The JOURNAL of LANCASTER COUNTY'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 111, NO. 1 ❦ SPRING 2009

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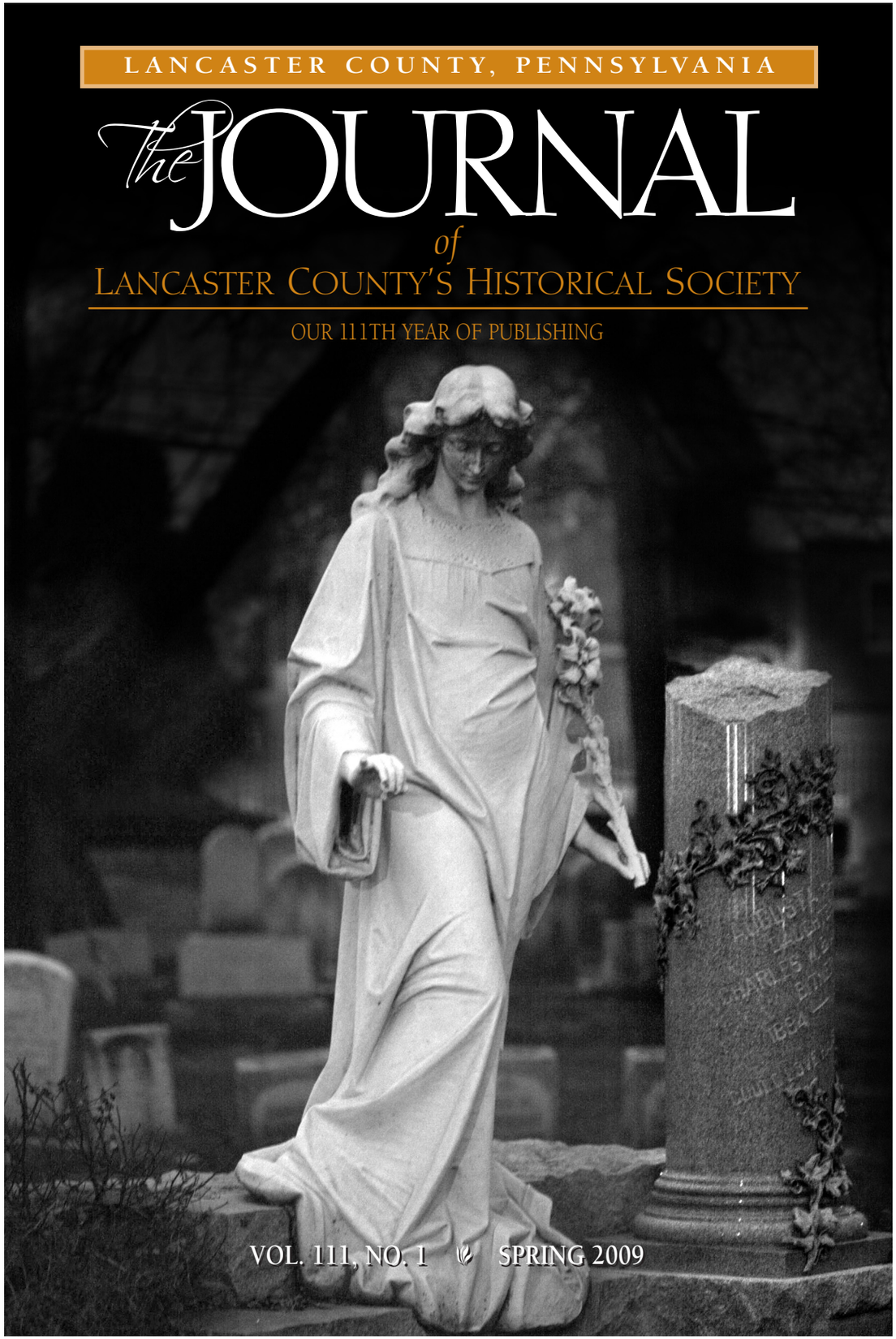
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OUR 111TH YEAR OF PUBLISHING



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LancasterHistory.org's mission is to educate the public about the heritage and history of the people, places, and events that shaped our region, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States of America. We achieve this mission by actively collecting, preserving, interpreting, and making accessible materials representing Lancaster County's past and by preserving and sharing the home, life, and legacy of James Buchanan, the 15th President of the United States. We promote this heritage and history through a research library, changing exhibitions, public and school programs, archival and artifact collections, the Louise Arnold Tanger Arboretum, and Wheatland—a National Historic Landmark and the home of Buchanan, Pennsylvania's only U.S. President. As a portal of history for the community, LancasterHistory.org serves the needs and interests of history-oriented organizations, bringing greater focus to the extraordinary opportunities for learners of all ages to experience America's past in Lancaster County.

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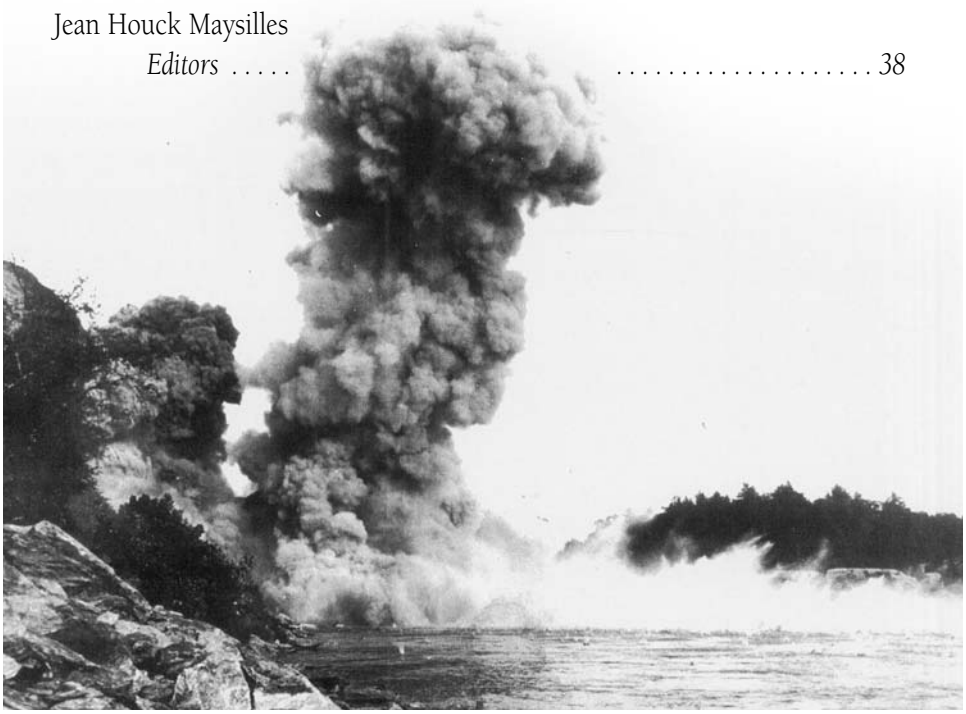
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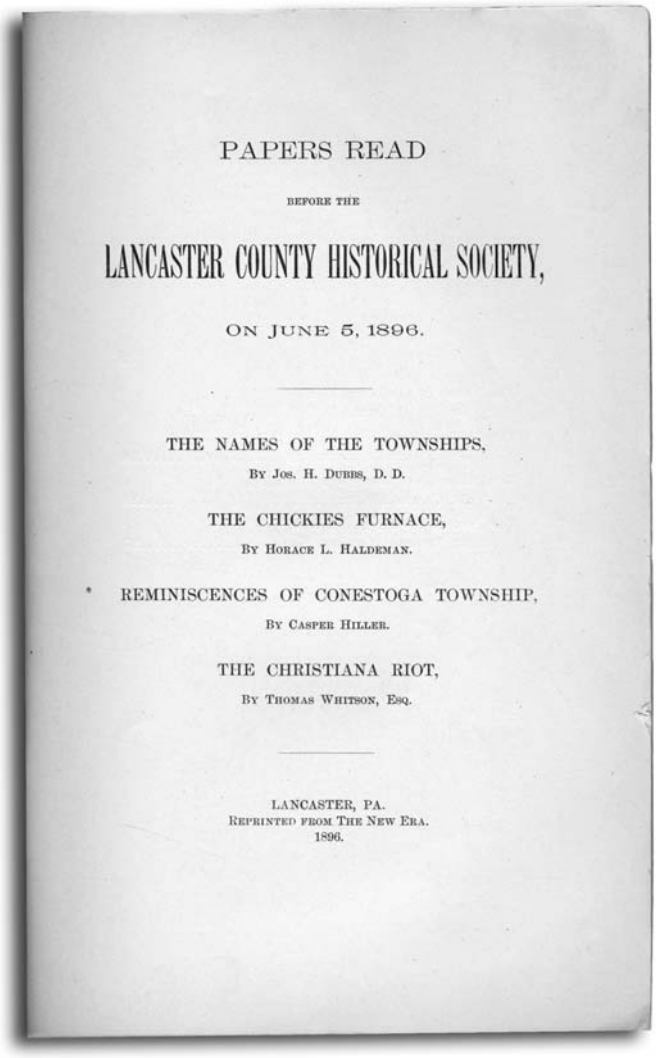
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Above: Big Shot at Fite's Eddy Point. July 10, 1907. LHO 2-13-04-04
On the cover: Augusta Bitner's memorial in Lancaster Cemetery.
Photo courtesy of Lori Stahl Photography

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John Ward Willson Loose, FLCHS



PAPERS READ

BEFORE THE

LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

ON JUNE 5, 1896.

THE NAMES OF THE TOWNSHIPS,

By Jos. H. Dubbs, D. D.

THE CHICKIES FURNACE,

By Horace L. Haldeman.

REMINISCENCES OF CONESTOGA TOWNSHIP,

By Casper Hiller.

THE CHRISTIANA RIOT,

By Thomas Whitson, Esq.

LANCASTER, PA.
Reprinted from The New Era.
1896.

Title page of *Papers Read Before the Lancaster County Historical Society*, Volume 1, Number 1, 1896.

Folks who attach significance to numbers will enjoy the confluence of digits of this *Journal*: Volume 111, Number 1. Certainly this suggests a beginning of some sort, and by coincidence, with this issue we appear for the first time under the umbrella of our new identity: LancasterHistory.org. We have been at work with our neighbors at Wheatland for the past many months creating a new entity which merges President James Buchanan's Wheatland with Lancaster County's Historical Society. The merger, which became official as of May 27, 2009, opens a new chapter in the annals of our history.

With the change in name of the society, we take the opportunity of adjusting *The Journal*'s title ever so slightly to *The Journal of Lancaster County's Historical Society*, and presenting ourself in new "clothes," though we assure our readers the content of *The Journal* remains, as always, sound and accessible history.

The society has been publishing the history of Lancaster County since 1896. We had our first meeting ten years earler in 1886, but due to a hubbub that ensued around the first edition of this publication, the society lapsed into inactivity until we reconvened on June 5, 1896, and our first issue (Volume 1, Number 1, shown at left) debuted as *Papers Read Before the Lancaster County Historical Society*. Subsequent volumes were called *Papers and Addresses of the Lancaster County Historical Society*, and in 1956, the publication committee, under its new (and still) Editor-in-Chief, Jack Loose, changed the name of the publication to *Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society*.

If you'd like the low-down on that fracas in 1886, we refer you to "Seed Time and Harvest," by Dr. F. R. Diffenderfer, an article published in Volume 21, Number 3, 1917, pages 45 to 46. And for a complete account of *The Journal* up to it's seventy-fifth year, see "Seventy-Five Years of Publishing Lancaster County History," by John Ward Willson Loose, in Volume 75, Number 4, Michaelmas, 1971. If you live too far away to easily pop into our library, know that with all the other improvements going on around the society, the complete run of *The Journal* and its predecessors will be available online to members later this year.

Founders and Builders of Lancaster County

Number One in a Series

John Ward Willson Loose, FLCHS

Prior to 1729 and the establishment of Lancaster County, William Penn's colony was divided into three counties. The easternmost counties of Philadelphia and Bucks both extended from their eastern boundary—the Delaware River—northwest to the New York colony's line. Chester County's eastern boundary was largely defined by the Schuylkill, but it's boundary to the west and north extended as far west as the limits of the original charter.

Throughout these early days thousands of immigrants, mostly farmers and skilled artisans seeking economic and religious freedom, made the trek across the Octoraro Creek into what is today Lancaster County. This frontier area became the most diverse entity in the American colonies, comprised of immigrants representing nearly every national, religious, and ethnic group from northwestern Europe. Swiss and German Mennonites settled along the Pequea and Beaver Creeks. Scots-Irish Presbyterians built settlements along the Chiques and Susquehanna. Welsh Episcopalians settled the headwaters of the Conestoga Creek. They, along with English Quakers and Anglicans, French Huguenots, Swiss Amish, Dutch, Scots and Jews, arrived and shared the fertile valleys and rolling hills with Native-American Susquehannocks, Conestogas, Conoys and Pequehans.

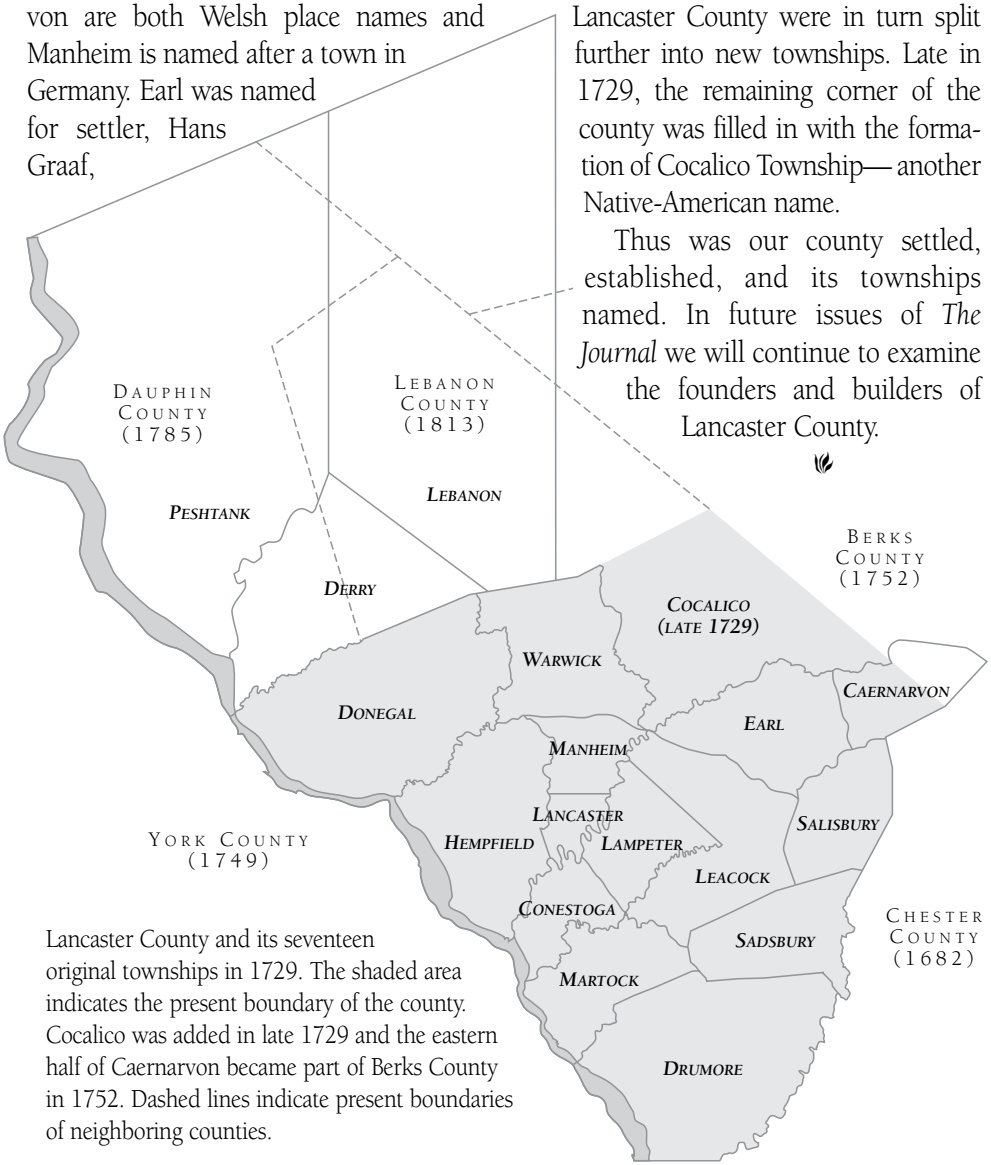
As more settlers were drawn to the area, the need for a new administrative division became apparent and on 10 May 1729 all of Chester County west of the Octoraro was established as Lancaster County.

A committee was summoned to subdivide the new county into townships. John Wright, Samuel Blunston, Tobias Hendricks, Andrew Cornish, Thomas Edwards, Caleb Pierce, Thomas Reid and Samuel Jones met at Postlethwaite's Tavern on 9 June 1729. Traditionally immigrants to the new world selected names of counties and places that awakened memories of their homeland. The names chosen by the committee clearly demonstrated the diverse nature of the county's population. On 5 August 1729 they presented these names for the new townships:

Peshtank (Paxton) and Conestoga are Native-American names. Lancaster, Martock (Martic), Warwick, Hempfield, Sadsbury and Salisbury are all English place names. Donegal, Derry, Drumore, and Leacock are place names from Northern Ireland. Lampeter and Caernarvon are both Welsh place names and Manheim is named after a town in Germany. Earl was named for settler, Hans Graaf, which translates to the English "Earl." Lebanon is a reference from the Bible.

Three of these seventeen townships, Peshtank, Derry and Lebanon, were later split off into new counties or townships themselves. With the exception of Salisbury, all the townships within present-day Lancaster County were in turn split further into new townships. Late in 1729, the remaining corner of the county was filled in with the formation of Cocalico Township— another Native-American name.

Thus was our county settled, established, and its townships named. In future issues of *The Journal* we will continue to examine the founders and builders of Lancaster County.



Lancaster County and its seventeen original townships in 1729. The shaded area indicates the present boundary of the county. Cocalico was added in late 1729 and the eastern half of Caernarvon became part of Berks County in 1752. Dashed lines indicate present boundaries of neighboring counties.

Debunking the Myth Surrounding Augusta Harriet Bitner

Cynthia Douts Roth



Augusta Bitner's memorial in Lancaster Cemetery
Photos of Augusta's memorial courtesy of Lori Stahl Photography

Most everyone in Lancaster is familiar with the beautiful statue in Lancaster Cemetery that is the memorial to Augusta Harriet Bitner. It is a life-size statue of a woman with long hair and a flowing gown. One hand is gracefully outstretched, and in the other hand she holds a stalk of lilies. There are a number of myths that prevail about this statue. Here are a few I'm familiar with:

Augusta (the statue) walks down the steps on Halloween night.

Augusta died on her wedding day tripping down the steps in her bridal gown.

She died on her wedding day by falling out a window after an argument with her parents.

If you hold the statue's hand you can hear it scream.

Stare at Augusta's statue long enough and green flames will shoot out of her eyes.

Some say Augusta's statue is of the Virgin Mary and that it is known to cry tears. Several people in the area claim to have witnessed this phenomenon.

Also it is said that Augusta died in childbirth and she weeps for the child that is not buried near her.

None of these myths are true. Here is Augusta's Story:



Augusta with her mother, Amelia Bitner, circa 1885.

Augusta Harriet Bitner was an only child, born in Lancaster, August 24, 1884 to Charles W. Bitner, a prominent leaf tobacco dealer, and his wife Amelia.[1] Augusta's great-grandfather Abram Bitner founded the Lancaster Watch Company and owned all the land that later became the Hamilton Watch Company.

The family lived at 902 Marietta Avenue[2]—the house on the corner of West End Avenue where a lion statue now stands in the front garden. They belonged to the Moravian Church[3] and Augusta graduated from the Moravian seminary in Lititz where she studied piano, German and embroidery. She was also a graduate of the National Park



Augusta Bitner, circa 1890.

Seminary in Washington D.C.[4] She had a sweet and lovable nature and was fond of her society of friends.[5]

Augusta married Stanley Hart Tevis on May 3, 1905, in her parents' home. Her wedding was a small affair with about thirty guests and one attendant to the bride. A reception followed the ceremony and then the newlyweds departed for their honeymoon to New York, Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Toronto. Afterwards the couple took up residence in Philadelphia.[6] It is not known if Augusta's parents approved of her marriage, but possibly not, as we shall see.

About one week after her first wedding anniversary an article in the *Lancaster New Era* stated that Mrs. Stanley Tevis (Augusta), was very ill with typhoid, that her condition was unchanged, but that it was thought, with no further complications, she would recover.[7] Sadly, about three weeks later, June 1, 1906, Augusta succumbed to the disease.

Augusta had not complained of illness during a visit to Lancaster, but fell ill shortly after she returned home to Philadelphia. Her parents both visited her there. Mr. Bitner, however, returned to Lancaster, believing Augusta would survive three or four more days. Early the next morning he was summoned back to Philadelphia on the first train. A second message followed, informing him of his daughter's death.[8]

In addition to her parents and husband, Augusta was survived by an infant daughter, Sylvia Tevis.[9] Augusta's parents became her guardians, and later adopted her. Sylvia was four years old in 1910, according to the census, and lived with them in the house on Marietta Avenue.[10]

I have no idea why Stanley gave up parental rights to his daughter. He did, however, remarry rather quickly to a woman from New York City. He married Charlotte Louise Penna on February 20, 1908.[11] At the time of the 1920 census, they, as well as a son, Stanley H. Tevis, Jr., and a daughter, Dorothea, lived on Locust Street in Philadelphia.[12]



Augusta Bitner's memorial in Lancaster Cemetery. The column is inscribed with Augusta's maiden name and the phrase "COULD LOVE HAVE KEPT HER." The base of the column is inscribed with the first line of Psalm 23: "THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I SHALL NOT WANT."
Photo courtesy of Lori Stahl Photography

Some say Charles Bitner sold the house at 902 Marietta Avenue for $12,000 to cover the cost of Augusta's monument. Deeds show that this was not the case. Charles Bitner sold five properties in the spring of 1907: 133 and 135 Nevin Street sold for a combined price of $3,600,[13] 131 and 133 Howard Avenue each sold for $1,750.[14] [15] Augusta's childhood home at 902 Marietta Avenue sold for $1.00 to a Frank Eaby,[14] The combined totals of these properties, $7,110, was probably used towards Augusta's memorial.

The monument was furnished by Leland & Hall of New York and was delivered on Saturday, April 6, 1907. It was made, by special order, of marble quarried at Pietrasanta, Italy. The statue was placed in Lancaster Cemetery on April 7, 1907, the Sunday after Easter, and approximately ten months after Augusta's death. The statue is six feet, five inches tall and symbolizes "Memory." The face is sweet, full of deep expression; the drapery graceful and natural. The base, in the form of steps, was made of Barre granite and is seven by four feet in size. Beside the figure is a broken column entwined with bronze ivy. The foot of the column is inscribed "THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I SHALL NOT WANT," the title of Augusta's favorite hymn .[17] Engraved on the column are her maiden name and the phrase, "COULD LOVE HAVE KEPT HER." The choice by her parents to add this wistful



Sylvia Tevis Bitner and her grandmother Amelia Bitner, circa 1910.

question, the use of her maiden name, and the fact that she is buried in Lancaster with other Bitners all suggest that her parents did not have a high opinion of Stanley Tevis.

Charles W. Bitner's will is dated July 10, 1919. It is quite difficult to read; much of the writing is illegible even with a magnifying glass. What I have been able to decipher is that his executor was his sister, Daisy Bitner. He bequeathed to the Lancaster Trust Company the sum of $200 for the cleaning of Augusta's statue every Memorial Day. He also left his sister Daisy in charge of the financial arrangements for his adopted daughter, Sylvia

Tevis Bitner. It appears he had a fund set up for her support. Also mentioned in his will were his wife Amelia Bitner and two more of his sisters, Emma J. Zink and Anna Bitner Eagerly.[18]

From 1923 to 1928, Sylvia lived with her Aunt Daisy at 842 Marietta Avenue. She is listed in the city directory as a student.[19] After 1928 I was unable to track her.

The death of Augusta Harriet Bitner was not at all mysterious. She did not die on her wedding day, in childbirth, or by a fall. But her beautiful monument and the unknown story of her short marriage leave much for us to ponder.

So if you're walking in the Lancaster Cemetery be sure to stop and say hello to Augusta. Especially on Halloween.



About the Author

Cynthia Douts Roth is a graduate of McCaskey High School, a resident of Lancaster City and works in a historic restaurant on the east side of town. She is a mother of five and grandmother of seven, and as Cynthia explains, "After the kids were grown I had an abundance of time and curiosity. I first traced my father's family back to 1643 in Cornwall, England, then began doing genealogies for other folks." While perusing old newspaper articles looking for information regarding her own family, other tidbits of Lancaster history kept catching her eye. She is a frequent contributor to Jack Brubaker's "Scribbler" column in the *New Era* and has been pursuing Augusta Bitner's story and debunking the myths surrounding her death for a number of years.

Endnotes

1 *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*, Friday, June 1, 1906

2 *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*, Thursday, May 5, 1905

3 *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*, Friday, June 1, 1906

4 Ibid

5 *Lancaster New Era*, Friday, June 1, 1906

6 *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*, Thursday, May 5, 1905

7 *Lancaster New Era*, Friday, May 11, 1906

8 *Lancaster New Era*, Friday, June 1, 1906

9 Ibid

10 Pennsylvania census, Series T624, Roll 1354, p. 191

11 Latter Day Saints, online, Batch No. M003908

12 Pennsylvania census, Series T625, Roll 1647, p. 32

13 Lancaster County Archives, deed, Book Q, Volume 18, p. 523

14 Lancaster County Archives, deed, Book Q, Volume 18, p. 281

15 Lancaster County Archives, deed, Book S, Volume 18, p. 301

16 Lancaster County Archives, deed, Book R, Volume 18, p. 396

17 *Lancaster New Era*, Monday, April 8, 1907

18 Lancaster County Archives, will, Book A-3, p. 512

19 Lancaster City Directories, years 1923–1924 and 1927–1928

War of the Words
or
Which Came First, Chiques or Chickies?

Margaret Hunt Landis



Near the mouth of the Chiques

This article will also be part of a book planned by the Marietta Restoration Associates celebrating Marietta's Bicentennial (1812–2012). The book will be available in the fall of 2011.

Just east of Marietta, a creek flows into the Susquehanna River. Folks from Lancaster County have no problem pronouncing it "CHI-keys," whether it is spelled C-h-i-q-u-e-s or C-h-i-c-k-i-e-s. That comes as naturally as saying "LAN-cas-ter," not "Lan-CAS-ter." The spelling and pronunciation of the creek has been the subject of controversy off and on for over a century. Even today, there are those who favor either the "qu" or the "ck" version.


The Rev. John Heckewelder

The name of the creek dates from the time when European traders arrived and gave written form to names they heard from the indigenous peoples. This led to many variations. The Rev. John Heckewelder (1743–1823), was considered the authority on languages of Native Americans of southeastern Pennsylvania. He was born in Bedford, England, and educated there and in America, after his parents immigrated here in 1754, in Unity of Brethren (Moravian) Church schools. From the age of nineteen, he was a Moravian Missionary among the Christian Delaware Indians in western Pennsylvania and later in Ohio and still later at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. His later years were spent writing about Native American life. Because the majority of his time had been spent among the Delawares, questions sometimes arose whether his work relied too much on his association with those tribes.

One of Heckewelder's writings is a manuscript with the convoluted title, "Names Which the Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians, Who Once Inhabited This Country, Had Given to Rivers, Streams, Places, &c. &c. within the Now States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia… By the Late Rev. John Heckewelder of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Communicated to the American Philosophical Society April 4, 1822." This is listed in *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, 1834*.[1]

Almost a century later in 1928, a Pennsylvania historian, Dr. George P. Donehoo,[2] listed that manuscript in the bibliography of his book, *Indian Villages and Places and Names*.[3] The paragraph and list of spellings that follow condense Heckewelder's research and set the stage for analyzing the *Columbia Spy*'s "War of the Words."

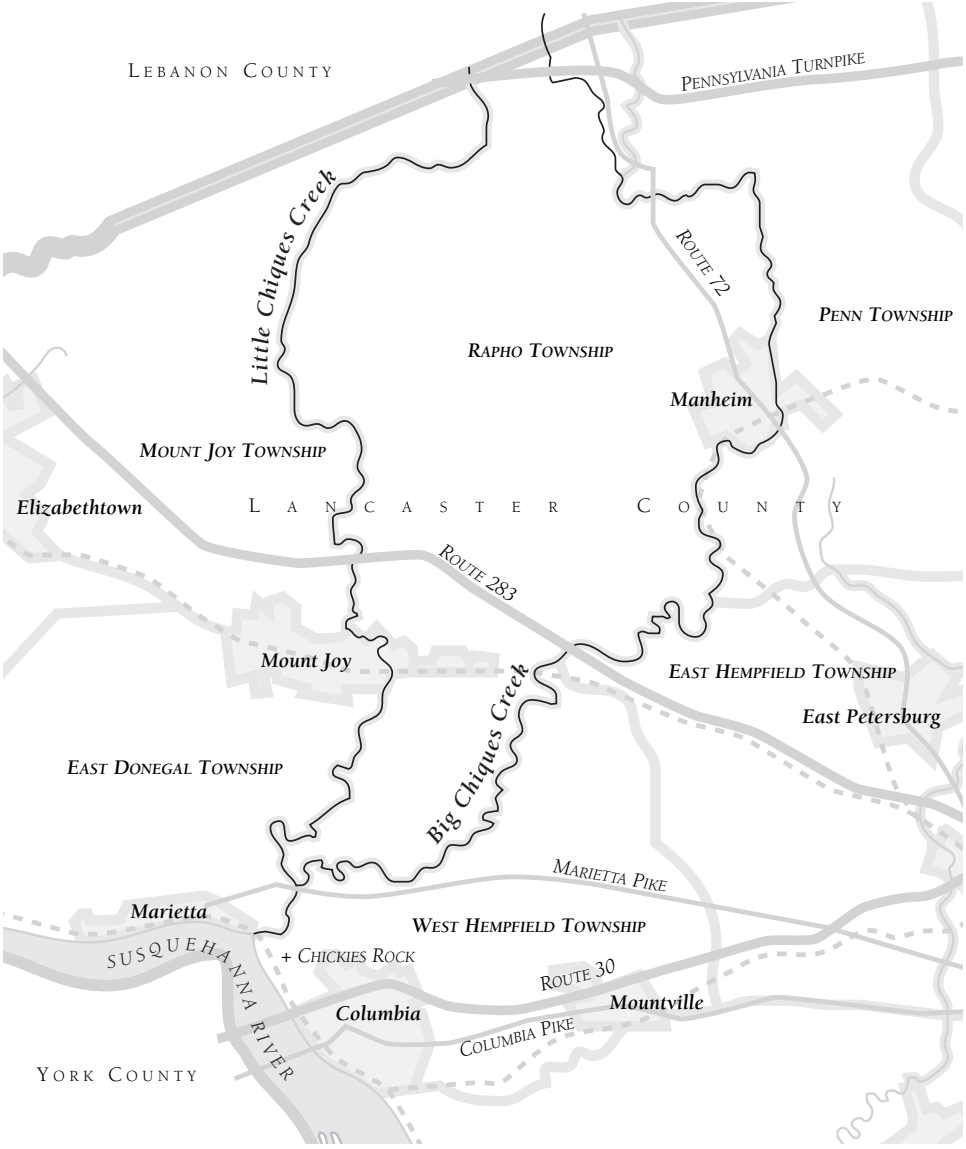
> CHIQUESALUNGA. A creek which enters the Susquehanna from the east in Lancaster County above Columbia. A post office called, Salunga, and a station, called

> Chickies, in the same county, have abbreviated the name. The Indian name is a corruption of Chick-iswalungo, "the place of the craw-fish" according to Heckewelder. The region along the Susquehanna, between Conestoga and Paxtang, was settled at a very early year in the 18th century…The author has often thought that these also Scotch-Irish traders who first heard the name of the creek, not only corrupted it but misplaced it. That the name applied to the hill near the mouth of the Conestoga, and not to the creek now known as Chiquesalunga. This hill was known as, "Turkey Hill," from earliest times. The Delaware word for turkey is *Tschikenum*, and the word for a round hill is, *Wulumque*. The compound word as it sounded to Scotch-Irish ears could easily be given the form Checkasolungas. On the Scull map of 1770, the creek enters the Susquehanna near a large rock which is called, "Chickies Rock."

Dr. Donehoo offers no explanation for choosing the spelling C-h-i-q-u-e-s-a-l-u-n-g-a as the title for this paragraph. The statement about the location of Chickies Rock and Turkey Hill is confusing, and the idea that "Scotch-Irish ears" heard syllables different from those heard by others is both confusing and amusing, since the good doctor was himself of Scots-Irish descent. He follows with a list of thirteen spelling references dating between 1724 and 1912, arranged here in chronological order:

Checasolunga—Minute Book (1724), Arch. Pa. Sec. Ser., XIX 724, 1893.
Sheckasalungo—Minute Book (1724), Arch. Pa., Sec. Ser., XIX, 749, 1893.
Shecassalungas—Minute Book "K" (1733), Arch. Pa., Third Ser., I, 31, 1894.
Checkaselung—Taylor ms. Maps, No. 635 (1734), Hist. Soc. of Penna.
Checkaseluga—Taylor, No 637, (1734), Hist. Soc., of Penna.
Shickaselungo—Taylor ms. No. 631 (1734), Hist. Soc. of Penna.
Chickasalonge—Blunston (1736), Arch PA., I, 532, 1852.
Chickisalungo—Scull, map, 1759.
Chickislungo—Adlum, map, 1790.
Chickisalunga—Howell map, 1792.
Chicques—Morris, map, 1848.
Chukusolungo—Hempfield Manor map, in Hist. Soc. of Pa. (no date given)
Chiquesatunga—State map 1912, (an error).

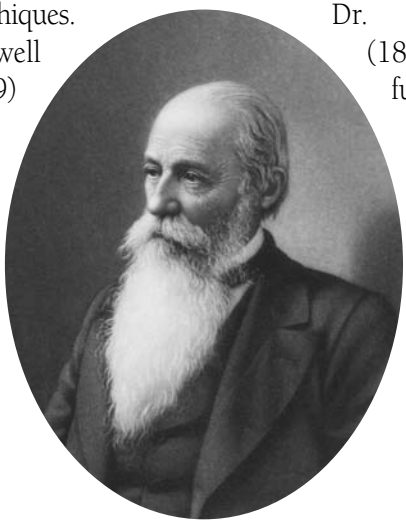
There was some consistency in the names, considering that spelling was not standardized in the eighteenth century, and Indian names were frequently compound words. An obvious exception is the abbreviated form "Chicques" from the Morris 1848 map where the "salungo/a" was dropped. The 1777 Le Rouge map, published in



The Big and Little Chiques Creeks flow south from their source in the Furnace Hills, forming most of Rapho Township's boundary. The branches come together just north of the Marietta Pike and empty into the Susquehanna at the base of Chickies Rock.

Paris, shows "Chikis Rock," "Chickisalungo" to identify the Big Chiques Creek, and "Little Chiskisalungo" identifying the Little Chiques. These spellings fit well between the Scull (1759) and Adlum (1790) maps.

Unfortunately, Dr. Donehoo was not around in 1858 when the controversy first arose in the *Columbia Spy*. In that year, a post office was established near the mouth of "the creek," and the concern about proper spelling surfaced. In the issue of the *Columbia Spy* dated 10 July 1858, the "Chickies/Chiques Battle" was officially kicked off. It erupted off and on during the next forty years.

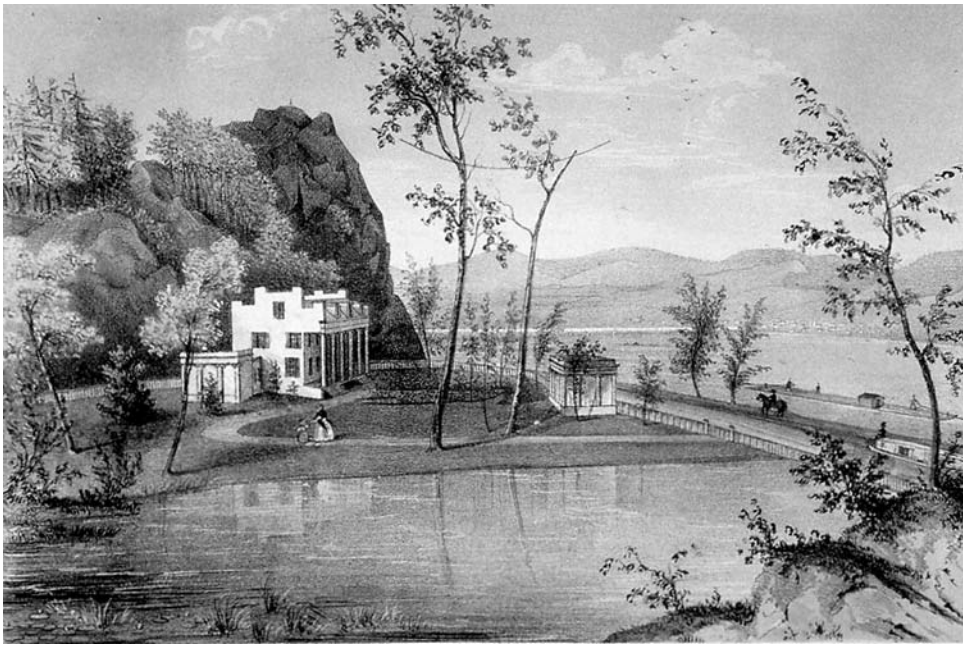


Professor Samuel Steman Haldeman

At this point, it is important to introduce the cast of characters, at least the ones that can be identified, and to give some background on each, including pertinent information, such as family relationships, political affiliations, etc.

Henry Haldeman (1787–1849) purchased the land at the mouth of the creek in 1828 and by 1845 had set two of his sons up in the iron business there. The eldest son, Professor Samuel Steman Haldeman (1812–1880), was an internationally recognized naturalist and an orthographer,[5] who later held the chair of Comparative Philology[6] at the University of Pennsylvania. In other words, he was a bona fide expert on spelling. His brother and partner, Dr. Edwin Haldeman (1814–1872), ran the furnace operations. The name chosen by the Haldemans for their furnace was Chikiswalungo, a name right out of Heckewelder's work. Professor Haldeman seems to have favored the "ck" spelling or something akin to it. In the news articles, the Haldemans did not indicate which one of them was speaking (writing) as their advocate. After Samuel died, his nephew, Horace Leander Haldeman (1847–1920) took up the "ck" spelling banner.

The champion of the opposing school, that is the "qu" side, was Samuel Wright Mifflin (1805–1885), a native of Wrightsville, Pennsylvania, and a very prominent civil engineer renowned for his work on such projects as the Pennsylvania Railroad's Horseshoe Curve. An article in *Professional Surveyor Magazine*[7] cites a description of Mifflin as "a close and comprehensive thinker, and possessed of a highly organized mental and spiritual temperament," and in his obituary, the *Columbia Spy*[8] calls him a "pungent writer."



The home of Professor S. S. Haldeman at the foot of Chiques Rock, 1846.

The *Spy* had three owners over the span of the controversy. Samuel Wright owned it from 1857 until 1863 when A. M. Rambo bought it. He sold it to Joseph W. Yocum in 1869, who owned it until he died in 1918. It may not be a coincidence that the battle started under the ownership of Samuel Wright, for he had studied civil engineering under Samuel Wright Mifflin, who was a cousin.

The articles were typical of Victorian literary debates where each contestant argued with the hope of winning and proving his intellectual superiority. Veiled (and sometimes not so veiled) insults were traded, while the editor played the role of referee. Not all the articles were signed, and the editor or a correspondent may have been the author of some of them. The opening shot stated that a U.S. Post Office had been approved for the area but that the 13-letter name was deemed too long. It may be added here that the appointment of a post office was an important feature of the spoils system and was frequently a lucrative political favor, i.e. local pork! The first item appears to be a short comment by the newspaper that appeared in the *Columbia Spy* on July 10, 1858.

"Chickies" and Its Spelling.

This name is the abbreviation of that of the creek, Chikiswalungo, as written by Heckewelder who understood the Delaware language, in which it means

"where crabs burrow." It is spelled "Chickesalunga" in Scott's Map of Lancaster County,[9] and the abbreviation frequently appears under the form of "Chiques," which strangers take for a monosyllable.

The Messrs. Haldeman adopted Heckewelder's form to designate their furnace in 1846; but as this is too cumbersome for a Post Office, the recent establishment of one required a short name, and one spelled according to English analogies; Chickies was accordingly adopted, the rocky promontory at the locality having been long known as "Chickies Rock."

A second article appeared in the same issue.

"THE ORTHOGRAPHY OF "CHICKIES"—A correspondent in another column informs us of the adoption of the name, "Chickies," for the new Post Office established between this place and Marietta. We are inclined to quarrel with the name under its present spelling. Taking the orthography adopted by the Messrs. Haldeman for the name of their furnace, Chikiswalungo, as that most proper, the abbreviated name should read "Chikis." This would more nearly represent the popularly shortened Chikiswalungo than does the name "Chickies," which contains a superfluous letter in the first syllable and one entirely vitiating the sound in the second. We do not so positively object to the addition of c as to the long sound of e, which the intrusion of that letter after i necessitates. Chickies, instead of an abbreviation of the sounding Aboriginal name of the creek, whence comes the pleasant and familiar title of the noble promontory, the most leonine amongst our neiborhood's [sic] lions. Seems more properly the diminutive of chickens, or of that beautiful compound, chick-a-biddies. Were we called upon to write the abbreviated name as it is generally pronounced, without reference to the orthography of the parent stock, we should set it down Chickis, and this, as near as may be correctly and legitimately shortens the Heckewelder "Chikiswalungo." At all events, we protest against ies, which is derived from a corrupt pronunciation of the abbreviation of the original name rather than from the name itself.

The "Chickies" Post Office is officially listed as having existed from 1858 to 1909. In 1872, however, the spelling was briefly changed. There is a listing for a "Chicques" Post Office showing that it existed from 1872 to 1872. A letter to the editor of the *Columbia Spy* provides insight into the reason for the short-lived post office almost fourteen years after the original. This phase of the controversy began with a column entitled, "What's in a Name?" penned by "S. W. Mifflin, he of the "pungent"

style of writing that might even be classed as "purple prose." Although Mifflin addressed his letter to the Golden Age,[10] he sent a copy to the *Columbia Spy* where it was published in the March 2, 1872 edition.

To the Editor of the Golden Age:

The pleasure we all felt upon reading your praise of our glorious scenery was greatly marred by seeing that you had unwittingly adopted the uncouth spelling of the Post-Office Department.

In the earliest maps extant the name of our beautiful headland and of the stream that flanks it on the north is printed Sicasarango.

Heckewelder, in his account of the North American Indians spells it Chickeswalungo. Among the earliest settlers here, as long ago as 1728, was a young English lady named Susanna Wright, whose correspondence with the Colonial Secretary, James Logan, and with Dr. Franklin, has given her some celebrity. Her literary habits and her long acquaintance and sympathy with her Indian neighbors, entitle her to speak with authority on the subject. She placed the sound of W in the second syllable, expressing it with a Q, thus Chicquesalungo. But the race so slow of speech and mighty of deeds, who for more than a thousand years have been compressing the names of their voluble neighbors into more practicable shape, shortening Eboracum into York, and Longa Castra into Lancaster, were not long in dispensing with three superfluous syllables. The spelling of the two first was retained in Chicques, but the sound of the last softened into kes, and this was the name and spelling for more than a century until a post-office was established at the foot of the rock by the Postmaster-General, who named it Chiques, which of course by those who never heard the sound was pronounced ***Cheeks***.

An appeal to the Department and a second effort at orthography, gave us the abominable Chickies, and this, with the usual contagiousness of error, has been spread far and wide by persons unacquainted with the true name.

I trust your good taste and love of accurate scholarship will assist us, as far as in you lies, to counteract this mischievous error and to restore to our favorite cliffs their true appellation.

S. W. MIFFLIN.[11]

COLUMBIA, PENN., Feb. 19, '72.

Again on March 30, 1872, another letter appeared. This time the *Columbia Spy* was taken to task by Mr. Mifflin.

Chicques

MR. EDITOR:—Your republished my letter in the *Golden Age* on the misspelling of this name by the P. O. department; it was therefore with great

surprise and disappointment that I discovered the same bad spelling three times repeated in the next number of your paper.

We can hardly expect a stranger like the editor of the *Golden Age* to pay respect to our wishes if we set him so bad an example.

It is certainly a mark of wretched taste and intelligence in a community to discard a euphonious and time honored name and borrow in its stead a vulgar epithet from a neighboring hen roost.

It is said that the citizens of a neighboring county refused to name a township after President Buchanan because the name was too hard to spell, but such an excuse as that is hardly admissible in a town which boasts of a high school and lyceum.

S. W. M.

[We accept the correction, acknowledge our error, and promise to do better in the future; and whenever we have occasion to speak of the place, post-office or the Rock, we will not forget Chiques.—EDITOR]

From these letters, it appears that a feud that had been going on, though it is not evident for how long or just who the adversaries were other than Samuel Mifflin. The *Columbia Spy* was a bit late in commenting on the Post Master General's short-lived spelling change, because it had been rescinded on June 6, 1872, two days before the following statement appeared on June 8, 1872.

TRIUMPH—The friends of "Chicques" will be gratified to learn that the Post Master General issued an order dated May 29th 1872 directing that the name of the post office at Chickies be changed to CHICQUES and the retention of C.N. Haldeman as postmaster.

This is a triumph for those who have been trying for so long a time to have the objectionable orthography changed to the original.

CHICKIES FURNACES, June 12, 1872

To the Editor of the Spy:

SIR: As the P. M. General on the 6th inst., rescinded his former order of May 29th, and restored the original spelling of this place, namely—"Chickies," the public should know the reason. The name is shortened from "Chickesalunga" (Place of Cray fish) as given in Scott's excellent map of 1824, and "Chikiswalungo" as given by the Indian missionaries. This became "Chickies" as the name of Johnson's Mill (afterwards "Penn" Mill) and last of all the SPY spelling of "Chiques" about the year 1830—a bad form, because strangers often called it *Cheeks*—"Chikis" might read *Chikis*—and "Chicques" would be as bad as "Chicquago" or "Chicquasaw'" for *Chicago*" and Chickasaw, because it



A couple fishing in Chiques—or is it Chickies?—Creek, circa 1885. LCHS 2-05-02-17

inserts a letter (*u*) which does not belong to the original.

Yours very truly
E. HALDEMAN & Co.

This article makes it evident that the "Chicques Post Office" existed for only nine days, from May 29th to June 6th, 1872. The final item in the "Marietta Matters" column of June 18, 1872 attempted to provide an authority to settle the dispute in the form of an early map. Unfortunately, no date or other identifying information are given for it.

> The communication of E. Haldeman & Co., in last week's SPY, in regard to the spelling of Chickis, has created many warm controversies. A map is now in the Cross-Keys Hotel,--said to be the oldest in the country, which spells it "Chikis." The age of this chart makes it an authority; but suppose it don't: what purpose does the letter "e" serve in the word "Chickies?" It only makes it fowl. "Chickis" is correct, it cannot be mispronounced, it is more euphonious than "Chickies." BRICKSTONE[12]

[We did think that the orthography of the word "Chickies" was finally settled, by the late order of the Post-Office Department. But it seems not. For business purposes, for convenience, we prefer "Chickies; for poetry,

love, romance, etc., "Chicques" is, doubtless, more acceptable.]

The *Spy*'s note at the end was an attempt of sorts to offer a compromise for both factions and to end the battle. Far be it from Mr. Mifflin to surrender. His lengthy response appeared in the *Columbia Spy* on July 13, 1872, and reiterates some of what he had written to the *Golden Age*. The title given in the *Spy* portends the antagonistic attitude that Mifflin seems unwilling to relinquish.

Chicques Once for All.

Absence and occupation have prevented me from noticing until now the whimsical action of the P. M. G. The reasons assigned for it by your correspondent are not reasons at all but very weak apologies for a vacillating course.

The missionaries do not sanction the name of Chickies, neither does Scott's map although Scott is no authority, having never seen a native Indian in Lancaster County, nor heard one speak.

In truth, Chickies never was a name of this place, but is a mere vulgarism, like *Fildelfy* or *Jarsey* or *Hellam* or *Sweetara*, the coinage of a dull ear and a thick tongue incapable of expressing nice distinctions of sound, and prone always to confound the unusual with the familiar and the common place.

The orthography of Chicques was established more than a century ago by an authority that ought not to be questioned now.

A woman of high culture and rare abilities; the oracle and arbitress of the infant colony of 1720; the friend and counselor of the Indians among whom she lived in neighborly concord for more than forty years; she was eminently qualified to fix the sounds of their language in European letters.

Her spelling differs from that of the missionaries only in placing the sound of 'w' in in [sic] the second syllable instead of the third, and she expressed that sound in strict accordance with established rules by 'qu' and not by 'kw.' We write acquit—acquire—acquaint, and for the same reason she wrote Chicques.

If the sound of 'w' has lapsed by long usage, that is no reason for changing the spelling, for to suppress all silent letters would revolutionize the English tongue.

This spelling was never called in question until an illiterate postoffice clerk omitted the c from the first syllable and when called to account for this error, took refuge in the poultry yard.

If blunders like that are to be sanctioned by Government authority, better call the place Hen Creek at once, there is a Saxon simplicity about Hen Creek that is wanting in its squeaking synonym.

It has always been a matter of regret among cultivated Americans that so much of our beautiful scenery is desecrated by vulgar and barbarous names.

Raccoon Creek, Possum Creek, Hen Creek, Wild Cat are enough to disgust the visitor who hears them for the first time, and although we must submit to the necessity in many cases for want of better ones yet to perpetuate a vile substitute for a true name to which accident has given currency is a mark of low taste not at all creditable to us as a community.

Vicious and careless pronunciation is but too common among all classes of our citizens. We can hear every day such barbarisms as Columby, Mirriata, Yorrick, Cannestoag, and it is among just such people that Chickies originated and is perpetuated. George Carpenter's major domo, who exhibited his master's copy of Guido's Aurora and called it Gideon's Roller, would have said Chickies by an irrepressible instinct, even if he had never heard it before. The girl whose dad struck ile and the boy whose mommy got pizened would do the same. In fact the Chicky-biddies if fully organized could pole [sic] an alarming vote, and a sudden consciousness of their strength has probably given life to their cause.

The vulgarity of American names has furnished an ample theme of ridicule for the sits across the water. A British writer once published as an American poem some doggerel rhymes beginning,—

"Ye plains where sweet
  Big Muddy rolls along
And Dog Creek one day
  to be famed in song.

and ends with—

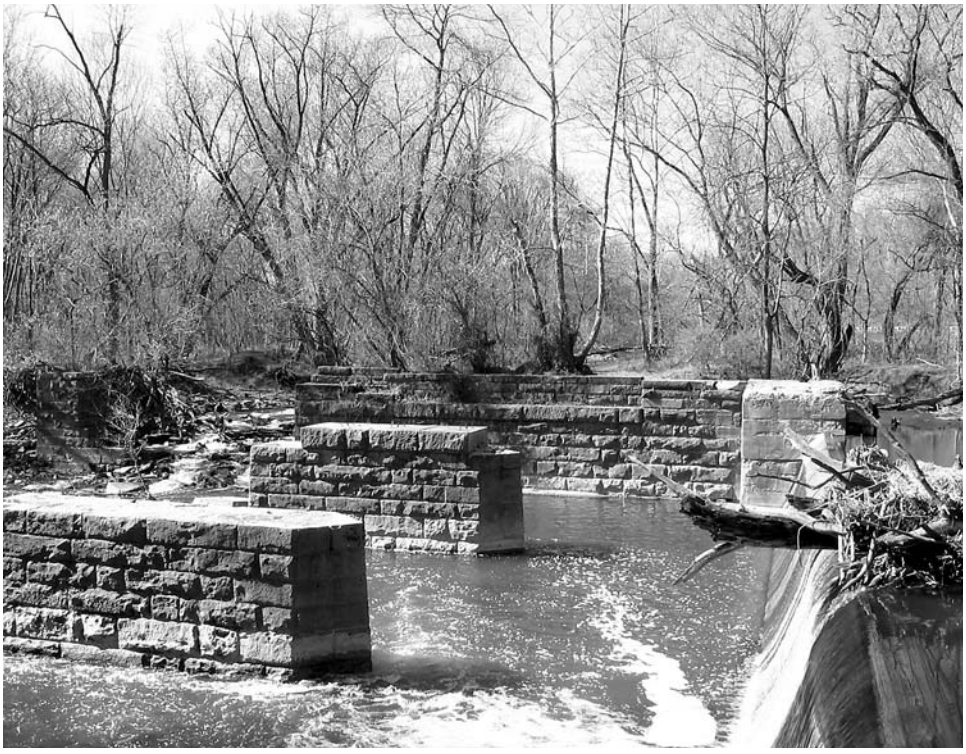
Where swans on Teapot
  and on Grindstone glide
And willows pine upon
  Goodwomans's side.

If our citizens desire to have their favorite scenery shown up in that sort of verse, the shame will be theirs as well as mine. I have not the time, if I had the power to furnish the weathercock at Washington with another change of wind. The P. M. G. would not be moved by a single individual to recede from a deliberately adopted error, but the voice of a whole community would hardly be disregarded if raised on behalf of good taste and historic precedent.

S. W. M.

So Samuel Mifflin lost the battle but had the last word. Was this a battle between two Samuels—Samuel Mifflin and Samuel Haldeman? Unfortunately, Mifflin is the only writer who signed his name.

Fourteen years later, on August 14, 1886, a short paragraph, the opening sentence of which suggests a hint of rivalry between the *Columbia Spy* and the *Lancaster Inquirer*, appeared indicating that the spelling debate continued to fester.



Bridge piers near the mouth of the Chiques

Take Your Choice

The *Lancaster Inquirer*, even since it has grown to eight pages, persists in spelling it "Chikis." The United States Post office Department says you must write it "Chickies" on your letters, and the Chickies Iron Company brands its iron with "Chickies." But when the Pennsylvania Railroad Company lands you at "Chiques," it has fulfilled the contract which its tickets and its time tables impose. To the Pennsylvania railroad tourist, the orthography is not half as hard as the pronunciation.

Fast forwarding to 1896, Horace L. Haldeman,[13] the remaining family member involved in operating the declining anthracite iron furnaces, presented a paper before the Lancaster County Historical Society. It was entitled, "The First Furnace Using Coal," and the text printed in the society journal begins on page 14 and ends on page 23. On page 18, Haldeman abruptly leaves the topic of furnace operations and launches into a lengthy, and somewhat complex, discussion about "the orthography of Chickies". The opening paragraph of

this section references his uncle Professor Samuel Haldeman's qualification to comment on the proper spelling of words. Horace goes on to cite the "qu" and "k" controversy and continues by quoting the following paragraph that the professor wrote in 1877,

> The original form *Chikiswalungo* was so cumbersome that it broke in two, giving us names for two towns *Chickies* and *Salungo*…The original is too inconvenient for post-office and map purposes and the philanthropy which imposed a name like *Phila-delphia* is to be doubted. *Naples* and *Paris* are preferable to the old names *Neapolis* and *Lutetia Parisiorum*, and in fact, abbreviation is one of the laws of language…
>
> The post-office department uses *Chickies*, the Pennsylvania railroad *Chiques* (apt to be called *Cheeks*), but of late I often write *Chikis*.

Nephew Horace states that Uncle Samuel asserted to the geologist in charge of the 1879 Second State Geological Survey of Pennsylvania that the correct spelling was *C-h-i-k-i-s*. This spelling was subsequently used in that and other official publications. Horace's "scholarly essay" strays further afield to include the recitation of a seven verse poem, entitled *Chikiswalungo*, by a Lancaster County poet, Walter Kieffer. The paper ends with the recounting of what is called "an Indian legend" of the origin the name. This legend recounts that a Native American couple, who became enchanted with one another, fell off a precipice (Chickies Rock) at which time the Indian maid cried, "Chiqua" (The Place of) and the brave responded "Salunga" (Crabs). Horace Haldeman had evidently pondered the orthography of *Chickies* from both sublime and ridiculous viewpoints. He never, however, resolves how orthography relates to "the first furnace using coal."

Almost a century later, the controversy took on a personal note. After living in the area for twenty-six years, I opened an antiques shop in 1984 that was called *Chiques Antiques*. The pronunciation was no problem for local customers, but I was mildly shocked when a valued customer telephoned and asked if this was, "*Cheeks Anteeks*"? Not wishing to insult her, I reluctantly responded in the affirmative, but had I realized that the name of my shop might appear clever and cute rather then a perpetuation of the name of the area, I probably would have chosen a different name. My connection and consternation with Chiques and its spelling did not end there. In the late 1990s, I undertook to nominate the Chiques Area as a National Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. This process is accomplished through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and entails approval by the Bureau for Historic Preservation. The nominating

process involves research and documentation and filling out many forms on the computer. After several years of working on it, the preliminary application of some thirty or forty pages was submitted but was promptly returned to me with a note that the district was to be called the *Chickies Historic District*, not the *Chiques Historic District*. That sent me back to the drawing board, so to speak, to change the spelling as the Bureau required. A mere replacement was out of the question, because there were places where the "*qu*" spelling was necessitated. Some of the thirty-one property owners in the proposed district were not happy, because they felt *C-h-i-q-u-e-s* was the more historically correct spelling. The directive from Harrisburg prevailed, however.

The controversy continues. The rock is called *Chickies Rock*, the county park is called *Chickies Rock County Park* and the historic district is the *Chickies Historic District*. The official name of the creek, however, is designated by the United States Geological Survey Board on Geographic Names which has made changes. In 1896 and 1916, it was designated *Chickies Creek*. In 2002, the Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance succeeded in having the spelling changed to *Chiques Creek*,[14] because they felt that to be the historic spelling. The USGS Geographic Names Information System recognizes no less than thirteen variations of the name of the creek, some of which hark back to spellings that appeared in Heckewelder's list: *Big Chickies Creek, Big Chiques Creek, Big Chiquesalunga Creek, Chickesalapga Creek, Chickeswalungo Creek, Chickies Creek, Chickisalungo Creek, Chicques Creek, Chikiswalunga Creek, Chikiswalungo Creek, Chiquasatunga Creek, Chiquesatonga Creek*, and *Chiquesatunga Creek*.

Perhaps these recent fiascos could have been avoided by reverting to the spelling—*C-h-i-c-q-u-e-s*—using the second "c." Not only was that probably the earliest spelling, but it would seem to negate the tendency to pronounce it "cheeks". It might, however, lead to even more confusion with some people pronouncing it "*sheiks*," thus adding a new and even more confusing dimension of possible association with the Middle East. Perhaps a tale from *Arabian Nights* could be found that would rival Horace Haldeman's implausible fable of the origin of the name! In the end, Samuel Mifflin may have made the best recommendation in 1872 when he stated, "**Chicques Once for All**."

About the author

Margaret Hunt Landis graduated from Lancaster Country Day School and attended Bryn Mawr College. "My mother, Margaret Lincoln Hunt's love of Lancaster County history inspired me to follow in her footsteps. She served on the LCHS board as I did. I have lived in the Chiques Area near Marietta for over fifty years where I have been active in historical/preservation activities. As a personal labor of love, I submitted the nomination for the approximately 589-acre Chickies Historic District which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005." (Note: The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission required the "Chickies" spelling for the Historic District.)

Endnotes

1 JSTOR website: *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, 1834*. This manuscript was subsequently edited and reprinted from time to time.

2 Dr. George P. Donehoo (1862–1934) was a Presbyterian minister who left the clergy to become a member and secretary of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, 1911–1921, and state librarian 1921–1924.

3 Donehoo, Dr. George, *Indian Villages and Places and Names*, Harrisburg, 1928, Page 29.

4 Antique Maps–Old Maps–Vintage Maps. Fine original antique maps and sea charts. Leen Helmink. Antique Map of Pennsylvania by Le Rouge. 6 April 2008. http://www.helmink.com/Antique_Map_le_Rouge_Pennsylvania

5 "orthographer…one who spells correctly," *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary.* 2004. http://www.merriam-webster.com (7 Apr.2008).

6 Ibid. "Philology–the study of literature and of disciplines relevant to literature or to language as used in literature."

7 *Professional Surveyor Magazine*, Nov/Dec 1996, Volume 16 Number 8, "History Corner: Samuel Wright Mifflin," Silvio Bedini.

8 *Columbia Spy*, August 1, 1885.

9 The date of Scott's Map is 1824.

10 The *Golden Age* was published weekly in New York from 1872 to 1874. Theodore Tilton was the editor.

11 Samuel Wright Mifflin (1805–1885) was a surveyor and civil engineer who was born in Wrightsville. He was known for his work on Pennsylvania Railroad projects such as the Horseshoe Curve. As his middle name indicates, he was related to Susanna Wright to whom he refers in such glowing terms.

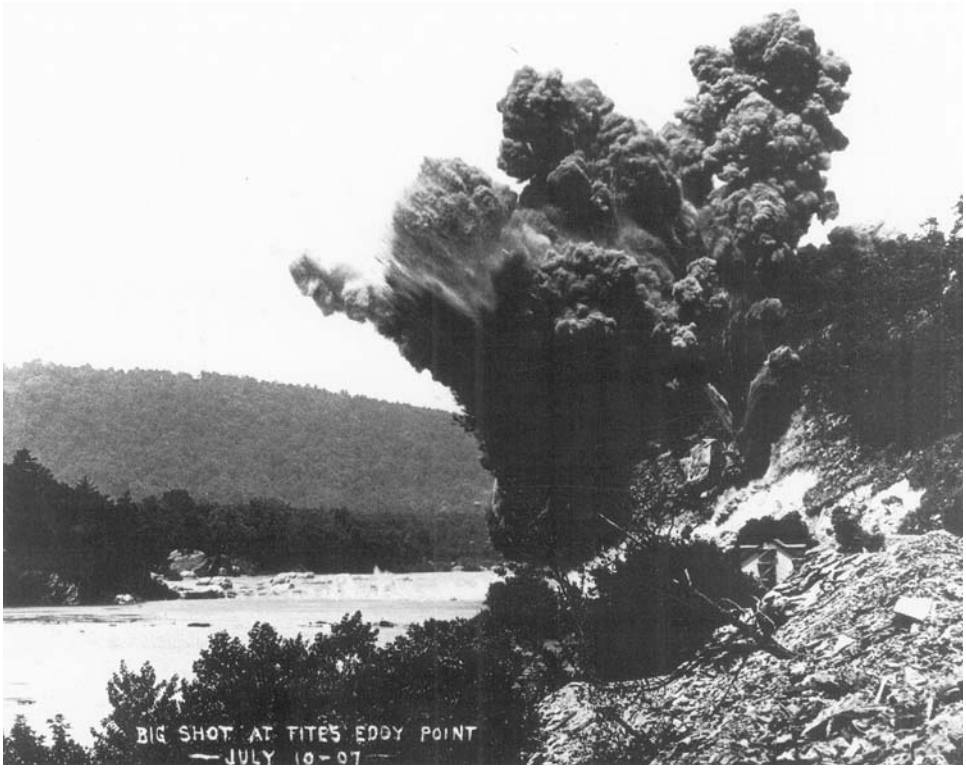
12 The identity of Brickstone could not be determined. He/she may have been the Marietta reporter for the *Columbia Spy*.

13 Horace Leander Haldeman (1847–1920) was an officer in the Civil War and was a member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature from 1917 to 1920.

14 On the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Grants website, the following Progress Report dated 6/17/02 appears from the Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance. "One of the ancillary involvements of the watershed group has been to successfully petition the USGS to change the name of the creek on official maps. As the next map printing, the name will officially revert to its historic beginnings—Chiques—derived from the french explorers documentation of the native american word for place of the crayfish."

The Big Shot at Fite's Eddy Point

Information and photographs gathered by Robert Neuhauser

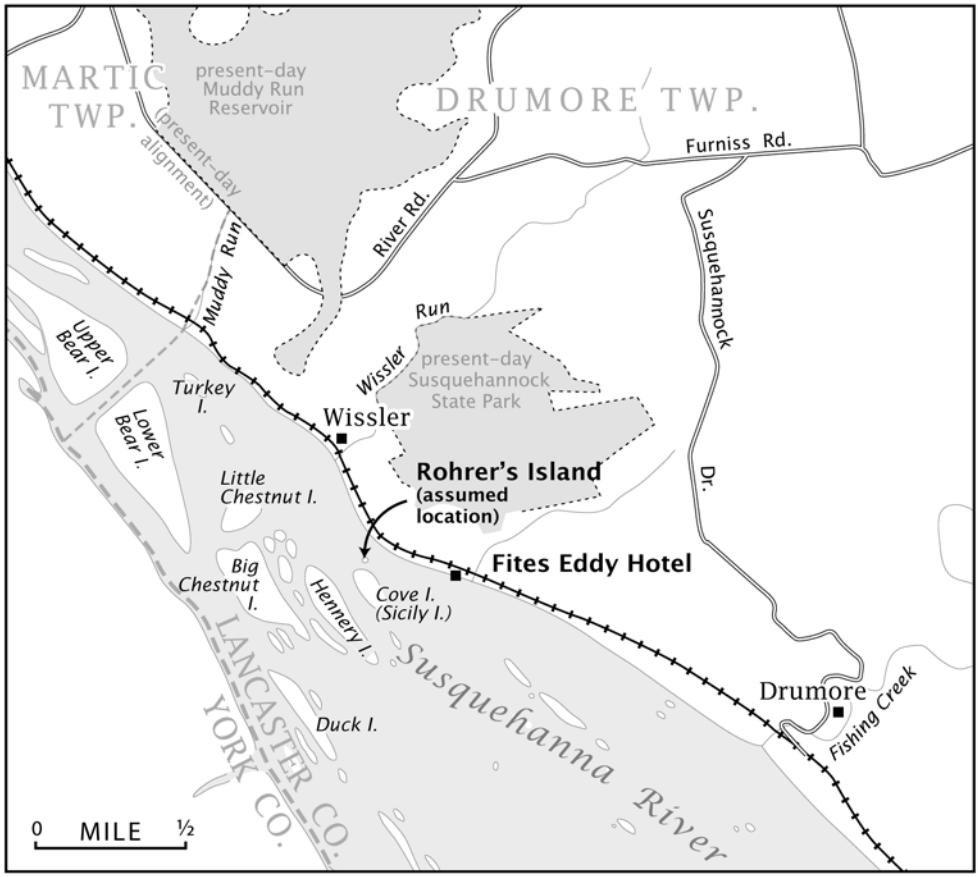


Big Shot at Fite's Eddy Point. July 10, 1907. LHO 2-13-04-06

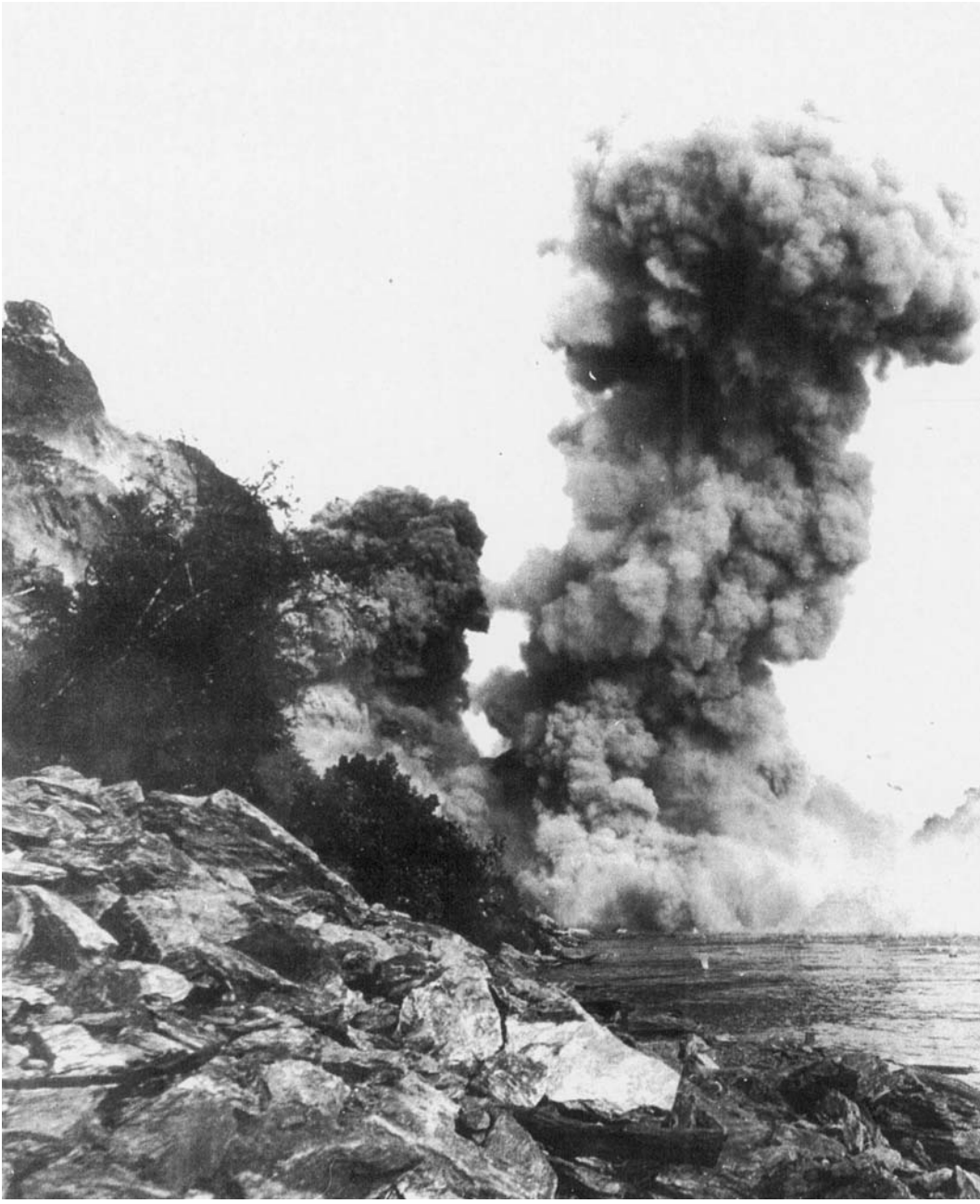
During the construction of the Atglen and Enola "Low Grade" Railroad across southern Lancaster County, heavy blasts along the construction site were common as the construction crews set off dynamite to break through rock. However, on 10 July 1907, Lancaster Countians were jolted by an uncommonly severe blast.

When the Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad was built in the 1870s, it was located along the east bank of the Susquehanna River, as close to the river bank as possible. This subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Railroad connected the "main line" at Columbia to the PRR main line between Philadelphia and Baltimore at Perryville, Maryland.

When the McCall's Ferry (Holtwood) hydroelectric facility was planned, it was found necessary to move portions of the Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad away from the river shore, and to accomplish that, a 170-foot high ridge or cliff of rock



Except where noted, this map shows the Fite's Eddy area as it was in 1912, after the blast and after the Holtwood Dam (about 1.5 miles upstream) changed the level of the river.



Another view of the "Big Blast." LHO 2-13-04-04



had to be removed. This was at Fite's Eddy, a place where a small stream flows into the Susquehanna, adjacent to the south side of present-day Susquehannock State Park. The river at this point contains a number of small islands: Hennery, Sicily, and Rohrer's islands among them. To remove the cliff, workers drilled 300 holes, each 140 feet deep, in the rock. The holes then were packed with 300 tons of dynamite and black powder.

An area of one mile around the site was cleared of people with one exception: Harry Stoner, the official photographer, was safeguarded behind a special shield so he could photograph the explosion.

When the signal was given, the dynamite charges were set off, and Lancaster County heard its greatest explosion! The concussion was so powerful that on Rohrer's Island a two-story house lost its first floor, the second floor and roof settling down on the foundation.

After the removal of the shattered rock, the contractors built the railroad right of way in the new location. In the process of clearing the right of way, the Fite's Eddy hotel had to be razed.



Two story frame house on Rohrer's Island prior to the blast. LHO 2-13-04-02



The house after the blast with the second story sitting in place of the first story. LHO 2-13-04-01



The original Fite's Eddy Hotel occupied a spot on the far side of the railroad with its veranda located just a few feet from the tracks. At the turn of the century that building was destroyed by fire. The second Fites Eddy Hotel (shown here) was built almost immediately, this time between the tracks and the river. The stone and tie pilings supporting the hotel allowed the proprietor to have more space. In 1907 this building was removed to permit the relocation of the railroad. LHO 2-13-04-07



The rear of the second Fite's Eddy Hotel. The stone culvert (center foreground) is now under the railroad right of way. Tracks for the Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad lay between the back of the hotel and the culvert before the track was relocated to higher ground. LHO 2-13-04-03



A portion of rock waiting to be blasted. LHO 2-13-04-05

About the Author

Robert Neuhauser, son of Homer Neuhauser, lived all his life in East Lampeter Township, attended one room schools and graduated from East Lampeter High School. His first paying jobs were during Christmas vacations when he counted nuts, bolts, harness hardware, and horse collars in the annual inventory of the Neuhauser business. In the summers he worked in the shop sharpening mower blades and reconditioning mower cutter bars as well as learning to weld. Between times he assembled new farm machinery and helped deliver farm equipment. Mr. Neuhauser later worked at Radio Corporation of America in Lancaster and has contributed two previous articles to *The Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society:* "Lancaster, the 'World Capital' of Televison Camera Tubes" in Volume 105, Number 4, and "Neuhauser Brothers Farm Machinery and Hardware Company in Bird-in-Hand" in Volume 110, Number 2.

Jean Houck Maysilles

(1925–2009)



Jean Maysilles loved history, and so she found a volunteer's home here at the historical society for many years. She worked with membership and put her artistic good sense to work creating glorious wildflower arrangements for our annual meetings, exhibition openings and special events. She spent many hours in the society's archives, transcripting and organizing all manner of historical documents. Among her most ambitious projects were complete catalogues of the collection of papers of Judge Henry Long and Robert Zartman.

The Journal publication committee remembers Jean serving as our Deputy Editor-in-Chief and as a contributor to *The Journal*. Her paper "A Remembrance of General Cigar Company in Lancaster County" appeared in Volume 96, Number 2. Growing up on a farm near Honey Brook, Jean had first-hand knowledge of tobacco farming and was later employed at the Research & Development Center for General Cigar and Helme Tobacco. In 1999 Jean spent countless hours scouring a century's worth of *The Journal*, carefully selecting and editing articles about the who's who of Lancaster County for "The People of Lancaster County," the first number of *The Journal*'s special *Centennial Edition*. In Volume 101, Number 2, she told the curious and amusing story of the Buzzard family, who carried out their criminal activities near where Jean grew up, in "Abe Buzzard and the Welsh Mountain Gang."

During her many years as a *Journal* volunteer, she read and researched submissions, proofread printer's galleys, and in the days before most authors could send us digital copy files, Jean keyboarded all of our authors' manuscripts to prepare them for production. In short, she took on any task to make certain *The Journal* reflected the best of the historical society.

Jean passed away May 6, 2009. She was a constant and valued member of the historical society and the publication committee. She has left her mark on *The Journal* and in our hearts. We will miss her.

Call for Papers

The Journal of Lancaster County's Historical Society invites historians interested in local history—amateurs and professionals—to submit papers or research reports for publication. We are interested primarily in papers on local and southeastern Pennsylvania history and biography. Edited diaries are invited also. Although The Journal has published thousands of papers since 1896, there are many, many more areas of historical interest that have not been touched or brought up to date.

You need not be a wonderful writer. Our editors can smooth out any grammatical rough spots. Accuracy, though, is essential, and we ask that you include your sources, any bibliographies and a brief author's biography.

Articles of about forty-eight pages of double-spaced typed copy can be used, though short articles are welcome as well. Please submit articles in manuscript form along with any suggestions for illustrations. If your work can be saved in digital format on a disc, we ask that you include the manuscript in that form also. If not, we have the capabilities to work with a clean copy of your manuscript.

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