as resembling the tone of Italian. Penn thought the detected ancient Hebrew words. Penn returned to Pennsylvania a second time but negotiated Indian treaties at his new home along the Delaware at Pennsbury. Chiefs of the Conestogas visited him there. In 1705, after Penn had returned to England, a close friend, James Logan, secretary of the Province of Pennsylvania, and other government officials journeyed to the village of the Conestogas.

The purpose of this and many other trips by Pennsylvania officials was to cement friendly relations, listen to grievances and, on occasion, buy land. As the Indians came in closer contact with the whites, their complaints increased. Some became bitter about the practice of unscrupulous traders of giving their braves intoxicants and cheating them in obtaining their furs and skins. Pennsylvania's answer: license the traders. This had limited success because the vastness of the land and the sparse population made law enforcement difficult. In 1705, Thomas Chalkley, a Quaker clergyman, went to the Conestoga village in the first of many efforts to convert the Indians to Christianity. Many Indian tribes rejected the white man's religion, but the Conestogas in time embraced it. With Penn back in England, Governor John Evans came from Philadelphia in July of 1707 to visit the Conestogas and the Pequehans.

### **Presented Belts And Wampum**

On July 18, 1711, Governor Charles Gookin, in a speech to the Indians at Conestoga, presented belts and wampum to each of the Five Nations and one to the Conestogas and asked for their friendship "to the Palatines settled near Pequea." He was referring to the arriving Mennonites from the Palatine regions of Switzerland and Germany. Gookin was told that the Conestogas were at war with the Tuscaroras and other tribes and that no place in the area is safe for whites. They added, however, they thought the Palatines were "safely seated." William Penn, who had made two visits to his province in the New World, died in England in 1719. His death meant the Indians lost their best friend among the Europeans.

Governor Sir Gordon Keith accompanied by an entourage that included 70 horsemen, arrived at the village of the Conestogas July 5, 1721. This was the first time that the Five Nations sent their chiefs to pow-wow with the governor of Pennsylvania. Keith asked the Indians to stop fighting among themselves and to stop hunting on land purchased by the settlers. The Indians, in turn, complained about traders selling liquor to the Indians and calling their young men "dogs." Governor Keith returned to the village of the Conestogas the next year, followed in May of 1728 by Governor Patrick Gordon. Just who notified the Indians of the formation of Lancaster County in 1729 was not recorded. Neither was their

reaction. But Gordon's visit in 1728 was the last to the Conestoga village. Future conferences with the Indians were held in the newly founded town of Lancaster.

### **Treated To Unusual Sight**

Residents of the fast-growing community in June of 1744 were treated to the unusual sight of 250 sachems and warriors, led by Canasetego, the Delaware chief, arriving at the courthouse in Center Square. With them were several squaws, including the celebrated Madame Montour, a French Canadian who had lived with the Indians for 50 years.

After a brief speech by Canasetego, the Indians were conducted to a lot at the edge of town where they set up a temporary encampment of wigwams. Each day, the Indians went to the courthouse where the sachems sat on the stairs and platform beneath the judge's bench. The Indians exchanged presents and conducted lengthy ceremonious negotiations with Governor Thomas and a delegation from Maryland and Virginia. In the evenings, the Indians entertained the Lancastrians with dances at their encampment.

A dinner was held in the courthouse for the 24 chiefs of the Six Nations, the colonial commissioners and others. Swarms of spectators peered through the windows and doors to watch the festivities. The Indians agreed to prevent the French and their Indian allies from attacking English settlements. The Indians also recognized the title of the King of England to the colony of Virginia. In turn, Pennsylvania paid the tribes 300 pounds, Virginia 200 pounds and Maryland 100 pounds.

### **Major Conference Held**

Other treaties followed during the next few years, but it wasn't until 1748 that another major conference was held in Lancaster. At this five-day session, 55 representatives of the Six Nations, the Shawnese and other tribes concluded a pact by which the Twightwees gave up their association with the French and entered into an alliance with their English and their Indian allies. Provisions of the treaty also admitted English fur traders into the coveted Twightwee hunting area along the Ohio River.

Indians had been moving gradually away from the Lancaster region for years in the face of encroachment by the European settlers, but the biggest impact on their future in the county resulted from the French and Indian war, 1754-63, the American phase of Europe's Seven Years War, 1756-63.

The Indians had a way of picking the wrong side in wartime. Most of them fought with the French against the English in the first conflict. Then, during the Revolutionary War, they fought alongside the English against the Americans. Their losses cost them their way of life and eventually led to their virtual annihilation.

Maj. Gen. Edward Braddock, leading a force of British Redcoats and colonials, suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of French led Indians July 9, 1755, on the shores of the Monongahela as they sought to take Fort Duquesne. Britain's influence with the Indians eroded dramatically, and the Indians were encouraged to attack whites throughout western areas of Pennsylvania and New York. The settlers grew to hate the Indians.

### **A Major Effort**

A major effort to win the Indians to the side of the English came in April of 1757 in Lancaster. The Indian leaders had been invited to Philadelphia, but they chose Lancaster instead because they said they feared a "sickness." Nearly 200 Indian men, women and children gathered two miles from the town. On hand for the whites was George Grogan, the noted interpreter and trader. An air of apprehension pervaded the meetings that followed. More than 100 members of the Society of Friends were present and, despite previous warnings from the governor concerning their private dealings with the Indians, insisted in making their own gifts to the tribal chieftans. During the conference, frontier settlers brought the bodies of three men and a woman who had been slain and scalped by savages at Swatara, less than 30 miles away. The corpses were laid on the steps of the courthouse and only the presence of Royal American guards prevented outraged relatives and friends from attacking Governor Denny, who they felt was too soft with the Indians. Despite Denny's protests, they forced the governor to leave his lodgings and view the bodies. The frontiersmen generally blamed the passive attitude of the Quaker-controlled government for Indian depredations. The conference, a general airing of mutual grievances, lasted twelve days, and was followed in August with a major pow-wow in Easton.

### **Most Important Treaty**

The last, largest and most important of the treaties concluded in Lancaster came in August of 1762 and was attended by 557 people from northern and western Pennsylvania tribes. This conference convened in Lancaster because of fears that traces of a recent smallpox epidemic remained in Philadelphia. With the French threat removed from the Ohio Valley by this time, many English commanders and colonial leaders had promised the Indians the colonists would withdraw from lands west of the Alleghenies. The meeting was intended, in part, to ratify that promise. The Indians in turn, were to return all whites captured in the fighting.

Lancastrians, naturally, were curious about the large number of Indians in the town. They also were apprehensive. On one occasion, during the conference, a group of Indians startled a Moravian congregation by peering through the windows during an evening service. In addition to the public meetings, some special sessions were held in private homes. Personal and provincial gifts were presented to the Delawares at one such meeting in the home of John Hambright, a brewer. There also were meetings in the White Swan Inn and at the Lutheran Church. After more than two weeks of parleys, the Indians and provincial leaders left Lancaster. The Indians had a pledge that the Wyoming Valley in central Pennsylvania would be considered their territory, and the whites were assured that all claims to land along the Delaware River had been relinquished.

The following year, all of Lancaster County's resident Indians were slain by the Paxton Boys, setting off cries of shock and outrage not only in Philadelphia and through the colonies, but also in Europe. The Lancaster Incident of 1763 was precipitated by an uprising in the Ohio Valley by Indians led by Chief Pontiac. In Pontiac's War, as it became known, Indians attacked settlers across a wide area from the Ohio River into this section of Pennsylvania, arousing hatreds to a fever pitch.

Stories of Indian cruelties swept the land, some true and some exaggerated. Settlers told of Indian attackers scalping women and children and mutilating the bodies. Nowhere in Lancaster County were passions against the Indians aroused to greater heights than in the northwestern townships of Donegal and Paxton (now Harrisburg).

### **Decided To Protect Themselves**

A large number of men, calling themselves the Paxton Boys, decided to protect themselves from the Indians in their own way — by wiping out the peaceful, Christianized Conestogas.

On Wednesday, December 14, 1763, the Paxton Boys rode into the village of the Conestogas and killed Chief Shahaes, who was known for his friendship with the whites. They also murdered all the other inhabitants they could find, mostly women and children. Then they set the huts afire and rode off. The majority of the Indian villagers, away at the time, survived.

The magistrates of Lancaster collected the remaining Conestogas, promised them protection, and lodged them in the newly constructed workhouse at King and Prince Streets as the place of greatest safety. Governor John Penn, outraged by news of the attack on the Conestogas by the Paxton Boys, issued an order saying, "I do hereby strictly forbid all persons whatsoever to molest or injure any of the said Indians as they will answer the contrary at their peril." But the Paxton Boys ignored the governor's order. Learning of the whereabouts of the surviving Conestogas, they rode into Lancaster on Tuesday, June 27, forced open the door of the workhouse and slaughtered everyone.

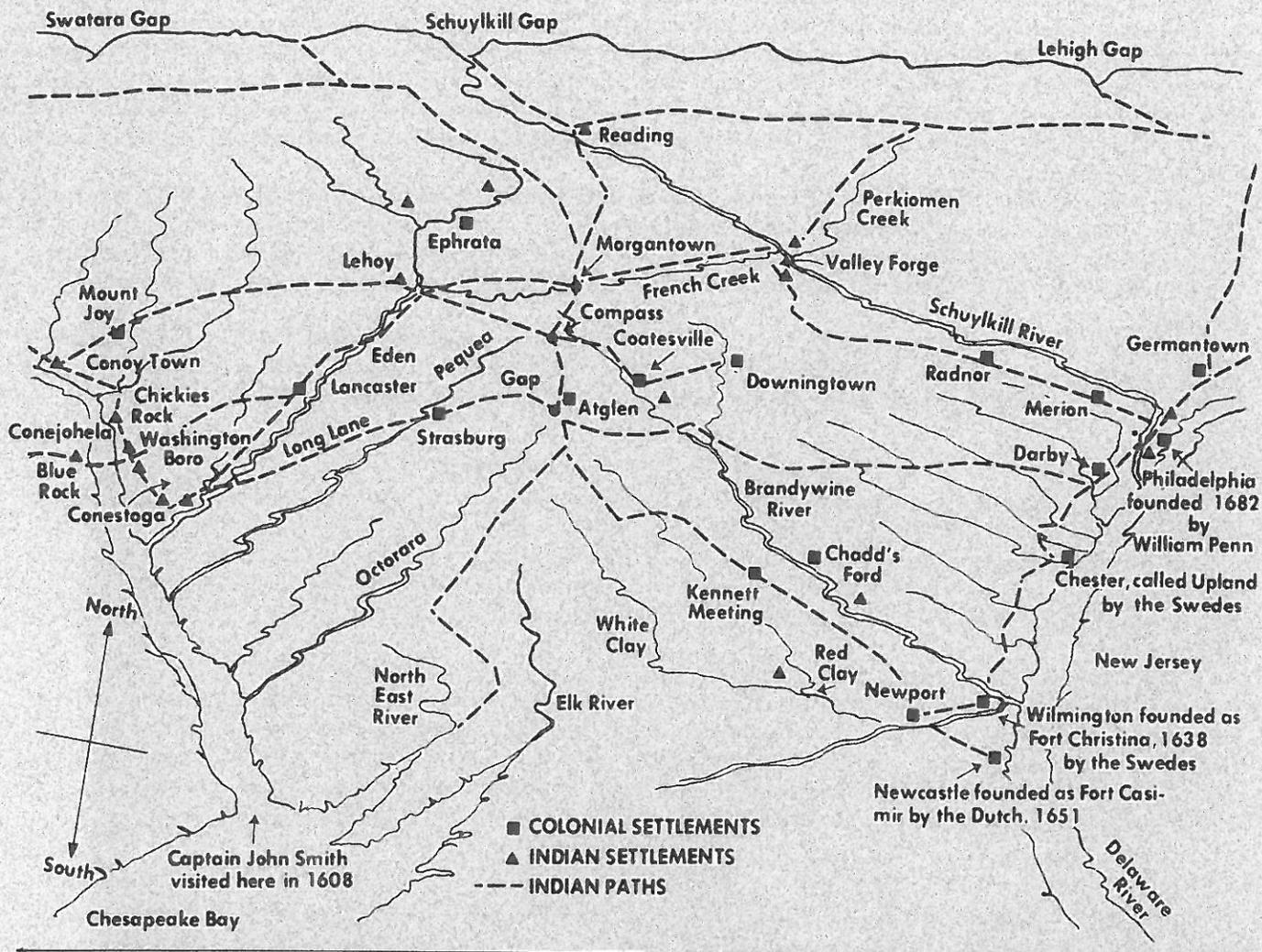
### **Took No Action**

Although a regiment of Highlanders was at the Lancaster barracks, it took no action to prevent the murders. The Paxton Boys killed 14 men, women and children, the last of the Conestogas. Their bodies were buried at a lot at Duke and Chestnut streets, where they remained until 1833 when they were accidentally dug up during excavations for a railroad. The slaughter of the Conestogas in Lancaster drew another wave of protest from the state government, and Governor Penn offered a reward of 200 pounds for the apprehension of the three ringleaders. But the Paxton Boys weren't finished. Hearing that the Moravian Indians were being lodged for their protection in a barracks in Philadelphia, the Paxton Boys assembled in Lancaster and marched on the state capital. Frightened by this threat, the people of Philadelphia prepared to defend their city and the Indians. However, the Paxton Boys stopped short of Philadelphia. Instead of attacking, they sent their two leaders, Matthew Smith and John Gibson, to the Capitol to present their grievances. Claiming to represent the counties of Lancaster, York, Cumberland, Berks and Northampton, they complained about the lack of protection, saying they had suffered 125 Indian attacks in recent years. They asked the government to grant rewards for Indian scalps and that trade with the Indians be halted until white prisoners were returned. Governor Penn refused their demands. Eventually the uproar diminished and was forgotten. The Paxton Boys went unpunished.

## **Indian Paths**

From the advent of the first Indians the natural communication system of Lancaster County was on a north-south axis along the Susquehanna River. While it was possible for Indians to make their way to the Delaware River from Lancaster County the journey was not an easy one. It was much simpler to move downstream to the Chesapeake Bay. The history of Lancaster County demonstrates a pull between the south, the Chesapeake and Baltimore, and the east, the Delaware and the City of Philadelphia. Which would have the predominant interest?

## INDIAN PATHS OF LANCASTER COUNTY



Captain John Smith in exploring Chesapeake Bay in 1608 gave the first description of the Susquehannock Indians whose tribal home was in the rich lands north of Turkey Hill. He described them as giants. By 1632, Lord Baltimore had received a grant of land from Charles I, stretching from the Potomac to the 40° north latitude. Maryland's northern boundary therefore stretched from the latitude of Millersville to the southern limits of the City of Philadelphia. A large part of Lancaster County would have been in Maryland if the northern boundary had remained at the 40th parallel.

### Politically Astute Warriors

Further north on the Hudson events were occurring which were to lead to the destruction of Susquehannocks and their connection with the Chesapeake. The Dutch had been able to sail far up the Hudson and had come in contact with the Iroquois. These politically astute warriors realized that by selling furs, and particularly beaver skins, to the Dutch they could obtain guns, and with these guns they could dominate other Indians and also control a greatly enlarged area for a constant supply of the highly prized beaver.

In the 1660's the Iroquois sent military expeditions down the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers to prevent the Lenni Lenape and Susquehannocks from becoming rivals in the control of the fur trade with the white man. The Lenni Lenape on the Delaware were overcome easily but the Susquehannocks with the help of soldiers from Maryland and a few cannon drove off the Iroquois. In 1676 the Iroquois attacked again and on this occasion, the Susquehannocks were forced to flee south to the Potomac. A remnant of this once proud tribe were allowed to remain in Lancaster County by the Iroquois and it was these Indians that the first settlers met.

When William Penn landed in 1682, he knew that he had a problem with Lord Baltimore over the location of the boundary line. Penn might be able to control the Delaware but, unless he laid claim to the Susquehanna as well, the hinterland of his province would be in the sphere of influence of Maryland.

## Hopes Were Realized

Penn, therefore, personally visited the Conestogas on the Pequea and Conestoga and then sailed back to England to seek to influence his benefactors, Charles II and his brother James, Duke of York, on his behalf, Penn's hopes were finally realized (posthumously) as the boundary line was drawn 15 miles south of 40° north latitude by two British surveyors, Mason and Dixon, in 1763.

If Lancaster County were to be in the sphere of influence of Philadelphia, there had to be a good road system. There were two main Indian paths connecting the Delaware River with Lancaster County. The first ran from Newcastle and Newport along the high ground to Gap and hence, using Long Lane, to the Susquehanna. The second was from Philadelphia, up the Schuylkill to Valley Forge and then up French Creek to Morgantown and the headwaters of the Conestoga.

There was no direct route from Philadelphia, for the Indians had learned to avoid the swampy ground of the Great Valley and the difficult Welsh Mountains. This, however, was the shortest route and it is no surprise that the first turnpike in the history of the United States was built between Philadelphia, and Lancaster in 1792.

## Did Not End Struggle

The completion of this turnpike did not end the struggle for Lancaster County. During the canal age, Maryland interests built a canal up the Susquehanna and even had a link with Lancaster City. Philadelphian interests on the other hand, built a canal to Reading and from there due west to the Susquehanna at Middletown.

The competition between Baltimore and Philadelphia continued in the railroad age as the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Baltimore and Ohio built their routes into Lancaster County. This now friendly rivalry still continues to this day as air travelers assess the merits of using the Philadelphia airport or that of Baltimore.

The map depicts the Indian trails of Lancaster County. It is printed with the permission of The Lancaster Country Day School.

# *Life In Early Lancaster County*

## *18th Century Life*

The interest in Lancaster County's history, always lively, still ebbs and flows with the celebrations we mount to note the benchmarks of that history. As we mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the county, alert youngsters and the more thoughtful elders of the community will have many questions concerning the Lancaster of 1729 and thereabouts. The answers may be difficult, documentation being a scarce commodity, and some of the replies will be speculative.

What was it like?

It was big. Lancaster County was "erected," as it was called, out of a large area that included present day York and Cumberland Counties and parts of Berks, Northumberland and Lebanon Counties. Maryland laid claim, a claim that was spurious, to part of our holding and that meant trouble for the "proprietors of Pennsylvania," the Penns, and the settlers, and even caused a minor war.

It was wild. During the day the forests rang with the sound of settlers' axes clearing the land for a crop. At night wild animals prowled around the remote cabins to the detriment of domestic animals and livestock. There were wolves. Lancaster County was not cleared of these beasts until the Revolution.

The woods were alive with game, herds of deer, wild turkeys and grouse on the uplands, rabbits, squirrels and beavers, much sought after by the Indian trades. No family that boasted a gun and a member who knew how to use it, ever wanted for meat. For those who had access to it, the Susquehanna River was teeming with fish of many kinds. There were eels, and, in the Spring the shad went up the river to spawn in countless numbers.

William Penn hoped that his settlers might foregather in communities, after the European model, for their protection and social happiness. But, they chose solitude.

First to come were the Mennonite "Swissers," who arrived in 1709. They had been persecuted for their religion in their native Switzerland and, later, in the German Palatinate. They were sober, industrious and deeply religious and the mark they made on Lancaster County lingers today.

The Mennonites made an agreement with William Penn for 10,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Willow Street. The Hans Herr House, built in 1719, by Christian Herr stands as a monument to their intrepidity as well as their religious constancy.

Before the settlers, however, several Indian traders lived in the county, among them the respected Peter Bezaillon. And, there were Indians. Earlier the Susquehannocks, The Shawanese and the Conoys occupied towns along the river. By the early 1700s, however, most of them were gone.

A group of Conestogas, 20 of them, who survived by begging, lived at their village near Conestoga until 1763. On March 10, of that year, the Paxton Boys butchered six of them at the village and completed the task of wiping out the last vestige of the once proud and powerful Susquehannocks at the Lancaster County work house.

In 1729, the town of Lancaster was called Gibson's Pasture or Indian Field for a small village they occupied near Gibson's Hickory Tree Tavern. Opposite the tavern, near the center of town, lay Dark Hazel Swamp, a fen of considerable proportions, that was not drained until 1745. It may be presumed the town was not the most healthy site in the world in which to live.

It was not unusual for communities to grow up around taverns as the only centers of excitement in a rather grim and unrewarding lifestyle. The king's men on colonial business and other travelers stopped at the taverns, the only news media available to the settlers.

John Postlethwaite's tavern, near Rock Hill, was the site of the county's first court and there was agitation, futile as we know to locate the county seat there in 1729. The Quakers, the Wrights and Blunstones of Columbia and others patronized Samuel Bethel's place of rest and rehabilitation in Lancaster. Ellis and Evans lists the names of 14 tavernkeepers from about this time, although there may have been others.

Communities, if such they may be called, were made up of fellow religionists. Following fast on the heels of the Mennonites were French Huguenots, Welsh Episcopalians, who settled in Caernarvon, and the Scotch-Irish, who came to Donegal. All of these were motivated to settle in the New World by religious persecution. The Scotch-Irish, however, were also driven out of Ulster by starvation.

The Lutherans and people of the German Reformed persuasion gathered in general communities, but there were few if any churches. Worship took place in homes, the Hans Herr House for example.

The Scotch-Irish came on in waves, the first one reaching here in 1717. In contrast to the orderly, frugal, hard-working Germans, they were hot-tempered, reckless, careless in their habits and contemptuous of the Indians. There were 5,000 in the first wave. They landed in Massachusetts and at other points on the coast, but the proprietors of Pennsylvania were aghast at the numbers that landed at Philadelphia and quickly pushed into the interior. The proprietors deplored the Scotch-Irish habit of squatting on any land they fancied. The Scotch-Irish Presbyterians said it was not God's will that land should lie idle when it was needed to grow a crop. So they squatted.

At about the same time the Scotch-Irish descended upon the county, English Friends settled in Salisbury and Sadsbury Townships. But, mistrust and an almost total lack of roads kept them and all of the others isolated in their pockets of settlement.

The absence of roads that made communication with Philadelphia next to impossible had the effect of making the settlers almost totally self-sufficient, but did nothing for progress. The roads, when there were roads, followed Indian trails. The Great Minqua or Conestoga Path was of vital importance to traders and early settlers making their way from the Delaware to Lancaster. The Conestoga Road, from High Street, Philadelphia, had only been pushed as far as the Brandywine by 1721. A lack of money also made trading with the Philadelphia merchants difficult.

After they had cleared the land and harvested a crop of wheat the next order of business was to grind it into flour. And, grist mills, followed by sawmills sprang up along Lancaster County streams. If the taverns were the places of dissemination of news from outside the county, the grist mills were founts of local news and commercial centers for a district.

There were a couple of reasons, in addition to horrendous roads, for the founding of a new county here.

The seat of government was in today's Chester County and citizens had to travel up to 100 miles to secure a writ to collect a debt. We had no jail to hold the anti-social among us.

The petition to form a county put it this way: For want of a gaol several vagabonds and other dissolute people harbour among them, thinking themselves safe from justice in so remote a place.

"Thefts and abuses" were committed against the "sober and quiet inhabitants." For want of a sufficient number of justices, constables and other officers "no care is taken of ye highways."

Getting a jury together was difficult. The Scotch-Irish made up the grand juries. There were Lutherans and numbers of the German Reformed faith in northern Lancaster County, who did not have scruples against jury duty, but they lived so far from the seat of justice they were not called.

The Germans, separated from the other settlers by more than distance, a language problem, were apparently content with the way things were. Of 182 signatories on the petition to form Lancaster County out of Chester County there were not more than a dozen German-sounding names.

Those were the people and some of the reasons for the formation of a new county.

## Early Occupations

Lancaster County's early economic structure, despite the obvious orientation toward agriculture, was quite complex and diverse for a frontier community. Agriculture, commerce, food processing, craftwork and transportation were the principal economic activities.

Lancaster County farming might best be described as diverse. Farmers used their land to raise a wide range of crops and livestock for family consumption and for sale. The principal crops grown in the county were wheat, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat and Indian corn. Some flax, potatoes, fruit and tobacco were also raised. Wheat was the county's leading crop and flour, bread, and wheat composed the area's leading foreign exports. Farmers in Lancaster could produce about 10 bushels of wheat per acre.

Virtually all farmers raised livestock, and interestingly even many town dwellers owned some. Horses were much more common in the county than in other colonies but fewer oxen were raised. Cattle were raised everywhere for family use and sale.

### Important Activity

Since grain production existed throughout the county, milling was an important activity, and in fact flour and gristmills were quite common in all parts of the county. As the Lancaster community became more economically diverse, other types of mills and nascent industry developed. Saw, hemp, paper and fulling mills were actively producing by 1760, alongside thriving distilling brewing and tanning operations.

Ironmaking, though in its infancy, did exist. The first iron smelted in the county occurred in 1742 by Peter Grubb, whose Cornwall Furnace was well known in the colonies. Soon others appeared in Caernarvon, Martic, Elizabeth and Warwick Townships.

### Handicraft Business

Lancaster County was not merely a prosperous agricultural community. It developed in the colonial period a thriving and sophisticated handicraft business. In heavily rural and agricultural Lancaster County, some 20% of its taxpayers were craftsmen. Naturally, many farmers used the winter months to engage in the domestic manufacturing of skilled and not-so-skilled items.

Inability to obtain prized European goods tended to keep alive many of the skills that early immigrants possessed. They soon learned that many products could be sold in local village markets. Transportation was reasonably decent by 1775. Lancaster may have been rural but it was not isolated for long. Getting goods to village markets was relatively simple; of course, transporting them out of the colony was an almost impossible task. At first, much of the early production was consumed by the craftsman's family, but soon the village marketplace became a congenial center for trade. Later, as Lancaster borough grew, it became an active crafts center, with many craftsmen specializing in the production of a single product.

A list of the crafts made in Lancaster would be almost endless. Perhaps clothing should head the list. By 1750 nine-tenths of Pennsylvania's farmers made their own wearing apparel. But because the community was a fur trading center, much craft activity centered around that business. Saddle making and pack saddle making were the big businesses of the 1730-1756 period. Leatherworkers were kept busy making the leathers goods necessary to keep the trading business at a high level. Combined, the leather trades employed more artisans than any other craft.

From their earliest days in the county, the German immigrants employed their weaving skills, as cloth was made from wool and flax raised in the county. Generally, weaving was done in rural households but as urbanization progressed, it became a village enterprise. Just about every conceivable domestic textile was made — blankets, shirts, stockings and sheeting. By 1770, nearly 1/3 of the households in Lancaster borough were engaged in linen and woolen production.

### Lancaster's Contribution

Two craft activities stand out as Lancaster's contribution to the development of American civilization: The Pennsylvania Rifle and the Conestoga Wagon. Both mark significant improvements over the Old World product. The Pennsylvania Rifle evolved out of necessity because 18th century European rifles were not suited to pioneer conditions.

**PETER GETZ,**  
JEWELER AND GOLDSMITH,  
*Opposite Mr. Clough's Tavern, in Lancaster;*  
B. G. S. leave to return thanks to his friends and the public, for the encouragement he has met with since his commencement in business; in consequence of which, he is enabled to pursue it on a more extensive plan, and on such terms as will secure general approbation.  
Said GETZ, continues to make every kind of silver plate, in the newest fashion. Locketts, Mourning Rings, Shoe and Knee Buckles, Garnet Rings, Locket Buttons, Watch Cases, Chains, Seals and Keys, and every kind of large and small work in gold and silver.  
He also performs Engraving with equal assiduity and elegance. From the experience he has had in these different branches, hopes to merit the favor of an approving community.  
He also furnishes artificial Teeth, perfectly resembling the real, without inconvenience to the party.  
*Having lately formed a partnership with*  
**DAVID AIRD,**  
WATCH-MAKER,  
From EDINBURG.  
THEY propose carrying on said business in as extensive a manner as possible. Repeating, Horizontal and Plain Watches made on the most modern construction, and first quality, and every branch in this business executed with care and attention.  
Watches repaired by him, warranted to go well.  
Borough of Lancaster, April 10, 1770.

This advertisement shows that artistic pursuits were not lacking in early Lancaster.

They were poorly constructed with a large bore, had inaccurate sights and took an eternity to load. The new colonial firearm, produced in Lancaster County, became a major Lancaster industry, especially because a market existed for the product and the county had plenty of bar iron and timber for the gunstock. The new weapon had several advantages. Its barrel was lengthened improving its accuracy. The bore was reduced by 1/3 improving its economy. The balance and trigger mechanism were significantly altered, and a better sight made the weapon a deadly accurate instrument. Perhaps the most significant alteration, however, was the making of a ball smaller than the bore that fit easily into the lands of the rifle, which when fired forced the bullet to spin. Now the rifle could be fired without the time-consuming ramming of the ball. Lancaster became the center of rifle manufacturing in the colony and before 1775 monopolized the industry. Also, by 1775, 17 master gunsmiths worked in the borough, with William Henry only the most famous. In many respects, Henry was the most celebrated weaponmaster before Samuel Colt.

As a terminus of the western wagon traffic, Lancaster's German artisans began to modify the short, dumpy and wide English covered wagon. Working along the Conestoga River, they made the wagon longer and deeper, with a lengthwise and crosswise sag in the middle to force the load to shift toward the center of the vehicle. Pulled by six sturdy "Conestoga" bred horses, with the driver seated on an outboard or astride the off horse, this monster vehicle was a familiar sight moving northwestward out of the county or along the highroads between Philadelphia and Lancaster and on the "Great Philadelphia Wagon Road" to the south. The construction of the wagons required a tremendous amount of skill. Blacksmiths, wheelwrights, joiners, turners and other artisans found useful employment in the business.

## Conestoga Wagon

All Conestoga wagons were made by individuals, each using their own methods. All the wood was hand worked, using broadax, draw knife or even a pocket knife. All the iron was hand wrought and shaped, each piece fitted separately. The first wagons were made to carry from 3 to 5 hogsheads, or 9 to 11 barrels. They were remarkable pieces of workmanship, built bellied — or high at each end to keep the load from slipping forward or backward in going up or down hill. They were designed so that the middle barrel acted as a keystone for the load, thus keeping the other barrels in place.

### The "Lazy Board"

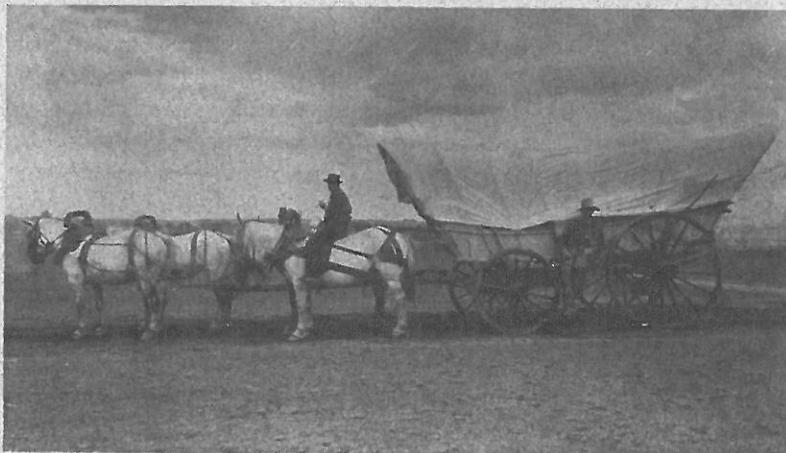
The brakes were operated by a man either sitting or standing on the left side of the wagon on a short board called the "lazy board." It was so named because the brakeman could either sit or stand on it, thus relieving him from walking, while at the same time keeping within instant touch of the brake handle. The brake was a long, stout, wrought iron bar, controlled by an iron chain used by the brakeman.

There was a feed box on the rear of the wagon used when feeding on the road. The box was removed and fastened on the tongue with three horses tied on each side. The wagon tongue itself was removable and was fastened to the perch pole by heavy pins, between heavy pieces of wood known as "hounds." The rear wheels had sixteen spokes, while the front wheels had twelve, this number being lessened when more iron was used. A tar bucket made of leather hung under the rear axle. Tar was used for greasing the wheels before starting a trip and when resting the horses on the hills. The wagon was covered with a stout homespun canvas, which was stretched over bowed pieces of wool.

### Made Of Hand-Tanned Leather

The usual team consisted of six horses harnessed in three pairs. The harness was made of hand-tanned leather, using a process requiring eight months. It was hand sewn and heavy to withstand all kinds of weather conditions.

The driver usually sat on the saddle horse, controlling his team by a single line, which controlled the lead (left front) horse. The lead horse controlled his partner, and the rest of the team by means of a jockey stock fastened to the hems of the lead horse and to the bit of his mate. The team usually responded to the word or tug of the line by the driver, who also carried a leather whip with a long lash, and he became very adept at cracking his whip. Usually two men with one team. Often several wagons travelled together. Travelling three miles an hour was considered good going.



Conestoga wagons and six-horse teams hauled the country's freight for a century or more. Photo shows a familiar driver position, astride the left saddle horse. Such a position had a lasting effect on today's American traffic patterns.

### **“Arriving With Bells On”**

The expression “arriving with bells on” was handed down from the Conestoga wagon period. Not every team had bells, but most did. They were first used for signalling in time of danger or distress. In case one team became stuck or disabled and another came to help, the disabled team gave up their bells to the team who had aided them. It was the unwritten law of the road. If a team came to its destination with bells on, it meant that everything had gone well with them on their journey. The bells were made of English bell metal, hand-hammered, and placed on iron hoops pegged to the hem of the collar.

### **Early Lancaster County Iron Industry**

Manufacture of pig iron and wrought iron was a major industry in Lancaster County until the twentieth century. From the earliest days until mid-nineteenth century, the iron furnaces and forges used charcoal for fuel. Thousands of acres of woodland were consumed in making charcoal. As woodlands became more scarce and farther from the industries that used charcoal, the employment of that fuel became uneconomic. However, in the 1729-1776 period, there was no shortage of woodland. Two other ingredients were necessary for making iron, iron ore and limestone — and both were available in Lancaster County in plentiful supply.

Charcoal iron-making occurred in a rough crescent-shaped area ranging from the Cornwall-Middletown vicinity to the lower Octorara Creek valley in southern Lancaster County. According to tradition the first ironworks in our County was Kurtz Bloomery Forge along the Octorara Creek about 1726. There are no evidences of its existence other than a casual mention in one early document.

#### **Bloomery Forge Built**

In 1737 Peter Grubb, a Cornishman, built a bloomery forge on Furnace Creek. We know very little about that forge, but Grubb did go on to become a famous ironmaster in Lancaster County. Around 1742 he built two more forges, Upper Hopewell and Lower Hopewell, on Hammer Creek. About the same time he built Cornwall Furnace near his first forge. Grubb also owned nearly 10,000 acres of woodland for charcoal-making. Cornwall Furnace has survived to the present, and is a museum operated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

By 1743 William Branson had built Windsor Forges on the Conestoga River near Churchtown. John Jacob Huber, a Pennsylvania German, built a small furnace north of Brickerville. Later his son-in-law, Henry William Stiegel, rebuilt the furnace, and named it Elizabeth Furnace, honoring his wife. Many furnaces had female names given to pay tribute to ironmasters' wives and daughters. Furnace employees joked that the feminine name was applied because the furnaces were so temperamental and unpredictable! Stiegel's firm lost the furnace, and it was bought by Robert Coleman. During the Revolution the tiny stream that powered the machinery was not adequate, so Hessian prisoners-of-war were put to work digging a feeder “canal” from a larger creek (Saegloch) nearly a mile east of the furnace.

Gerald Etter built New Market, or Quittapahilla, Forge in 1750 in that part of Lancaster County now within Lebanon County.

#### **Mansion Is Still Standing**

In the 1750s Thomas and William Smith erected Martic Furnace and Forge not far from the Pequea Creek near Smithville. Martic Furnace was upstream from the forge. Martic Forge mansion is still standing.

#### **Speedwell Forge**

Downstream from the Hopewell Forges, James Old and D. Caldwell built Speedwell Forge on Hammer Creek in 1760. The mansion house and other buildings of this forge have remained. The last ironworks built prior to the end of the Revolution was Poole Forge, erected along the Conestoga River near Churchtown by James Old in 1779. Many more charcoal iron furnaces and forges were constructed between 1779 and 1840, and after that period, the western side of Lancaster County became noted for its many anthracite iron furnaces and rolling mills.

Lancaster County's early furnaces were stone stacks with hollow vase-like centers. Fuel, limestone (for flux) and iron ore were fed into the top in measured quantities. Arches set into the lower sides of the furnace stack provided access to the blowing and tapping areas. A large bellows or blowing tube, operated by a water wheel, furnished the cold air draft to the bottom of the stack. A tapping hole allowed the molten iron to run out onto the floor of the casting house or foundry. Small pillow-shaped moulds made in the sand floor received the molten iron through gutters called “sows.” Founders thought this appeared like a nursing sow and her pigs, so the pillow-shaped blocks of iron were called “pigs.”

The forge consisted of a heating fire and a large drop hammer operated by a water wheel. One end of the hammer “handle” was raised and dropped, see-saw fashion, as the water wheel turned. Every time the hammer head dropped, it pounded on red hot iron which was held with tongs by the forgerman. A simple “worked” piece of pig iron was called a bloom, and was ready for rolling or additional forging in a refining forge. The sound of the forging hammers was heard much of the time in northern and eastern Lancaster County. Periodically the sky would be filled with the red glare and sparks of the furnaces. Much of the sensory drama of early Lancaster County was provided by ironmaking.

## **Early Towns**

Three locations were considered for the countyseat of the new county. They were Gibson's Pasture (the present location of Lancaster), Postlethwaite's, and Wright's Ferry (now known as Columbia). Although the first courts were held at Postlethwaite's Tavern in 1729, the Commissioners agreed on the Gibson's Pasture site in February, 1730, the new townstead to have the name Lancaster.

### **Laid Out The Town**

James Hamilton laid out the town of Lancaster in 1730, and it was chartered as a borough in 1742. Hamilton granted lots for the construction of the courthouse, a market-house, the prison and several churches. Other lots, subject to an annual ground-rent payable to Hamilton, were sold to traders, craftsmen, tavern-keepers, merchants, and professional men. It is interesting to note the purchasers of these lots "should make, erect, build, and finish on each and every lot at their own cost and charge, a sufficient dwelling-house of the dimension of sixteen feet square at least, with a good chimney of brick or stone to be laid with lime and sand." Notwithstanding these early building restrictions, the borough grew and prospered, and the town was well on its way to becoming the "largest inland town in Colonial America."

### **Clusters Of Settlers**

There were other clusters of settlers developing into communities throughout Lancaster County. Some of these early settlements were Columbia, Elizabethtown, Ephrata, Lititz, Manheim and New Holland.

Columbia was settled by Quakers on the site of the "Shawanok Indian town." With the chartering of John Wright's ferry in 1730, this became a popular place to cross the Susquehanna River on an east-west thoroughfare. The settlement was known as Wright's Ferry until it was designated Columbia in hope that it would be selected as the permanent capitol of the United States.

Situated on the Philadelphia and Paxtang road, later known as the Downingtown, Ephrata and Harrisburg Turnpike, Ephrata became the center of a rich agricultural area in the northern part of the county. Preceded by the development of the adjacent Ephrata Cloister, this settlement was important in the early history of the county.

### **Developed As A Settlement**

Elizabethtown developed as a settlement around two taverns on an important road. What had been an Indian path on the great trail from Philadelphia to the West, later became the Lancaster, Elizabethtown and Middletown Turnpike. Situated midway between Lancaster and Harris Ferry; it was natural for this area to develop into a thriving stopping and trading center.

The early Lititz settlement was exclusively owned and controlled by the Moravian Brethren, as contrasted with the dual development at Ephrata. This community grew up around the attractive church, school, residential and commercial buildings of the Moravians.

Manheim was laid out by William Henry Stiegel, the colorful ironmaster and glassmaker. While it is certain one of his motives in laying out the town was the profit resulting from the sale of lots, it is possible the so-called Baron also planned part of it for potential workers in his glass manufactory. This would have made Manheim an early company town in America.

### **One Of Original Townships**

New Holland was situated in Earl Township, one of the original townships of Lancaster County. Being the first and most important settlement in that township, it was logical that its original name be Earltown. Subsequently called New Design and New Holland, under the latter name it was a trading settlement surrounded by rich farmland.

The communities mentioned above represent some of our early settlements. They are situated in different areas of the county, and they were developed by different religious groups or peoples for various purposes. These towns, along with some of the other settlements, made up the early urban areas of Lancaster County.

## **Colonial Roads In Lancaster County**

The rapid growth of Lancaster County in colonial times owed as much to topography suitable for road building as to William Penn's "Holy Experiment" in religious toleration.

### **Principal Ports Of Entry**

After the settlement of Philadelphia in the late 17th century, diverse religious and ethnic groups took up land in the western reaches of Chester County. Their principal ports of entry were Philadelphia and the Newport-Newcastle region of Delaware. The earliest settlers of the Pequea and Conestoga valleys in 1710 reached their claims via "fur trails" blazed previously by French traders, the most prominent being one Peter Bezaillon. As early as 1707 Bezaillon, headquartered

at French Creek in eastern Chester County, conducted a lucrative trade in pelts with Indians in the Susquehanna River wilderness. Generally, Old Peter's Road followed Indian paths northwesterly, from French Creek through Salisbury Township, continuing along today's Route 230 (northwest of Mt. Joy) to the confluence of the Conoy Creek with the Susquehanna at Paxtang.

### **Earliest Public Route**

The earliest public route from the Philadelphia area through Lancaster County was known as The Great Conestoga Road. It ran through Christiana, Gap, Strasburg and Willow Street, terminating at Rock Hill on the Conestoga near Postelthwaite's Tavern, the first site of Lancaster County's government.

"The Gap" was the main transportation "hub" of Lancaster County in colonial times. For the east-west Great Conestoga was bisected there by the north-south Newport Road from Delaware (today's Route 41). Manufactured goods from Great Britain (and immigrants) moved into northern Lancaster County on this road. Wheat went south to Newport for shipment to the mother country.

On January 27, 1730, the Hon. Patrick Gordon, Esq., Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania, and the Provincial Council authorized a "King's Highway" to be built from Philadelphia to "Lancaster town." Today, as Route 340, this road enters Lancaster County to the east of Compass and runs through the heart of the "Amish Country" to Lancaster. In 1734 a road was built to connect the Great Conestoga and King's Road in the Gap area. Since these highways converged at, or near, Gap, inns were particularly numerous in this, Lancaster County's "east end." One was owned by Francis Jones, and it now constitutes the rear of "White Chimneys" on Route 30.

By way of facilitating the great influx of Scots-Irish immigrants moving into western Lancaster County in the mid-eighteenth century, another road, the Horseshoe, was laid out from Harris Ferry on the Susquehanna (Harrisburg) to Ephrata, Blue Ball and Downingtown.

### **Prime Purpose**

The local Judiciary was empowered to lay out roads within the county, the prime purpose of which was to provide settlers access to churches, mills and small rural settlements. Longer routes — particularly those crossing county lines — were sometimes authorized by the Governor and the Provincial Council; thus, the term King's (or Queen's) highways. But no matter how they were termed, all of these thoroughfares were rough and difficult — sometimes impossible — to traverse. In the earliest period, pack horses were almost exclusively used. Later, the famed Conestoga wagons were prevalent as were stage coaches. In 1772 Lancaster's eminent Church of England Divine, the Rev. Thomas Barton (St. James Episcopal), petitioned Thomas Penn Jr. for a more direct and serviceable highway from Philadelphia to Lancaster. The Revolution intervened, and today's Route 30 was not completed until the late 1790's.

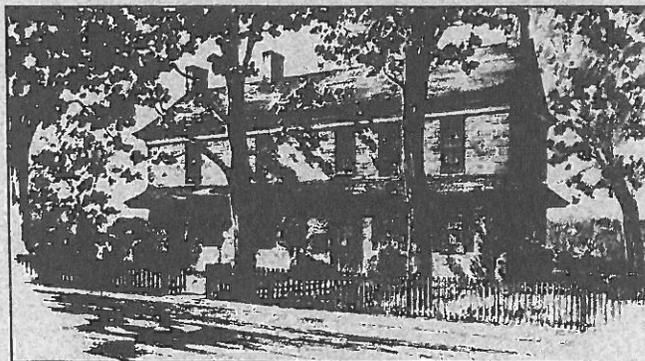
The fact that there was a total of 93 roads in Lancaster County (including "customary" roads, built without legal proceedings) before 1776, attests to the area's importance in the evolution of British North America.

## **Lancaster County Architecture 1729-1775**

In the two generations following the separation of Lancaster County from Chester County in 1729, the architecture was as diverse as the people who settled the area. Half timber structures, central chimney stone houses, Georgian style public buildings, and occasional brick townhouses all constituted the legacy from this early period.

### **Reflection Of Backgrounds**

Much Lancaster County architecture in this pre-Revolutionary period was a direct reflection of the varying ethnic backgrounds of the Germans, Scotch-Irish and English who populated the area. Very often, these buildings were of a strongly traditional nature, manifesting the great tenacity of medieval forms into the third quarter of the eighteenth century. Representative of medieval Germanic styles are the Herr House, bearing a 1719 datestone over its front door, and the massive frame buildings of the Ephrata Cloister. Large central chimneys, steep pitched roofs, containing two stories within their expanse, and small window openings fitted with casement sash. Germans settled most of the northern and central parts of Lancaster County, English and some Scots-Irish filled the southern end and the area around the present-day Columbia. The finest and most intact example of a traditional English type house now



**WRIGHT'S FERRY MANSION  
BUILT 1738**



The Mennonite church at Landisville is one of the most interesting architectural specimens that has survived from the Eighteenth Century. Technically it is not a log building for they were built of unhewed logs. Buildings made of carefully hewed logs were known as block buildings. In New England such buildings were used for defense purposes and were called garrison houses. In Pennsylvania the style was used for forts, churches, houses and barns. The central chimney is an interesting feature of the church and is usually associated with the dwellings of residents who came from the Palatinate. It can also be found on Eighteenth Century houses made of stone, brick and clapboard. The pent roof across the gable end of the structure served as a shade for the windows and protected the clay and chinking from washing out of the walls.

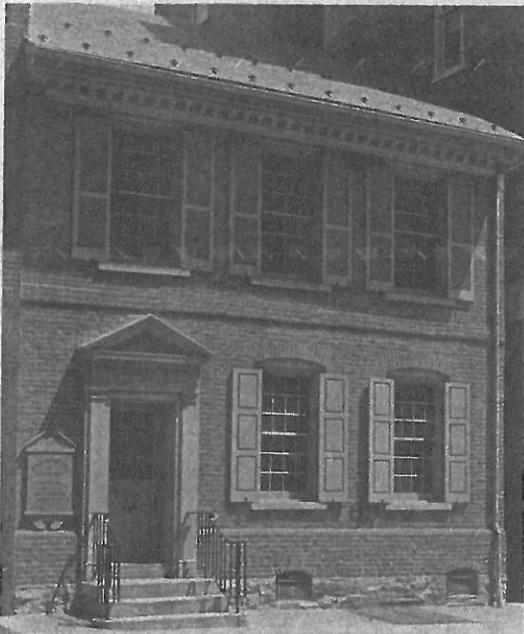
surviving in the county is the Wright's Ferry Mansion at Columbia; it was built for the noted Susanna Wright in 1738. The long, narrow form, with an interior floor plan only one room deep at any point, harks back to a time-honored English rural plan.

### Basic Appearance

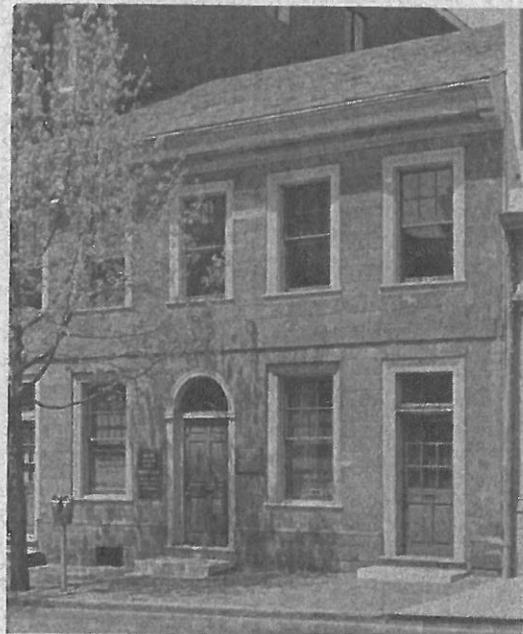
Even the basic appearance of the rural landscape was different in the mid 1700's. Settlements were scattered, and paved roads and bridges were yet to appear. Many rural buildings, especially barns and the outbuildings of farmsteads, were constructed from logs. The iron forges that were to be so important in the regional economy were only beginning in the third quarter of the eighteenth century; among the earliest of these forges were Windsor Forge at Churchtown and Hopewell Forge near the present Brickerville. Donegal Presbyterian Church and the Sadsbury Friends Meetinghouse at Christiana were exceptional in being rural places of worship built of stone; outside the borough of Lancaster, most church structures predating about 1790 were built of logs.

### Rural buildings in the eighteenth century in Lancaster County:

The majority of the barns that one might have encountered in eighteenth century Lancaster County would have been constructed of logs, with characteristic bank form and projecting forebay. Only a handful of these log barns now survive; one is located between Elizabethtown and Falmouth, and another remains near Kirkwood. Stone barns were found only occasionally on the richest farms in the 1700's; extant examples appear at the Weaver (Weber) homestead near Terre Hill, and at the Hibschan farmstead northwest of Ephrata. It is interesting to note that some now familiar parts of the rural landscape, such as tobacco barns and brick tobacco warehouses, only appeared in the period 1860-1880.



The c. 1765 former parsonage of First Reformed Church at 49 North Duke Street.



The 1762 William Bausman house on the second block of East King Street.

### **Became The Focal Point**

The countyseat, Lancaster, was founded in 1730; it became the focal point of the government, economy, and culture of all south-central Pennsylvania. In fact, Lancaster borough was the major marketing center for all inland Pennsylvania, with a field of influence stretching to the Ohio and Shenandoah Valleys. By the decade before the Revolution, Lancaster was the Colonies' largest inland settlement not located on a navigable river. Since the society of this town was oriented toward Philadelphia, it is not surprising that the English Georgian style, characterized by formal symmetry and ornament based upon Renaissance sources, was introduced first in the town. Lancaster's first brick Courthouse, located in the middle of Penn Square, was under construction in the late 1730's; it burned in the summer of 1784. It may well have been one of the first Georgian buildings erected in the county; evidence supports the conclusion that it was built by Edmund Wooley, the leading master builder in Philadelphia in the second quarter of the eighteenth century. The finest Georgian public building which predates the revolution now surviving in Lancaster is Trinity Lutheran Church, built between 1761 and 1766. (The steeple was completed in 1794 and extensive renovations happened in the mid-1850's). Even British visitors admired the scale and elegance of this structure. Indicative of the most sophisticated level of taste in Lancaster on the eve of the revolution is the elaborate organ case at Trinity Lutheran Church; it was made by a cabinetmaker named Peter Frick in 1774.

### **Highlights Cultural Diffusion**

The fact that Trinity Lutheran Church was built by a German congregation in the English Georgian style highlights the cultural diffusion that was to transform most of the county's arts in the second half of the eighteenth century. It is significant that the Georgian mansion of the attorney and judge Jasper Yeates, now being restored to approximate its original exterior appearance by Lancaster Newspapers Inc., was built by a German, John Miller, between 1765 and 1768. Writing in January, 1769, the seasoned critic Edward Shippen proclaimed this to be the finest house in town.

### **Approximate survival rates for eighteenth century structures in Lancaster city:**

As a result of ongoing research that is part of the current Survey of Lancaster City Architecture, it is possible to estimate that fewer than 10% of all the structures that stood in Lancaster Borough (the present city) in the year 1800 now remain. Of the eighteenth century public buildings, only Trinity Lutheran Church (1761-1766), the Public Offices of 1795-1797 (now called the Heritage Center), and a part of the back wall of the jail (now part of the Fulton Opera House) remain. Probably more than a dozen eighteenth century structures survive on Howard Avenue between South Shippen and South Lime Streets. Noteworthy houses of this period include the 1762 William Bausman House on the second block of East King Street, the c. 1760 Henry Musser House at the northwest intersection of South Ann and Chesapeake Streets, and the c. 1765 former parsonage of First Reformed Church at 49 North Duke Street.

In brief, Lancaster County's architecture looked both backward and forward in the half century before the Revolution. Whereas rural styles often were rooted in a medieval past, Georgian buildings were based upon current high-style taste. As evidenced in the arts, the mixing of Germanic and English strains heralded the future.

## **Early Music**

Lancaster County has a rich musical heritage, as evidenced by the many people and organizations involved in music since the formation of the county in 1729.

A unique type of music was written by Conrad Beissel, a German Pietist mystic, who founded the Cloisters at Ephrata, PA, in 1732. Beissel, through divine inspiration, wrote over a thousand hymns, though he had no formal musical training. The hymns and anthems were based on a distinctive seven-note harmony and were sung without accompaniment, producing a very ethereal sound. The so-called Brothers and Sisters who lived in the commune helped to copy and sing the intricate melodies and rehearsed four hours nightly under very disciplined conditions. All members had to wear special garb, and a special diet was required for the singers. Beissel stressing that eating of fruit and meat and drinking of milk was injurious to the human voice. Conrad Beissel is recognized as one of the first American composers.

### **Early "Sound Of Music"**

Another very early "sound of music" was that of the Moravian Church, which settled in Lititz in 1756. The Moravian music was influenced primarily by contemporary musical trends of Central Europe. Since most of the choral and vocal music by American Moravians was conceived for mixed voices accompanied by instruments, it was quite different in both structure and content from other sacred music written in 18th-century America.

Most of the early Moravian composers were clergymen who wrote music as easily as they wrote their sermons. Count Zinzendorf, the leader of the Moravian Church, frequently broke into song in the pulpit, improvising melodies and words in perfect rhyme and meter.

### **Brass Ensemble**

The first mention of a brass ensemble in a public service dates back to 1766. It was called the Trombone Choir and consisted of all kinds of brass cornets and alto horns as well as trombones. The Trombone Choir was and is an important part of Moravian Church activities. For two hundred years they have been heralding Easter Morn from the church square in Lititz, then dividing into small groups to walk through the town, waking the residents to proclaim the Resurrection.

### **Often Traveling On Foot**

They also participated in services of consecration and dedication of organs, often travelling on foot to other towns. One record of this is taken from the book "Organs for America" by William Armstrong: "Today, December 26, 1774. The new organ which Brother Tanneberger has built in the Lutheran Church in Lancaster (Trinity Lutheran) was consecrated. It has twenty stops. Doctor Kuhn kindly invited our trombonists to play a few tunes in their worship service, which under such agreeable conditions could not be refused." The Author refers to the organ builder David Tannenberg, who lived in Lititz and made organs and harpsichords for all the colonies. The church is Holy Trinity Church on South Duke Street and the organ was the largest one built in America by Tannenberg.

### **Still Has Original Case**

In 1769 The First Reformed Church on East Orange Street in Lancaster had Tannenberg build their instrument. It still has the original case which was made in Lititz. In 1775 at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Lancaster, a Tannenberg organ was installed, and one in 1799 at the Lancaster Moravian Church.

In those days the building and dedication of an organ was a festive occasion because there were few good organs in these country regions. The services were attended by several thousands of people and were well remembered by those who were there. The Armstrong book cited above quotes an old newspaper named "Der Deutsche Porcupein": "Last Sunday, the twentieth of this month (1799), was the consecration of the new organ in the church of the United Brethren (Moravian) made by the celebrated artificer David Tannenberg in Lititz. The musicians and trombonists from Lititz came the day before and the trombonists entertained the inhabitants on Saturday evening by playing some tunes from the tower of Trinity Lutheran Church, which produced universal pleasure. The day of the consecration will remain in the memory of everyone who participated. The morning and afternoon services were each musically opened and closed with a suitable Biblical text. During the time in between, the trombonists again played some tunes from the tower of the Reformed Church. They concluded in the evening, in harmony with the organ in the Lutheran Church, in the presence of a large crowd of people. And thus was this day concluded with praise and gratitude to the Lord." In another record of a Tannenberg organ installation, a bill was found for the purchase of the organ, in the grand sum of \$400.

### **First Account**

The first account of anything other than hymnal music in the Moravian community of Lititz dates from 1765. In that year Adam Grube organized an orchestra among the brethren, Adam Grube may be considered a pioneer musician of Lancaster County. He had sufficient skill on several instruments and knowledge of others to instruct the members on the various pieces of a full orchestra. The purpose of its organization was that it should supplement the music of the church and give the brethren a pleasant occupation between working hours.

Itinerant groups presented operas in Lancaster as early as the 1770's. Usually performances were held in the largest rooms of the hotels. One hotel on South Queen Street in Lancaster, known as the Fountain Inn (later the Lincoln Hotel), was such a place. The first Court House, which stood in the middle of the square in Lancaster, was also a place where musical programs were held.

## Ten Early Leaders

### Samuel Blunston

When William Penn arrived at New Castle on the ship, "Welcome," in 1682, he was accompanied by John Blunston, formerly of Darbyshire, England. Blunston was a fellow Quaker, and enjoyed the confidence of the Proprietor of Pennsylvania. Soon he was serving in the General Assembly. He and his brother, Michael Blunston, started the town of Darby near Philadelphia. When John died in 1723, two sons and a daughter survived him. The daughter, Sarah, married Samuel Bethel, another prominent developer of Lancaster. The son, John, succeeded his father in the General Assembly, while the other son, Samuel, learned to be a land surveyor, Samuel also was a leader in the Friends' Meeting.

In 1726 Blunston purchased 622 acres at the present site of Columbia. It would seem he had established himself in the area earlier, however. He was called upon to survey lands for the colony as far west as Chambersburg. Samuel erected a fine home along the Susquehanna River. Later he bought additional lands. When Lancaster County was formed in 1729, Blunston became the first Prothonotary, Clerk of Courts, Register of Wills, and one of the original justices of the peace. (It should be understood that in the early days of Lancaster County there were not enough trained lawyers that could be regularly commissioned justices of the Crown. Therefore, prominent citizens were made justices of the peace for carrying out judicial duties in the county.)

Blunston was elected to the General Assembly for the years 1732 to 1741, and 1742 to 1744. Blunston and his friends, John Wright and Robert Barber, worked closely to bring order and civilization to the wilderness west of Chester County. The trio was a powerful influence in the affairs of the Colony, causing Governor Thomas to become jealous. To solve some of the problems with Indians and settlers west of the river, Blunston was commissioned by the Proprietors to issue licenses for settlements. This first township was named Hallam, honoring Blunston's ancestral home in Darbyshire, England.

Blunston had married a wealthy widow, but she died not many years later, leaving Blunston childless. Samuel was smitten by the intelligence, charm, and rugged independence of Susannah Wright, the spinster daughter of John Wright. Susannah, easily the most remarkable woman in the American colonies, carried on an extensive correspondence with the leading philosophers, scientists, and intellectuals of the time. Although she never consented to marry Samuel Blunston, their relationship was long and cordial. Blunston left her a major portion of his estate upon his death in 1745.

To Samuel Blunston must be given much credit for preserving peace on the western frontier, and assisting his older compatriot, John Wright, in establishing government and justice in the hinterlands of Pennsylvania.

### Madame Marie Warenbauer Ferree

Persecuted in France after Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes (1685) many French Protestants fled to Germany to avoid murder. While there, French customs and names gradually took on a German flavor. When Penn advertised his refuge for religious exiles in Pennsylvania, many of these displaced Frenchmen, called Huguenots, immigrated to religious freedom in Pennsylvania. Among these were the widowed Marie Ferree, her six children, and other close family members. The original spelling of the name was Fiere.

On the way to the New World, the Huguenots stopped in England and Madame Ferree met William Penn who presented her to Queen Anne. Penn described her as "armed with a spirit of resolution, superior to her sex." She and her compatriots arrived in New York in 1709, and settled in Pennsylvania in 1712. She located her settlement near the Pequea Creek not far from Paradise. Her son, Daniel, Jr., and son-in-law, Isaac Lefevre, took title to 2000 acres of land for her, the custom of the time frowning upon female ownership of rights of land.

The Ferree family had been associated with the French Reformed Church (Calvinist).

As other Huguenots arrived at the settlement at Paradise, they took up land within the Ferree grant. Tradition claims Madame Ferree was an excellent leader, and "ruled" over her community with grace, fairness, and uncommon wisdom. Her relationship with the local Indians was most friendly, the chief of the Pequea Indians being impressed with the "paleface squaw."

Before long Madame Ferree was looked to as the adviser, legal counselor, doctor, and pastoral leader by the community on the Pequea. She was no less a pioneer than the bravest of men in the wilds of Penn's Woods. Her spirit became the heritage of Lancaster County. Madame Ferree died in 1716, aged 63 years.

## **Anne Scott Galbraith**

Anne Scott Galbraith was the earliest female political worker in Lancaster County. She and her husband, Andrew, were among the first Scot Presbyterian settlers of the Donegal area. Her father-in-law, James Galbraith, Sr., moved there in 1718. The Galbraith farm was close by Donegal Presbyterian Church in which James served as a ruling elder. The elder Galbraith was Lancaster county's first coroner and was appointed to the first grand jury. In 1730 he was commissioned a justice of the peace.

From the beginning of Lancaster County the Quakers along the Susquehanna River was associated with the ruling political group in Philadelphia. They tended to be more independent than the Quakers near Philadelphia, and they were more realistic in solving problems on the frontier. As a result, the local Scot Presbyterians were not angry with the Lancaster County Quakers to the extent they were hostile to the Philadelphia ruling clique. Nevertheless, they wished to win political offices held by the Quaker "monopoly."

James Mitchell was the only representative of the Scottish settlement to win a seat from Lancaster County in the General Assembly; the other three seats were held by Quakers. The following year George Stewart replaced Mitchell. In 1731 some differences arose among the Scots, and Andrew Galbraith was induced to run for the General Assembly. Unlike his fellow countrymen, Galbraith did not choose to be aggressive in his campaigning for office. His wife, however, believed Andrew was a wise choice, and would serve the frontier cause in the General Assembly with greater effectiveness than the other candidates.

Anne hitched up her favorite mare, Nelly, and proceeded to wage an "all-out" aggressive campaign around the county in behalf of her husband. Wherever Scots lived she went to campaign. On election day she led a caravan of voters from Donegal Township to Lancaster — a trip of more than 20 miles on horseback — and secured the victory for Andrew. She had a reputation for persistence and going to any lengths to accomplish what she believed to be right. Andrew Galbraith understood the Quaker mentality and knew how to cooperate with them. Using today's terms we could describe Galbraith as a "Moderate" among the fiery Scot Presbyterians. Compared to the Philadelphian Quakers — Pennsylvania's ruling elite — Galbraith's Quaker colleagues at Wright's Ferry were quite realistic and moderate. Moderation then, seemed to be the key to success in early Lancaster County politics.

Andrew Galbraith served in the General Assembly from 1731 to 1738, making his tenure the longest held by the Scot Presbyterians from early Lancaster County. During his term as legislator, Andrew left local leadership in the hands of his capable wife, Anne.

One of the Galbraith daughters married a wealthy merchant of Baltimore. A granddaughter — Miss Patterson of the Baltimore family — married Jerome Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon.

## **Robert Barber**

Robert Barber, born in 1692 in Yorkshire, England, came to Pennsylvania early in the eighteenth century. He had been trained as a shoemaker, but left that for seafaring. Settling down, he married Hannah Tidmarsh, a fellow Quaker and a lady of great intelligence and energy. In 1721 he was elected coroner of Chester County. Three years later he was elected to the Board of Assessors, in which position he learned much concerning land values. By this time Barber was familiar with the lower Susquehanna River area, and had begun purchasing land in the vicinity of Columbia. In this venture he was joined by John Wright and Samuel Blunston.

When Lancaster County was formed, Barber was appointed its first sheriff, and later was elected to that office. Robert Barber and his friends hoped the county seat would be located at Wright's Ferry (Columbia) which would increase their fortunes in land. Barber went so far as to build a log jail on his property at Wright's Ferry, expecting its presence to be convincing evidence the county seat should be established there. Political pressure from residents in the northern and eastern portions of Lancaster County persuaded the provincial government to look elsewhere, and Andrew Hamilton, Pennsylvania's foremost lawyer, bought land where Lancaster now stands. His great influence clinched the decision, and the three Quakers at Wright's Ferry were obliged to exercise their political power by virtue of their talents and personalities, and not by having the county government in their community.

Barber was paid for his temporary jail, however, and the county did not seem to be in a great hurry to erect a permanent prison in Lancaster. During 1740-1741 Barber served as a county commissioner.

The Barbers had ten children to feed, so he built a saw mill and devoted his later life to private interests. As the junior member of the Quaker trio, Barber frequently was called upon to take an active part in constabulary actions against invading Marylanders. Despite being a robust person, Barber died in 1749, aged 57 years. One of Barber's daughters, Eleanor, married John Wright, Jr. After Robert Barber's death, the family ceased being Quakers. His descendants were among the bravest soldiers and officers of the American Revolution.

## **Edward Shippen**

Trained in Latin, French and Greek, Edward Shippen seemed an unlikely resident of a frontier community. In fact, Shippen had during the 1720's and 30's lived in Philadelphia, where he pursued a variety of activities. Socially, he was a member of Philadelphia's aristocracy, a subscriber to the Philadelphia Academy and a founder of Princeton University. Politically, he held numerous appointed and elected positions: judge, prothonotary, council member and mayor.

A lawyer by profession, he managed Governor Andrew Hamilton's estate, which consisted of the town plot of Lancaster and surrounding areas. His legal dealings gave him a sharp understanding of frontier Lancaster and he was able to become a substantial landowner himself.

In Lancaster he continued his political activities, serving as Prothonotary, Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds, and for a number of years he was chief burgess (mayor) of the borough of Lancaster, a post he held when the famous Paxton Massacre occurred. Like many other political activists and lawyers, Shippen was also a merchant, engaging in a lively trade within the county and to Indian tribes who eagerly exchanged furs for thread, beads, vermilion, ribbons and other items.

On the eve of the American Revolution, Shippen became a titular leader and adviser to local patriots. His support to the resistance movement lent it an element of respectability. Though chairman of several revolutionary committees, his age (72 in 1775) really prevented much active participation.

## **Alexander Lowery**

Born in Northern Ireland, Alexander Lowery came to America with his father in the year Lancaster was created as a county, 1729. The Lowery family settled in northern Lancaster County, in Donegal Township, with numerous other Scots-Irish settlers who found their way from the Protestant portions of Ireland. Lowery's father, Lazarus, almost immediately engaged in the liquor and Indian trading business. Learning the business from his father, Alexander made frequent trips into the western Pennsylvania and Ohio Valley areas, where in time he developed a close and intimate friendship with numerous tribes.

In the late 1740's, he organized, with Joseph Simon, his own fur trading business, which was to last more than 40 years. Lowery made the annual fur trading trips himself, often spending months at a time among the Indians. On more than one occasion, his friendship with the Indians was utilized by the colonial governments. He served as an effective organizer and "runner" — he could move quickly through the forests — in the preparation of Indian treaties.

The Indian trade was a very lucrative economic enterprise; he soon accumulated a substantial fortune and began purchasing sizable land holdings in northern Lancaster County. In 1770, he held more than two thousand acres, making him one of the largest landowners in the county.

During the French and Indian War and its aftermath, the frontier was ablaze with conflict. His once friendly Indians joined the French and evicted English settlers from western Pennsylvania. Alexander's brother Daniel was killed in 1763 and the trading business was temporarily suspended. Lowery continued purchasing land and when the long shadow of dissension between England and the colonies appeared he supported the patriot cause.

He was placed on the first committee of correspondence in July, 1774, and, later in the year, zealously and vigorously helped to implement the colonies' boycott of British products.

In July, 1775, he went to the colony-wide convention which pressured the General Assembly into sending representatives to the first Continental Congress. When elected to the Assembly itself several months later, he steadfastly supported the Revolutionary cause.

## **Joseph Simon**

Joseph Simon, patriarch of the Jewish community in Lancaster, achieved a reputation throughout the colonies for his activities as a merchant and Indian trader. Born in 1712, he settled in Lancaster at the age of 28. As a young man he made many trips deep into Indian country to trade for furs and hides. In exchange for deer, elk, buffalo, bear, beaver, raccoon, fox, muskrat and mink, he gave the Indians the things they most wanted: blankets, cloth, silver, ribbon, thread, needles, mirrors, beads, combs, buttons and the like. Traveling to Indian country was hazardous, and Simon often went with other traders and business partners, most notably Alexander Lowery, of Donegal Township.

Simon had business relationships with the Franks and Gratz families of Philadelphia, who sent the skins and furs to Europe. But he worked most closely with Levy Andrew Levy, of Lancaster, his nephew. Simon was one of the Indian traders who survived an Indian attack during Pontiac's War in 1763 at Bloody Run, now Bedford Springs. He lost a great deal of merchandise and sought compensation. An Indian treaty signed by 1768 at Ft. Stanwix, now Rome, NY, awarded

a large tract of land to 23 traders, including Simon. The land, however, was located in what is now West Virginia, and the traders were never able to confirm ownership.

In 1767, after the French and Indian war had ended, Simon and other traders followed an Irish military force into Illinois country and established trading posts at Kaskaskia, Fort Chartres and Fort Edward.

Simon's general store on Center Square, now Penn Square, in Lancaster, offered a large variety of merchandise to Lancaster's rapidly growing community. During the Revolutionary War, he provided guns and supplies to patriots and food to the prisoners of war under direction of the Continental Congress. Simon may have been the first merchant in Lancaster to hire a silversmith, who made products for the Indian trade. Simon's merchandise also was purchased by the owners of Martic Forge, Elizabeth, Cornwall and Hopewell furnaces and by the glass works at Manheim, operated by "Baron" William Henry Steigel.

Simon owned several houses in Lancaster, renting them to tenants. One was General Edward Hand, who lived in a Simon house with his family before Rock Ford was built. Lancaster's tiny Jewish community held worship services in Simon's house. He owned two Torahs which, by his will, were given to Congregation Mikveh Israel in Philadelphia, where they remain today. A portion of the Ark that held those Torahs is displayed by the American Jewish Historical Society. Simon died in 1804 at the age of 92, and is buried at a cemetery he purchased for the Lancaster congregation many years earlier.

## ***John Postlethwaite***

When the newly-appointed Justices of the Peace of Lancaster County looked around for a place to hold the first court in 1729, they decided on John Postlethwaite's tavern near Rock Hill. The tavern was located along the old Conestoga Road, a few miles from the present-day Millersville. It still stands, much altered, as a farmhouse.

Postlethwaite was born in England, a son of George Postlethwaite, and a nephew of the Rev. Dr. John Postlethwaite, headmaster of St. Paul's School in London. Young John came to Pennsylvania about 1712.

When Lancaster County was established, he owned a tavern which he thought would be an ideal place for the seat of government and justice. His connections with the Church of England — like those of James Hamilton, founder of Lancaster town — were well placed. Despite the political power of the region's dominant Quakers, who wanted the county seat to be placed at Wright's Ferry (Columbia), Postlethwaite was able to convince the early magistrates to hold court in his tavern for the first few years. He also served as the county's first treasurer.

When St. James's Church was organized in 1744, John Postlethwaite was chosen the first people's warden, and he served on its vestry the rest of his life. He supplemented his innkeeper's income with Indian trading. John also took his turn at the bench of justice, and helped oversee the care of the county poor. He assisted in finding a border line between Pennsylvania and Maryland in 1739, an abortive venture.

At the time of his death about 1750 Postlethwaite had become "land poor" and his estate was close to bankrupt. His heirs moved from Lancaster County, and made names for themselves elsewhere, one son, Samuel, becoming a Revolutionary War colonel, Samuel married Matilda Rose, daughter of Joseph Rose, a Lancaster lawyer, and they had a son, Samuel Jr., who married Anne Dunbar. Miss Dunbar was the daughter of Sr. William Dunbar, an eminent scientist of the time. One of Sir William's granddaughters married Dr. John Carmichael Jenkins of the famed Jenkins family of Churchtown, owners of Windsor Forges. Old John Postlethwaite's granddaughter-in-law, Anne Dunbar Postlethwaite, became the leading female philanthropist of Natchez, Miss. Other members of the family soon constituted a major part of ante-bellum Southern aristocracy.

## ***John Wright***

Three men — John Wright Sr., Samuel Blunston, and Robert Barber — occupied the most important offices of newly-erected Lancaster County. All three were Quakers and were respected by the Penn Family. They had held government positions in Chester County, and were experienced in solving problems of colonial Pennsylvania.

John Wright, born about 1667 in Lancashire, England, was the senior member of the trio. Not long after he arrived at Upland (Chester) in 1714 Wright was elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and was appointed a justice of the peace. An eloquent speaker among the Quakers, John Wright went on numerous trips to preach to the Indians. He became familiar with the lands along the Susquehanna River, and in 1726 purchased 150 acres at the present site of Columbia. Wright, then nearly sixty, had Robert Barber survey the site and acquire it for him.

When Lancaster County was established in 1729, Wright was given the honor of naming the county for his birthplace. At once he was elected one of eight magistrates of Lancaster County with the power to hold sessions of the Court of Quarter Sessions. In this position he helped establish and name the original townships of the County. In

October, 1729, Wright was elected to represent Lancaster County in the General Assembly, serving until 1748, the last three years as Speaker of the House. In 1732 he was left off the ballot, but was appointed Assemblyman when the winner died. Contemporary accounts describe Wright as a man of commanding presence and integrity, and exceptionally fair as a justice.

When Marylanders tried to claim land for themselves in the lower Susquehanna Valley, John Wright, although an elderly man, coolly resisted, and refused to yield to threats, despite a price of 100 pounds sterling put on his head by the Maryland Governor.

John Wright married Susannah Crewson, and they had five children, Susannah, Patience, John, Elizabeth, and James. Young Susannah was educated in England, and became the leading female intellectual in the American colonies. James was the only child born in America, and assumed his father's numerous leadership positions including service in the General Assembly. James built the stone mansion, now handsomely restored, on Second Street, Columbia.

The Wrights, Blunstons, and Barbers practiced their Quaker religion among themselves without associating with the Religious Society of Friends elsewhere. In so doing, they were able to solve many frontier problems troubling their Scot Presbyterian neighbors who usually despised Quaker pacifist ways.

## Susannah Wright

Susannah Wright, a daughter of John Wright, was born in Lancashire, England, about 1696, where she remained for the completion of her education although her family immigrated to Pennsylvania some years earlier. By the time John Wright had established his home on the Susquehanna River, Susannah was a mature young lady, interested in all the things ladies of that age were supposed to leave to men. She had an intellectual curiosity and a scientific turn of mind that attracted the attention of the intellectuals of the American colonies. She corresponded with Benjamin Franklin and other members of the American Philosophical Society on every conceivable matter, from politics to the culture of silk worms. Susannah was one of the intellectual leaders among women in the American colonies, and her sex was no barrier to her pursuits. She believed in equality of rights, and believed women have as much right to political and economic opinions as the men. With her intellectual abilities, few men dared oppose her.

Susannah observed first hand how her father and Samuel Blunston brought even-handed justice, courage of convictions, and integrity to the Susquehanna Valley. She approved of their just and sensible ways of settling disputes between the Indians and white settlers, and among the Quakers, Scot Presbyterians and Germans. Her admiration for Samuel Blunston was returned in full measure, but Susannah did not wish to be married. Later, Blunston married a wealthy widow who lived only a few years, and was childless. After becoming a widower, Blunston renewed his friendship with Susannah, but it never developed beyond being "platonic." When Samuel Blunston died, he left a major portion of his estate to Susannah, who then moved into the Blunston house with her brother James. Franklin wrote his "Ode to Hospitality" after a visit to Susannah. Susannah presided over the community, entertaining the intelligentsia of Pennsylvania, and applying the wisdom of her father to the solving of problems around Columbia. Her breadth of education enabled her to serve as lawyer, physician, educator, business executive, and social worker. She had mastered French, Latin, and Italian languages. Her attainments in poetry were recognized at the time.

Susannah was the "sage" of Wright's Ferry, as Columbia was then called, until her death in 1784, at the age of 87. She had come to Pennsylvania when it was a wilderness under the rule of males and a King. During her long life she fought for independence of the human spirit, regardless of sex, and survived the British surrender at Yorktown by one year. Few persons in Pennsylvania have a better claim to greatness.

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## Boroughs of Lancaster County

	<i>Incorporated</i>
Marietta	1812
Columbia	1814
Strasburg	1816
Manheim	1838
Adamstown	1850
Mount Joy	1851
Elizabethtown	1872
Lititz	1888
Ephrata	1891
Quarryville	1892
Christiana	1894
Akron	1895
New Holland	1895
Denver	1900
Mountville	1906
Terre Hill	1908
Millersville	1932
East Petersburg	1946

Two additional boroughs once existed in Lancaster County. Lancaster was laid out in lots 1730-1735 and was a village until it was chartered as a borough in 1742. In 1818 Lancaster became a city. Washington Borough was incorporated in 1827, and the borough council had its charter dissolved in December 1973, the community becoming part of Manor Township.

## Townships of Chester County in Present Lancaster County

<i>Name</i>	<i>Origin of Name</i>	<i>Settled</i>
Conestoga 1718	Indian, "Kanastoge," (place of the sunken pole, people of the cabin pole, pine tree standing alone, or crooked creek). Township included all land south of Pequea Creek.	1710
Donegal 1720	Scots, place name in Ulster. Township first called West Conestoga; included all land north of Pequea Creek.	1715
Pequea 1721	Indian, "Piqua, Picueu, Pequehan, Peckquea." Township was located at head of Pequea Creek near Welsh Mountain.	1712
Sadsbury 1717	English corruption. Township extended across Octoraro Creek, and included present Sadsbury and Colerain townships.	1691-1710

## Later Townships

### Created by Lancaster County Courts

1729 (Late)	Cocalico	Indian name, "Hoch Kalelung."
1738	Colerain	Ulster place name.
1740	Brecknock	Welsh place name.
1741	Rapho	Ulster place name.
1744	Bart	Supposedly for baronet, abbreviated.
1757	Elizabeth	Named for iron furnace.

1759	Manor	Formerly Conestoga Manor.
1759	Mount Joy	"Mountjoi," or named to honor Viscount Mount Joy, General Robert Stewart, of Londonderry in Ulster.
1759	Strasburg	French-German city.
1818	East and West Hempfield	formed from Hempfield.
1833	West Earl	
1838	Ephrata	Biblical, meaning "fruitful."
1838	East and West Donegal	formed from Donegal.
1838	East and West Cocalico	formed from Cocalico.
1838	Little Britain	Supposedly from settlers from England and Scotland.
1841	East and West Lampeter	formed from Lampeter.
1842	Conoy	Indian name, "Gawanese."
1843	Upper Leacock	
1843	Paradise	Biblical description.
1844	Fulton	Honored its son, Robert Fulton.
1845	Harrison	Honored Pres. Wm. H. Harrison. Abolished in 1847.
1846	Penn	Honored William Penn.
1851	East Earl	
1853	Clay	Honored Henry Clay.
1853	Pequea	Indian name.
1853	Providence	Biblical allusion.
1855	Eden	Biblical allusion.
1883	East Drumore	

## Original Townships

### Formed Upon Creation of Lancaster County in June 1729

Caemarvon	From Welsh Caernafon, "Castle or fortress of Narfon."
Conestoga	Indian name.
Derry	From Londonderry, named by Ulster Scots. Now in Dauphin County.
Drumore	From Dromore, town in County Down, named by Ulster Scots.
Earl	Anglicization of Graf, the German equivalent of earl, a nobleman of intermediate rank. Usually spelled "Groff" by today's descendants.
Hempfield	English place name. Also attributed to much hemp-raising in the area.
Lampeter	Welsh place name, "Llanbedr," meaning Church of St. Peter.
Lancaster	English shire (county) and county seat.
Leacock	Supposedly Irish place name.
Lebanon	Biblical name.
Manheim	German place name.
Martock (Martic)	Somerset, England, place name.
Peshtank (Paxton)	Indian name, supposed to mean "stagnant water." Now in Dauphin County.
Sadsbury	Supposed to be English place name, but no town of that name is known to the British Postal Service.
Salisbury	English place name.
Warwick	English shire (county).

Conestoga Manor was one of William Penn's manors. It was not included in the original townships, but in 1759 the manor was organized as Manor Township, with Hempfield giving up the area between the Columbia Pike and the Charlestown Road. Another Penn manor was Hempfield Manor located within Hempfield Township.

## ***Lancaster County's Celebration of Pennsylvania's 300th Anniversary - June 12, 1982***

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**10:30** Dedication of State Historical Marker -  
North Duke Street, adjacent to Old County Courthouse

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The following activities will be presented at Lancaster County Central Park:

**12:00** New Holland Band Concert

**1:00** Opening ceremonies, William Penn's Entrance into Park

**1:45** John Rengier's Historical sketch presentation

**2:00** Moravian Brass Choir musical selections

**2:15** Orchestral presentation

**3:45** (approx.) Relay Runners arrive

**4:00** Documents opened and read, presentations made to participants

**4:30** "Freedom"

**5:00** Family gatherings, picnics

**Dusk** Fireworks Display

Cultural, historical, agricultural and industrial displays all day.

(Rain date is June 13)

# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



## A CELEBRATION OF FRIENDS

### A PROCLAMATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S 300TH BIRTHDAY

*In 1681, King Charles II of England signed a charter granting William Penn a "part of land in America" and called it "Pensilvania". Out of that charter, William Penn created a government for a free and prosperous people. Three centuries later, we continue to live, work and worship in the land that Penn called his "Holy Experiment".*

*When William Penn arrived in the New World, he brought with him the highest ideals of his English heritage and Quaker faith. Based on his belief in a government "where the laws rule, and the people are a party to those laws", Penn planted the seeds that blossomed into America. Our forefathers built a strong Pennsylvania that became the Keystone of the entire nation. Today, we are blessed with a proud tradition of liberty and a rich legacy of justice, toleration and equality.*

*Three centuries ago, our Commonwealth was but a dream in the mind of one man, the man upon whose Bible I took my oath of office. On this 300th anniversary of the founding of Pennsylvania, I, Dick Thornburgh, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim March 14, 1981 as Charter Day in accordance with the Act of June 1, 1977, P.L. 676, No. 210, and with the hope that all Pennsylvanians join with me in this "Celebration of Friends". Let us reaffirm our commitment to the freedoms that nurtured our precious legacy and that have endured throughout the centuries.*



*GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, this fourth day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and eighty one, and of the Commonwealth, the two hundred and fiftieth.*

*Dick Thornburgh*  
Dick Thornburgh  
Governor

Here is the text of the proclamation adopted by Governor Dick Thornburgh in observance of the 300th birthday of Pennsylvania.

