

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE Having in Charge the Marking of the Site of the Postlethwaite Tavern Where the First Courts of Justice in Lancaster County Were Held

To the President and Members of  
the Lancaster County Historical So-  
ciety:

Your committee, appointed to com-  
memorate, in a suitable manner, the  
holding of our County's first Courts, at  
Postlethwaite's, in Conestoga Town-  
ship, in 1729, respectfully report:

That pursuant to their appointment  
and to the duty committed to them,  
they met and organized and held sev-  
eral meetings and augmented their  
numbers by the addition of citizens of  
Conestoga and adjacent townships;  
and created from the total number  
several sub-committees. They met at  
the place, where the Courts were an-  
ciently held, and arranged with Mr.  
Geo. Fehl, owner, to hold a meeting,  
October 8th, 1915, to commemorate the  
event for which task they were ap-  
pointed.

The sub-committees were:

Committee on Descendants of Pion-  
eers—A. K. Hostetter, chair-  
man; Harry S. Stehman, John  
Warfel, John Urban, Amos N.  
Landis, Walter Hess, Henry H. Hess,  
A. S. Bender, Jacob Hoak, Daniel  
Herr, George Fehl, H. G. Rush, D. H  
Landis, John Shank, Daniel Witmer,  
A. R. Caldwell.

Programme Committee—F. R. Difenderffer, chairman; George Murray, Andrew Zercher, Abram Harnish, Charles Warfel, J. W. Gardner, John Burkhardt, James W. Morison, H. Justin Roddy, of Millersville; Ross Weaver, Darius Eckman.

Boulder and Tablet Committee—D. F. Magee, chairman; Harry Hoak, A. S. Dombach, Edward Ruth, Noah Shuman, Henry Herr, Jacob Hess, Harry Miller, Albert Kauffman, Christ. Thomas and Al. Stehman.

Committee on preparation for meeting—Harry Fehl, chairman; M. C. Eshleman, joint chairman; Alvin Murray, John McAllister, David M. Landis, Daniel Shank, Harry Stauffer, Maris H. Groff, Harry Warfel, B. Frank Markley, Jacob Erisman, Henry Clark, Daniel Forry, Eli Herr, Eli Kendig, John Kendig, Tobias Stehman, H. B. Kready, Elam Herr and Benjamin Bender.

Your committee at an early date began searching for a suitable boulder to erect at the home of Mr. Fehl (now the owner of Postlethwaite's, about half mile east of Rock Hill, where the early Courts were held) and found that the most practical thing was to have a big rock blasted out of Mr. A. S. Dombach's quarry, at Rock Hill. Together with five or six faithful citizens of Conestoga township, near Rock Hill, and with the aid of Mr. Dombach and men furnished by Mr. Ed. Ruth, they spent one day blasting out the rock—one day in "squibbing" it into shape—one day in dressing a flat face upon it—and one day in hauling and erecting it.

The boulder consists of a seven-ton limestone rock, and is set on a concrete foundation four feet deep. It stands nearly seven feet high, is about five feet wide and two feet to two and one-half feet thick. All parties gave their services free.

Your committee secured a bronze plate from the Monumental Bronze Co., of Bridgeport, Conn., inscribed as will hereafter appear. The proper sub-committee attended to securing seats, erecting a platform and preparing for the meeting. And the sub-committee on programme provided and carried out the following exercises:

### **The Programme.**

Music, Conestoga Cornet Band; unveiling of boulder, Harriet May and Grace Martha Shuman, twin grandchildren of George Fehl; presentation of boulder and tablet, D. F. Magee, Esq.; acceptance, Harry Fehl; president's remarks, Henry S. Stehman; paper, "Postlethwaite's and Our First Courts," Hon. Charles I. Landis, president Judge of Courts; music, "America," by school children and audience, accompanied by the band; address, "German-Swiss Influence in Lower Conestoga Valley," Mr. A. S. Benedict; music, by the band; paper, "English and Scotch-Irish Pioneers of Old Conestoga and Their Descendants," Mr. A. K. Hostetter; address, "Old Conestoga Neighbors, 1715-1729," H. Frank Eshleman, Esq.; Music, "How Firm a Foundation," audience, accompanied by the band; address, "Postlethwaite Family After 1750," Mr. C. E. Postlethwaite; benediction, Rev. Thomas Roberts, pastor of the Methodist Church.

### **The Unveiling.**

Thursday night it rained and Friday morning was cloudy; but by 9:30 the sun began to appear and by 11 o'clock the weather was bright, clear and cool. The afternoon was all one could wish. The audience began arriving from all directions about 12:30 o'clock, in autos, carriages, in jitneys and auto-trucks from trolley stations, etc., and by 1:30 p. m. about 1,500 per-

sons were present, including Conestoga township and Millersville Model School pupils. Led by the band, the children, gaily decked with flags, marched by and countermarched, before the boulder and the unveiling took place, as the first feature of the programme.

The Shuman twins, little tots of two years, by silken ribbons, separated the flags which covered the rock, and the inscribed boulder stood forth with the flags fallen at its base, in massive grace, fair proportion and artistic finish.

### **Presentation Address.**

Then followed the presentation by D. F. Magee, Esq., as follows:

It is with pride and pleasure I open the ceremonies to-day, and on behalf of the Lancaster County Historical Society present to this community and to this county the handsome monument here erected to commemorate the momentous event that happened here one hundred and eighty-six years ago.

This boulder, hewn from the rocks upon which these hills and slopes have grown in the ages long past, and this plate of bronze that can never rust or decay shall remain here to tell the story to the generations now unborn that here in the great Commonwealth, I may well say, of Lancaster her rugged and heroic pioneers by act and deed declared that within her borders law and order should prevail, even justice should be done, life and property rights be protected and made secure and safe.

By this act and at this spot thus were laid the very foundations of order, justice, government and liberty.

From that day to this all these essentials to life, liberty and the enjoyment of happiness have ever been maintained in our grand old county.

and with an even hand justice administered to all the inhabitants thereof.

It is a grand lesson for you children to learn, it was a notable deed the remembrance of which you people should ever cherish.

And now I present this monument to all of the peoples of Lancaster county and especially to the citizens of Conestoga township, and through you, Harry Fehl, to the family of George Fehl, we deliver its care and protection, and to his descendants and to all future possessors of the Postlethwaite farm we deliver it in charge.

And, in conclusion, I say to you little children, Harriet May and Grace Martha Shuman, draw aside the veil and uncover to all the people that they may see tribute and monument to the worth of their sires which the Historical Society presents.

### **The Acceptance.**

The marker was accepted by Harry Fehl, son of the owner of the premises, in doing which he promised, in the name of the family and generations, present and future, to take patriotic care of the same. He thanked the Society and the citizens for the enterprise of marking the spot where the county's first activities began, and said it was an honor to all concerned and attested the loyalty of our people to their home county and to its traditions.

This done, the entire assemblage, led by the band the parade of the school children, marched to the Fehl orchard, where President Henry S. Stehman took charge of the meeting.

### **Assemblage Convenes in Orchard.**

On assuming the gavel and calling the meeting to order, he spoke as follows:

Ladies and Gentleman: In accepting

the exalted position, tendered me to-day, I wish to say that I should consider myself neither fair nor just if I were to regard this merely as a personal honor, however freely it may have been bestowed. I believe that it was given me as an acknowledgment of a fitting gift bestowed, out of respect to one of the oldest families of this district, where the events of long ago took place; and I accept it in that spirit. Having thus placed the honor where in my judgment it rightly belongs, I ask you to pardon me when, in returning thanks, I bespeak the gratitude in full measure not only on behalf of the ancient family favored, but also on behalf of the whole of our historic and beloved bailiwick, the township of Conestoga.

### **Judge Landis' Address.**

The president then introduced Hon. Charles I. Landis, President Judge of the Courts of Lancaster County, who delivered an exhaustive paper on "Postlethwaite's and Our First Courts"; as follows:

**Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

The positive location of historical places, and the narration of the public events which have arisen in and around them, should always excite our interest, and their value cannot be overestimated by us. A full description of whatever pertains to our local history fixes it in permanent form for future reference, and thereby preserves facts likely to be soon forgotten, for the generations yet to come. The members of the Lancaster County Historical Society merit commendation for the valuable work which they have accomplished in this direction, and now the good people of this vicinity, who have co-operated and aided in this celebration, are entitled, for their efforts, to a full share

of praise. Considering that it is upon this spot that the legal history of the county had its birth, and that in the house within your sight the Courts likely first undertook to administer justice, is it not fitting that the place be marked by a stone which will stand with the everlasting hills, upon which is placed, in tablet form, the record of this important happening?

By Section 11, of Article 1, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, it is declared that "all Courts shall be open; and every man for ~~an~~ injury done him in his lands, goods, persons or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice administered without sale, denial or delay." In the history of the world, no matter whether a monarchial or democratic form of government has been supreme, the preservation of liberty and property has ever been vested in the legal tribunals. The legislative branch of the government may pass laws, but none of those laws executes themselves. It is the Courts who are brought in to render legislative enactments effective, and the Constitution itself must be interpreted by judicial power. The Courts are, therefore, the sheet anchor of the people's rights. Men may at times scoff and criticise; they may deride and censure the occupants of judicial places, but they can never escape the authority which has imposed in the Judges the power to supervise and control everything they hold dear, even to life itself. It is true that, occasionally, Judges have abused their functions, and have cruelly and unjustly administered the law. Rarely, however, have such instances arisen. The history of our own and every other county is marked by upright lawgivers, who, like beacons on the shore, have given notice of the rocks

and shallows which lie along the way. The establishment of the Courts in this county was, therefore, the most significant event which has occurred within its history.

At the time of which we speak the Judges were not necessarily lawyers, that is, men learned in the law. Everything done by them was, however, conducted according to the well-known forms of the common law, as brought to the Province from England. A competent number of justices were nominated and authorized in each county by the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor, and any three of them were empowered to act. Under the Act of May 10, 1729, which was entitled, "An Act for erecting the upper parts of the Province of Pennsylvania lying towards Susquehanna, Conestogoe, Donegal, etc, into a county," it was provided "That all and singular the lands within the province of Pennsylvania lying to the northward of Octorara creek and to the westward of a line of marked trees running from the north branch of the said Octorara creek northeasterly 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 Octorara 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." By the second section of the Act it was declared 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." And by the fifth section it was further enacted, "That the several courts of general quarter sessions of the peace and goal 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 before mentioned." Caleb Pearce, John Wright, Thomas Edwards and James Mitchell, or any three of them, were authorized to purchase a piece of land, to be approved 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 defraying the charges of purchasing the land and building and erecting the Court House and prison, the Commissioners and assessors of the said county, or a majority of them, were required to assess and levy so much money as the trustees, or any three of them, should judge necessary; provided, however, that the sum so raised should not exceed three hundred pounds, current money of the province. By a subsequent Act, passed February 6, 1731, the Commissioners and assessors were authorized to raise an additional sum of £300, in the same manner, for the same purposes.

It must not, however, be understood that the building and spot which we are now marking was the one to which this money was applied. While it is said in Rupp's History of Lancaster county that a temporary Court House of logs was erected at Postlethwaite's, it would appear more likely that the tavern was so changed as to make it convenient for the purpose of holding the Courts, and this conclusion has, I think, been generally adopted. I find in the minute book of the Commissioners of Lancaster county, under date of February 4, 1729, the following entry: "Ordered that John Postlethwaite be allowed the sum of £11, 19s, 10 d, being for his attendance and provisions on the Commissioners appointed by Governor and Council for the running the division line between the County of Chester and County aforesaid, £11 19s. 10d. And likewise the sum of £7 to be paid him out of the next assessment, being the full allowance for building a Court House for the county service until such time as another shall be built by the Commissioners appointed for that use, £7." The sum thus appropriated would appear to be inadequate, even in that day, to cover the cost of a building suitable for this purpose."

John Postlethwaite was an Englishman by birth. He settled in Chester county, Pa., some time between 1709 and 1713. It is said that he was the son of George Postlethwaite, of Millom, Cumberland county, England. He kept an ordinary near the Conestoga on the Great Road which led from Philadelphia through the Gap to the Indian town in the Manor. In 1718 Conestoga township was laid off, embracing all that part of what is now Lancaster county between Octo-

raro creek and the main branch of the Conestoga. Postlethwaite must have come to Conestoga after that date, because his name does not appear in the list of taxables of that township for the year 1718. His name, however, does appear in the lists for the years 1724, 1725 and 1726. In August, 1727, his name appears in the list of licenses granted by the Court of Quarter Sessions of Chester county, and on June 20, 1728, he gave his bond, with Andrew Cornish and Michael Michaelson, in the sum of £20 each. Our records show that he was licensed by the Court of Quarter Sessions of Lancaster county from 1729 to 1736, inclusive. In those early days it was not the custom to present a formal petition every year, but those who previously obtained licenses gave their names to the Clerk for a renewal, and, if there were no complaints, the licenses were continued, as of course. The bonds were probably renewed. That he was an intelligent and influential settler is evident, because he was chosen as the first Treasurer of the county, and in 1746 he was one of the Justices. The newly-appointed magistrates, when a meeting was called to determine the names and boundaries of the townships, met at Postlethwaite's, and their report, which was presented to the Justices at that same place, on August 5, 1729, was confirmed. Postlethwaite was, in 1739, an Indian trader, as he received a license for that year. He was one of the commissioners that ran the preliminary line between Maryland and Pennsylvania in May, 1739, and he was one of the Overseers of the Poor in 1743. He was a member of the Grand Jury of the county in 1733, 1737 and 1746. He was also a member of St. James' Episcopal Church, at Lancaster, and

one of its first wardens. He must have died sometime between 1748 and 1750, for it is recited in a deed from Benjamin Price, goldsmith, and Susanna, his wife, to Joseph Pugh, dated April 16, 1752, that a certain tripartite indenture had been made on the seventh day of December, 1750, between William Postlethwaite, eldest son and heir-at-law of John Postlethwaite, deceased; John Miller and Benjamin Price, and also that John Postlethwaite, in and by his last will and testament, bearing date the 22d day of February, 1748-49, gave and devised, inter alia, to his son, William Postlethwaite a tract of land on the Conestoga creek, containing 120 acres. I have not been able to learn where he was buried. There was an old graveyard on the original tract, not far from the Postlethwaite house, but all the tombstones have long since disappeared, and there is no means now of proving whether or not his remains lie buried there. Seeing the importance of obtaining the county seat, he invited the magistrates and some of the prominent settlers to meet at his ordinary, to consider the subject, and he there provided the temporary quarters in which to hold the Courts. His tavern was widely known in that day, and, as it was very near the center of population of the county, it was regarded by many, on that account, as being the most eligible location for the seat of justice. Other places were also urged. Among these was Wright's Ferry. So confident was Robert Barber, the first Sheriff of the county, who resided at that place, that it would be selected, that he had a strong wooden building put up near his residence, which was intended for a county jail. The minute book of

the commissioners (No 1) shows that on February 4, 1729-30, it was "ordered that Robert Barber be allowed the sum of £5, by order of Court, for building a prison for the aforesaid county service, with a further allowance out of the next assessment as the commissioners and assessors shall see meet; the Treasurer to pay the same." Again in 1730, it was "ordered that Robert Barber be allowed the sum of £3 toward the building of the new jail at his house." There was also a place called Gibson's tavern which was advocated, and which ultimately succeeded in carrying off the prize. This place was where the town of Lancaster was soon after laid out.

The Court met for the first time in the county on the first Tuesday in August (August 5), 1729. George II. was then king, for George I. died in 1727, while on a journey to Hanover. No. 1 docket of the Court of Common Pleas opens as follows: "At a Court of Common Pleas held at John Postlethwaite's In Conestogoe the first Tuesday in August in the Third year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George King of Great Britain France & Ireland Defender of the Faith &c 1729." The Justices who sat were John Wright, Tobias Hendricks, Andrew Cornish, Thomas Read, and Samuel Jones. John Wright presided. The first suit brought was by John Brubaker, plaintiff, against John Jones, defendant, and judgment was entered in favor of the plaintiff for £10. The records show that suit No. 5 was won by John Taylor against Chicsconicon, who was likely an Indian. The Court sat at Postlethwaite's during August and November terms, 1729, and February, May and August terms, 1730. To August term, 1729, eleven cases were brought;

to November term, 1729, thirteen cases; to February term, 1730, seven cases; to May term, 1730, eighteen cases, and to August term, 1730, fifteen cases. At the November term, 1729, the Justices who sat were John Wright, Tobias Hendricks, Thomas Edwards, Andrew Cornish and Andrew Galbraith; at the February term, 1730, Tobias Hendricks, Andrew Cornish, Samuel Jones, Caleb Pearce and Andrew Galbraith; at the May term, 1730, John Wright, Tobias Hendricks, Thomas Edwards, Thomas Read, Andrew Galbraith, Samuel Jones and Caleb Pearce, and at the August term, 1730, Tobias Hendricks, Andrew Cornish, Caleb Pearce, Andrew Galbraith and Samuel Jones. Whenever John Wright was present he presided, and at the terms in which he was absent, Tobias Hendricks presided. I suppose that they occupied the presidency of the Court according to the seniority of their commissions. At the February term, 1730, John Postlethwaite entered an action of attachment against John Phipps, and, under it, a horse belonging to the defendant was sold by the Sheriff, and the money arising from the sale was ordered to be produced by him at the next Court. At the May term, 1730, Postlethwaite brought an action against Newcomat and at the August term judgment was entered against the defendant. There appears to May term, 1732, an action brought by Postlethwaite, as assignee of Christian Mayer, against Walter Thedford, and another action, as assignee of Peter Chartier, against James Smith. He was also the plaintiff in an action against George Knasley, to August term, 1732. On the docket to November term, 1729, there appears a case of Isaac Miranda against John Lawrence, and to August term, 1730, a case of James Lo-

gan against James Letort. In the latter suit Letort appeared in open Court and signed the docket, confessing judgment in favor of the plaintiff for £484 18s 6d, with costs. Isaac Miranda was an Indian trader. He settled on Conoy creek in 1715. He died in 1732. His daughter, Mary, is said to have married Governor James Hamilton, the founder of Lancaster, but the weight of the testimony is, I think, contrary to this contention. Isaac Miranda in his will, dated June 20, 1732, left Hamilton a large tract of land, if he married his daughter, but I have found no proof that the Governor accepted the proposition, and that the marriage actually took place. On the contrary when Hamilton died his estate went to collateral relatives. James Logan was evidently the well-known Secretary of the Province, and he resided in the city of Philadelphia up to the time of his death. His life has been written by others, and it is unnecessary to go into any detail concerning it. James Letort was the son of Captain Jacques LeTort and his wife, Annie LeTort. Captain LeTort and his wife were Huguenot refugees, who came to Pennsylvania from London in 1686. In March, 1704, Madame LeTort lived at Conestoga. James Letort was an Indian trader, and in 1728 he lived at Chenastry, on the west branch of the Susquehanna, not far above Shamokin. He, either before this time or afterwards, settled at Letort Springs, Cumberland county, and built there a trading post, which afterwards became the site of Carlisle. He was one of the earliest, if not the first, of the Shamokin traders that followed the Delaware Indians westward of the Alleghenies.

At the Court of Quarter Sessions, held on the first Tuesday in August, 1729, the township lines of the seven-

teen townships in the county, as "agreed upon by the magistrates and inhabitants" of the county on June 9, 1729, were confirmed, and constables were duly appointed for each one of them. The first case that was tried in that Court was Duus Rex (George II) vs. Morris Canady. The defendant was indicted for having stolen £14 7s, the goods of one Daniel Cookson. He was found guilty by a jury, and he was sentenced to pay "the said sum of £14 7s, and the costs of prosecution, together with £2 18s allowed to Daniel Cookson for loss of time, charges and disbursements in apprehending and prosecuting the thief." He was also sentenced to be publicly whipped on his bare back with twenty-one stripes well laid on. The latter punishment might prove now a more effective remedy against crime than some of the methods for the uplifting of criminals advocated by Reformers in these so-called enlightened days.

In 1729 there were but three lawyers at the Lancaster bar, Joseph Growden, Ralph Asketon and John Emerson. In 1731 Edward Harris and John Moland were admitted, and in 1732, Francis Sherrard. The names of these gentlemen appear in the record of the litigation of that period.

I have not more fully referred to the cases brought while the court sat at Postlethwaite's, because, at least so far as the civil calendar is concerned, H. Frank Eshleman, Esq., has, with considerable fulness, placed them on the records of this Society, and the repetition of what he has written would serve no useful purpose.

It is said that an Indian wigwam first occupied the site where the Postlethwaite tavern was built. In the minutes of a meeting of the Com-

missioners of Property, dated August 4, 1715 (O. S.), an entry appears: "Warrants were signed at several times to Robert Hodgson and James Hendricks" for "2 warrants for 3,500 acres at Conestoga at £10 per ct." In Patent Book S, volume 6, page 225, in the office of the Secretary of Internal Affairs at Harrisburg, it is recited that there was surveyed and laid out to James Hendricks by virtue of a warrant dated December 17, 1714 (O. S.), a tract of land on the east side of the Conestoga creek, containing 1,100 acres. This survey was never returned to the office. In the Patent Book it appears that James Hendricks, by deed, dated January 22, 1727, sold to John Postlethwaite and Tobias Hendricks 300 acres, and that shortly afterwards John Postlethwaite and Tobias Hendricks divided this land, of which division John Postlethwaite, in two tracts, received 170 acres. There is a deed upon the records of this county, dated November 13, 1738, from Tobias Hendricks to John Postlethwaite, wherein, in consideration of £200, Hendricks conveyed to Postlethwaite 130 acres, "beginning at the elm tree by Conestoga, at a corner of the said John Postlethwaite's land." It seems that this is the tract of land upon which the ordinary and Court House were located, and it may be that, while the sale took place at an earlier period, the deed was not then executed and delivered. With the other land belonging to Postlethwaite we are not at this time so much concerned. The name of Postlethwaite's wife was Mary. I cannot find out her maiden name. They had six children, viz: William, John, Susanna, wife of Benjamin Price, Samuel, Edmund and Richard. It is said that he bequeathed

his estate to his children, but, if he did, the will was not recorded in the office of our Register of Wills. If the will is upon record, which I doubt, it must have been proven somewhere else than in Lancaster county. He owned five tracts of land in Conestoga township, aggregating about 500 acres. By virtue of the Act of February 6, 1730-31, or some other act extending its provisions, he borrowed, on October 15, 1742, from the Trustees of the General Loan Office of Pennsylvania, on this land, the sum of £247, and he gave a mortgage upon the property to secure the payment of the money thus obtained. When the debt became due the payments were not met according to the stipulations of the mortgage, and the loan commissioners thereupon, after his death, foreclosed the mortgage and sold the land to Joseph Pugh. They executed a deed to Pugh for the same, bearing date June 10, 1756. At the time of making the sale the loan Commissioners made it a part of the conditions of their sale that whoever should purchase the mortgaged lands should execute deeds in fee simple to the children of John Postlethwaite, for their respective shares as bequeathed to them by the will of their father, John Postlethwaite, and, while Pugh did not make deeds direct, in strict accordance with this agreement, the children either transferred to him their rights, or the sales which he subsequently made were confirmed by them. Thus, on October 28, 1761, John, Samuel and Edmund Postlethwaite, three of his sons, gave a release and quit-claim deed to Tobias Stehman for 197 acres of land which were included in the original holding of John Postlethwaite. And on October 28, 1761, a like release and quit-claim deed was

made to Joseph Pugh for 168 acres of land which Pugh had sold to Bear, and which was likewise included therein. This latter release and quit-claim deed was executed by John and Samuel Postlethwaite. Mrs. Susanna Price and her husband, though named in these deeds, did not sign them, but her interest was evidently conveyed in some other way. All the proceedings in regard to the sale of the land were amicable between Joseph Pugh and the Postlethwaite children. He was their step-father, for a few years after Postlethwaite died he married the widow. The records of St. James' Episcopal Church show that on February 1, 1753, pew No. 13 was assigned to Mary Pugh, in the right of her former husband, John Postlethwaite. On December 4, 1753, the Orphans' Court of this county appointed Joseph Pugh as guardian of John and Samuel Postlethwaite, and, at the same time, on his petition, appointed James Wright, one of the loan commissioners, guardian of Edmund and Richard Postlethwaite. On September 7, 1756, when Edmund arrived at the age of fourteen years, he also selected Joseph Pugh as his guardian, and the appointment was made. I can find no accounts of these guardianships, nor are there any releases from the heirs to the guardians on record. Pugh was Sheriff of Lancaster county from 1755 to 1757, and some time between 1760 and July 5, 1770, he moved to Frederick county, Va. A deed made by him on the latter date makes no mention of his wife. The records of baptism of St. James Church from 1757 to 1783 have unfortunately disappeared, and the early records of the interments, if there ever were any, cannot be found. It is well-known that there were many persons

buried in St. James Graveyard whose graves are unmarked.

William Postlethwaite, who is mentioned as the eldest son, lived, at least for a while, in Lancaster city. He was a member of St. James' Episcopal Church. He was of age in 1750, for he was then, as has been stated, a party to a tripartite deed between himself, John Miller and Benjamin Price. On December 7, 1750, his brother-in-law, Benjamin Price, and his sister, Susanna Price, conveyed to him a house and lot of ground located on the north side of East King street, in the borough of Lancaster, near Centre Square, and also two small pieces of land in the rear. This property he, with his wife, Hannah, conveyed on August 14, 1751, to James Murphy. I have not been able to find out the surname of his wife. He then disappears, and where he went to I cannot ascertain.

John Postlethwaite, the son of John Postlethwaite, was born in 1737. He first married Hannah Wright, and afterward Susannah Irwin. He served in the Revolutionary War as a private. He was for a number of years a warden of St. James' Episcopal Church in Lancaster, and was also a charter member of the Juliana Library. He finally removed to Mifflin county, and settled in Long Hollow, Wayne township. Tradition says that he purchased his homestead for a horse and \$10. He died and was buried there on October 6, 1802.

Samuel Postlethwaite was born in 1738. On October 11, 1760, he married Matilda Rose, a daughter of Joseph Rose, barrister, who emigrated from Ireland. He was then a captain in the provincial militia. He subsequently served in the war of the Revolution, wherein he reached

the rank of Colonel. He moved to Cumberland county about 1781, and he was chosen Sheriff of that county on October 2, 1783. He was the first commander of the Carlisle Barracks. He, too, was a charter member of the Juliana Library. He died on August 24, 1810.

I cannot find any mention of either Edmund or Richard, except in the guardianship proceedings referred to above.

On April 26, 1762, Tobias Stehman deeded 73 acres, and on April 2, 1771, he deeded 22 acres and 102 perches, both included in his purchases from Pugh and the Postlethwaite's, to Andrew (Feal) Fehl. On August 8, 1792, Andrew Fehl and wife made a deed for the 73 acres tract to Jacob Fehl, his son. On December 24, 1805, the same tract, which was then described as 82 acres, 2 quarters and 29 perches, was sold by William White, High Sheriff of Lancaster county, as the property of Jacob Fehl, to John Good. John Good and wife signed a transfer for this same land on the back of the last mentioned deed to Daniel Good, but though this transfer was recorded, it was never delivered, and, therefore, Daniel Good and his wife and John Good and his wife subsequently, on March 24, 1838, granted and conveyed the said tract to Jacob Fehl, the son of the Jacob Fehl above mentioned. The latter in turn, with his wife, on April 1, 1876, conveyed this land to his son, George J. Fehl, who is its present possessor, and in whose ownership it has been now for almost forty years. As all of you know, you are now standing upon that land.

At a council held at Philadelphia, on February 19, 1730, the Honorable Patrick Gordon, Lieutenant-Governor, "acquainted the board that whereas

by the law for erecting Lancaster county John Wright, Caleb Pearce, Thomas Edwards and James Mitchell, or any three of them, are empowered to purchase, for the use of the said county, a convenient piece of land, to be approved of by the Governor, and thereon to build a Court House and prison, have, by a certificate under their hands, signified that they have agreed upon a lot of land for the uses aforesaid, lying on or near a small run of water between the plantations of Roody Mire, Michael Shank and Jacob Imble, about ten miles from Susquehanna river, and pray his approbation of the same. The Governor thereupon referred the matter to the consideration of the board whether the situation of the place those gentlemen had pitched on for a town might be fit to be confirmed and that a town should accordingly be fixed there. But the question being asked to whom the land they had made choice of belongs and who has the property of it, because it may be in such hands as will not part with it, or at least on reasonable terms, for that use, and this not being known by any of the board, it was deferred until such time as that point could be ascertained. But as it is presumed, for anything that is known, to be his surveyed land, and that the right is only in the proprietary, it is the opinion of the board that it is more proper to be granted by the proprietary for such uses than by any other person." Attached subsequently to the minutes of the same meeting appears the entry: "The Governor having understood that the right to the land pitched upon for the town stead of Lancaster remains yet in the Proprietaries, was advised to approve the place agreed on by Messrs. Wright, Pearce and

Mitchell, and the same was confirmed accordingly by a writing dated May 1, 1730."

By a deed dated May 16, 1730, Andrew Hamilton, of the city of Philadelphia, and Ann, his wife, deeded to Caleb Pearce, John Wright, Thomas Edwards and John Mitchell, the persons designated in the Act of May 10, 1729, a lot of ground, whereon the Court House was to be erected, situated within the public square, near the center of the town of Lancaster, "Beginning at a post by High street, thence east 3 degrees north, 66 feet, thence north 3 degrees west, 66 feet, thence west 3 degrees, 66 feet, thence south 3 degrees east, 66 feet, to the place of beginning. Containing 484 yards, and bounded by the said street and public square on each side. And also a lot of ground whereon a prison was to be erected, situated at the south end of North Water Square, beginning at a post by High street, thence by the same, east 3 degrees north, 148 feet to a post at a corner of the said street to Water street, thence by Water street, north 3 degrees west, 120 feet, thence by other land of the said Andrew Hamilton, west 3 degrees south, 148 feet, and thence south — degrees east, 120 feet to the place of beginning. Containing 65 perches."

The Courts were moved from Postlethwaite's to Lancaster in 1730, and the first session was held at the latter place on November 3 of that year. It is certain that there was no Court House erected in Lancaster at that time. Where the Courts were temporarily held is not shown in any of the histories, nor in the county records. The Court House there was commenced in 1731, for, in a letter dated October 3, 1731, written by Samuel Blunston to Robert Charles,

it is said: "About a week ago several of the magistrates met at Lancaster to assist in raising the Court House." The first entry in the minute book of the County Commissioners concerning the Court House at Lancaster is dated November 3, 1737. It is as follows: "The Comrs. mett & considered about getting the court house finished and ordered the clerk to give notice to Cornelius Vorhultz to attend at Lancaster on the 11th of this inst. to show why he doath not go on with the work. Then they adjourned to meet at Lancaster on the 11th day of this inst." On November 11th there is another entry: "The Comrs. mett butt Cornelius Vorhultz did not attend. They have therefore agreed with Samuel Bethel for bricks to pave the florres of the court house as also to gett scaffold powles for the carpenter to shingle the pent housis of the court house, and having that Samuel Blunston, Esq., notified to be at Lancaster to-morrow morning. They were desirous to have his advice about the finishing of the bars. They therefore adjourned to to-morrow morning."

"November 12. The Comrs. mett. Samuel Blunston, Esq., was in town, who assisted in advice, and it was resolved that the bench that now is and the barr should be taken down and altered and two turned posts should be afixed under the girders, which is to done before the floor be paved there. They sent to Cornelius Vorhultz, the carpenter, immediately to go on with his part of the work."

William Marsh, secretary of the Commissioners of Maryland, who attended at the making of the Treaty with the Six Nations on June 25, 1744, and for some succeeding days writes in his diary as of June 21, 1744: "Messrs. Calvert, Craddock and

myself went into and viewed the court house of this town. It is a pretty large brick building, two stories high. The ground room where the justices of this county hold their court is very spacious. There is a handsome bench and railed in where on they sit and a chair in the midst of it which is filled by the judge. Below this bench is a large table of half-oval form. Round this and under their worships sit the county clerk and several attorneys of the court, who, here, as well as in most other Courts of the plantations, plead as counsellors. There are particular seats and places allotted to the sheriff, crier, &c. Fronting the justices' bench and on each side of it are several long steps or stairs raised each above the other, like the steps leading into the north door of St. Paul's. On these steps stand the several auditors and spectators when a court is held here. It was on these that the Indian chiefs sat when they treated with the several governments. This court house is capable to contain above 800 persons without incommoding each other. When we had surveyed this room we went upstairs into one overhead. This is a good room and has a large chimney. In this the justices sit in the month of February for the convenience of the fire. Adjoining to this room is a smaller one, where the juries are kept to agree on their verdict. On the top of the court house is a kind of cupola. We ascended a ladder and got into it. From hence we had a complete view of the whole town and the country several miles around and likewise of part of the Susquehanna river at twelve miles distance." Mr. Marsh, of course, was wrong when he thought he saw the Susquehanna river.

On or about June 9, 1784, this Court House was destroyed by fire. A new one in its place was commenced in Centre Square, in the same year, and it was completed by February, 1787. This building is described as follows:

"This second Court House, which also occupied Centre Square at Lancaster, was a two-storied structure, having four faces and four gables, facing respectively towards North Queen, East King, South Queen, and West King streets, that facing southward being then considered its main front. The building was of brick, but its eight corners were laid up of blocks of cut stone and the lintels and window-sills were of the same material. From the centre of the shingled roof rose a steeple or cupola, in which hung the bell, and on this the hours were struck by the hammer of the Eberman clock, which had four dials, fronting north, south, east, and west, like the gables of the building.

"There were doors in the centre of each front of the building, but the principal entrance to the Court room, which occupied the entire lower story, was by the South Queen street front. The door on the North Queen street side was never opened, that end of the Court room being occupied by the Judges' bench. The west door was seldom opened, except when there was a great crowd in attendance, and the east door was used principally by the attorneys and Court officers, and by persons having business in the rooms in the second story of the building. At the north end of the Court room was the Judges' bench, placed on a platform raised some two or three feet above the floor. The bench was reached by a flight of steps placed at the east and west ends of the platform. In front of the bench

Encloses 4 tracts first owned by John Postlethwaite 500 a. See re-  
citals in Pat. Bk. A, 6-2254, Deed Bk. N-300 (Lanc.)  
Encloses tracts sold by Jos. Pugh, purchaser of Postlethwaite land.  
Encloses Geo. Fehl tract part of 144 acres - Bk. Y p 107. H. F. E.

[P] Indicates Postlethwaite Tavern.

[X] "Postlethwaite Graveyard."

Great Conestoga

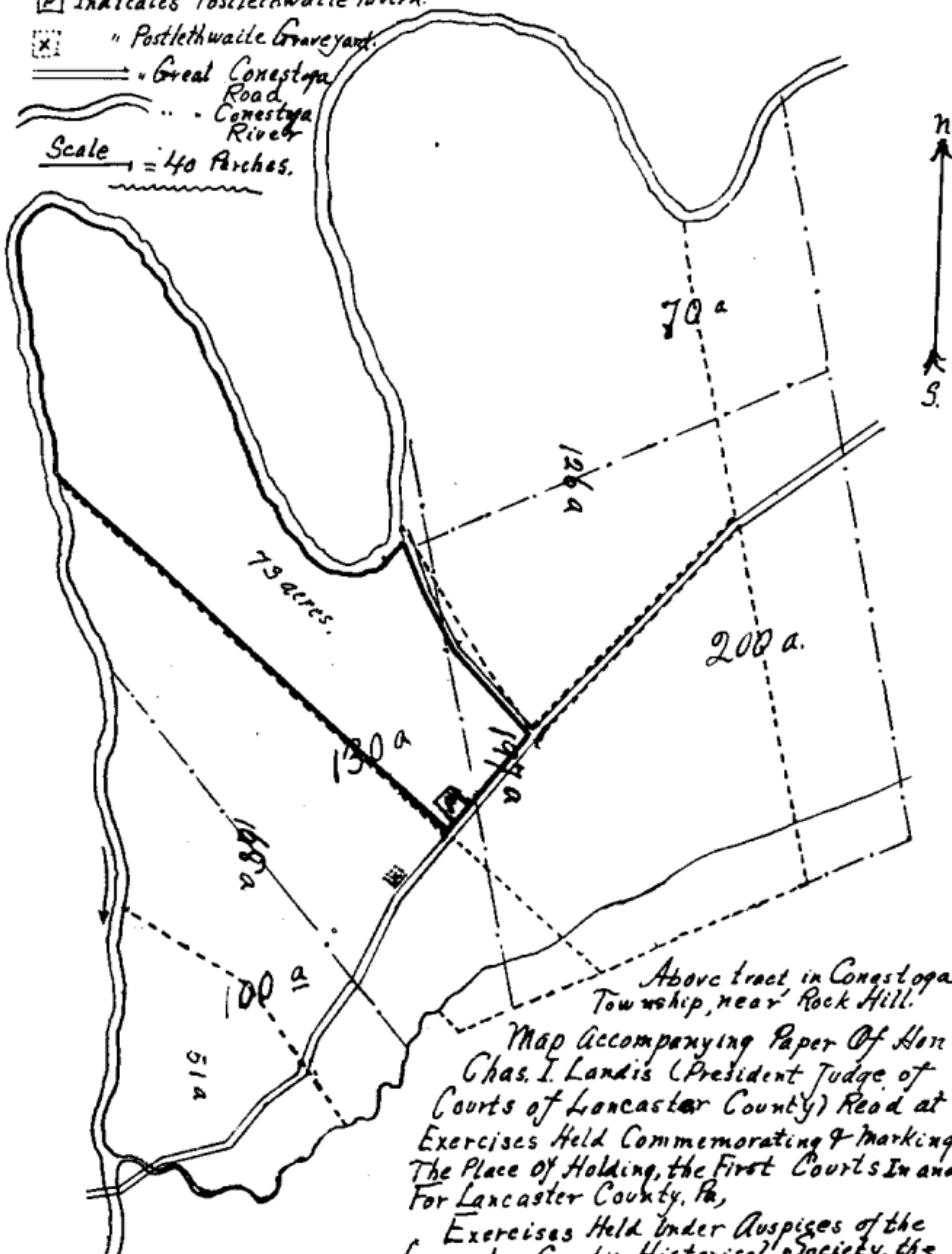
Road

Conestoga

River

Scale

1 = 40 Perches.



Map of Postlethwaite Tract.

was a convenient desk for the use of the Judges. At the west end of the desk was the witness stand, a little crib raised a step or two above the floor, just large enough for one man to get into, and close beside it was the seat of the crier. The 'bar' occupied a semi-circular space of some twenty feet in diameter, immediately in front of the bench. It was raised one step above the Court room floor, and inclosed by a high and strong railing. On the east side of the inclosure were placed seats for the grand jury, and on the west seats for the petit jury. In front of the juries were two long tables, and about two dozen chairs for the use of the lawyers. Access to the bar was had through a wicket at the south end of the inclosure, and here were placed two tipstaves with their official 'poles,' to keep order and prevent the intrusion of improper persons. Inside the bar, to the west of this wicket, was the prisoners' dock, inclosed by an additional railing.

"On the east and west sides of the bar were a few rows of benches, raised one above the other, and facing inward, for the accommodation of jurors and witnesses awaiting their turn to be called. The southern half of the Court room was for the public generally, and was supplied with long rows of benches rising one above the other, and facing the bench and bar. \* \* \* The walls of the Court room were quite plain, but were relieved by a very heavy moulding running around the ceiling, while at equal distances from the east and west doors arose two fluted columns, to support the weight of the heavy girder that extended from the east to the west wall. Above the Judges' bench was a very well-executed painting of the coat of arms of Pennsylvania.

"The second story of the Court House was divided into three rooms, access to which was had by a circular stairway, built just inside the east entrance to the main Court room. Ascending this stairway, a landing was reached opening into the three rooms, the larger of which occupied the western half of the building, and was used for holding District and Orphans' Courts. The other two rooms occupied the eastern half of the building, and were used for jury rooms, meetings of City Councils, school board, etc. These rooms were heated by wood fires in old-fashioned fire-places built in the corners of them."

In this building, besides the holding of the Court, the Legislature met while Lancaster was the capital of the State, from 1799 to 1812.

On August 23, 1852, the corner stone of the present Court House was laid by S. Sloan, architect, and Jas. Crawford, superintendent. The building was first occupied for the holding of the Courts on November 20, 1854. The addition on the north end of the same was commenced November 1, 1896, and it was completed about January 1, 1900.

While much more might be added to this sketch, yet I feel that I have sufficiently taxed your patience. In extenuation of the length of time that I have taken in presenting it to you, I must plead that it is to me a most interesting story, and one with which I think every citizen of our county should be acquainted. I make no pretense that what is here set down is new, for how can any one hope to bring to light new things after a lapse of almost 200 years? There are, however, a few historical facts relating to the subject which have not yet been inscribed in our journals, and their presentation, perhaps, may

serve as a sufficient excuse for the retelling of the incidents which have heretofore been noted.

### An Address By A. S. Benedict.

After "America," by the audience and band, Mr. A. S. Benedict, of Conestoga, read a pleasing paper, on "German-Swiss Influence in Lower Conestoga Valley," as follows:

Neighbors of old Conestoga, after having been assigned the topic, "German-Swiss Influence in Lower Conestoga Valley," I first wondered why so many German-Swiss came to Pennsylvania.

If you will review the early history, you will find, as early as 1671, Wm. Penn was in Germany preaching the religion he loved, and winning honest men to this cause. Again in 1677 he traveled over Europe, and preached his principles of peace to a war-weary people.

It was no small task to preach and suffer in a strange land. Penn did this so nobly that he won the love and gratitude of many Germans, and with them he kept his word as sacredly as he did with the Indians. It was a great moment in Penn's life when he faced the Indians, unarmed, under the Shackamaxon Elm. It was a greater moment when he preached his way into the hearts of the Germans along the Rhine.

This is why Pennsylvania became the most important German settlement in the New World. The true history of their mutual love and helpfulness is the unwritten story of the rapid growth of the grand old Keystone State.

These Germans that came to Pennsylvania were not an ignorant people.

They were the most learned settlers that came to America. The first Speaker of the House of Representatives, F. A. Muhlenberg, and eight Governors of Pennsylvania, had German blood in their veins. Among these early German settlers were such men as Christopher Sauer, of Germantown, the first great printer in America. In 1743, thirty-nine years before the Bible was printed in English, the Germans of Pennsylvania were reading the German Bible from the press of the learned Dr. Sauer.

Another German of note in those ways was Christopher Dock. He was a good scholar, a devout Mennonite, and a school teacher.

Dock's schools were famous among the Germans of the Schuylkill Valley. His Dunker friend, Christopher Sauer, persuaded him to write and print a description of his method of keeping school. Dock at first refused, fearing it would be sinful to write anything in his own praise. His minister, Dielman Kolb, removed his scruples on this score, and Dock completed the work August 8, 1750.

He then said he would not allow it to be printed during his lifetime, but nineteen years afterward Christopher Sauer's son won Dock's consent to print it. But the manuscript was lost. Dock wrote to young Sauer: "Do not trouble yourself about the lost writing. It has never been my opinion that it should be printed during my lifetime, and so I am pleased that it is lost."

But a year later it was found, and was published by the young Sauer in 1770.

This book was the first written and published in America on school teaching.

It is pleasant, indeed, to follow these early German-Swiss settlers westward through the fertile valleys and over the pleasant slopes of our own great county of Lancaster, and, in our historical cruise stop a while at Ephrata, where the second great printing establishment was located. Here and at Germantown many religious works, a newspaper and an almanac were printed and widely read.

We follow them on into ancient Conestoga township, and even into our homes.

Taking up the public spirit of our German-Swiss on the lower Conestoga, which included the original Conestoga, Pequea and Manor townships, I have collected these facts:

Among the German-Swiss holding township offices for Overseers of the Poor, Town Clerk Supervisors and Auditors during the one hundred years from 1740 to 1840, in Conestoga township, which includes Pequea, the Good family held offices for 31 terms; Bachmans, 17; Hesses, 20; Myers, 15; Millers, 10; Warfels, 16; Urbans, 11; Shenks, 11; Thomases, 6; Stehmans, 5; Rathfons, 6; Musser, 10; Kendigs, 8; Haversticks, 7; Gochenaurs, 5; Fehls, 5; Brennemans, 11; Bears, 11, and also others a similar number of terms of office.

As to Justices of the Peace in Conestoga we have Germans holding office, among others, as follows: Martins, 1845-74; Fehls, '54, '59, '64, '69; Urbans, '61, '66, '71, '76; Fultons, '42, '47, '52, and others.

The German-Swiss were zealous enough to hold a fair amount of county offices. Michael Shenk, Commissioner, 1804; Jacob McAllister, 1832; John Warfel, Legislature, 1842;

Hugh Mehaffey, Register of Wills, 1836-39; Jacob Peters, State Legislature, 1860; John W. Urban, Clerk of Quarter Sessions, 1872-74; Amos Groff, Coroner, 1875-77; John P. Good, Recorder, 1880-82.

When we turn to landowners in Conestoga township, for the year 1780, we find the Bear family owned 180 acres; Brennemans, 450 acres; Burkholders, 180; Eshlemans, 640; Fehls, 100; Hesses, 649; Kendigs, 365; Kreiders, 305; Lines, 200; Myers, 220; Millers, 480; Resh, 240; Rathfons, 285; Stehmans, 725; Shenks, 580; Urbans, 300, and Warfels, 160 acres.

As to the value of our German-Swiss landowners' estates in 1780, we find that Bear's real estate was assessed at £10,000, Michael Brenneman's at £6,000, David, John and Benedict Eshleman's at £26,000; Samuel Myers, £8,800; Tobias Stehman's at £14,000, and Michael Shenk's at £6,000.

As to the German-Swiss predomination in Manor township, we find out of 280 heads of families, 15 were English or Scotch-Irish, and the other 265 were German-Swiss.

When we turn to the Germans of Manor township, taking in the public affairs and official life, we find that in the Legislature of Pennsylvania there were Jacob Krimmel, 1803-1807; Jacob Shuman, 1845-1846; Abram Peters, 1861. Jacob Stehman was State Senator in 1854.

There are now only a few figures I wish to read which will show our comparative standing in Lancaster county to-day. These figures will show to what extent these German descendants, or to what extent you have developed Conestoga, how an-

cient Conestoga stands in Lancaster county at the present time.

You have at present 1,131 land-owners, owning one-seventeenth of the number of acres in the entire county.

You have one-fourteenth of the horses, representing one-thirteenth of the value of the horses in the entire county.

You have one-thirteenth of the cattle, representing one-fourteenth of the value of the cattle of the entire county.

You pay one-seventeenth of the county tax; you have one-sixteenth of all the money at interest.

You pay one-fifteenth of the personal taxes. You have within the borders of ancient Conestoga township forty schools, which measure up from every viewpoint to any schools in the other rural districts of Lancaster county.

You have a corps of teachers within those schools that have developed to such a degree of efficiency that their marks show that they are among the best in the county.

Thanks to the teachers and the pupils, and to the directors and the parents in aiding the teachers in bringing out the schools of the township, and showing their true German holiday spirit.

As to the patriotism displayed by the German-Swiss of Conestoga township, out of the ninety soldiers enlisted during the Civil War, sixty-two were German-Swiss. In the militia to protect the State of Pennsylvania, there were forty German-Swiss out of a total of forty-seven.

The Germans, as a people were not of an inventive turn of mind, but in the art of development, they were past masters.

The large landowner was not alone in work of development. The farm laborer, the mechanic, the business and professional men share an equal amount of credit.

As a rule, the German settlers stuck to the soil. As an example of the German landowner, I will mention the Stehman family, who, for 156 years, have owned land along the Old Road, and within the borders of ancient Conestoga township.

Just one day less than one hundred years before the birth of our president, H. S. Stehman, his great-great-grandfather, Jacob Stehman, was born. He built the old hotel at Slackwater, and also the grist mill, which afterwards was converted into the paper mill. He afterwards purchased the farm now owned by Charles Warfel.

We find that all succeeding generations of the Stehmans stuck to the soil until at present we have H. S. Stehman, Tobias Stehman, Albert Stehman, Frank Stehman, representing the sixth and seventh generations, owning five farms along the Old Road, and within the borders of ancient Conestoga township.

As a German laborer, I will mention Isaac Hoak, quite lately deceased. This man was born on the farm now owned by Frank Stehman, but at the time of his birth by Tobias Stehman. For seventy years Isaac Hoak first played, then labored for four generations of Stehmans, on Stehman soil. Only two years did he spend in labor for other men. I do not believe there is another case parallel to it in the county, possibly not in the State. Does that not show in the life of that man, as well as in the lives of his employers, a spirit that is invariably crowned with success

As an example of the strictly Swiss family, I will mention the Pfautz family. The first of this family landed in Philadelphia prior to 1709. Six generations of his posterity lived in ancient Conestoga township, all tilling the soil as owners or laborers.

Now, neighbors of old Conestoga, you as descendants of the German-Swiss of earlier days, have progressed along financial, industrial and educational lines. You have toiled and helped to build up the produce markets of Lancaster, until they have become the best in the country. The products from this particular section are asked for and sought out by our urban population. The proceeds therefrom have been deposited in our county banks, which has resulted in making our forty-eight banks worth the enormous sum of \$48,000,000.

Through your industry you have helped to make Lancaster the greatest cattle market, east of Chicago.

You have helped to give Lancaster county a political standing so high that the flashing of her returns upon the canvass are as eagerly watched for as are the best districts of Philadelphia or Pittsburgh. You have helped to build a wonderful county and made her stand out so that she can be easily viewed from every part of the Keystone State.

You were willing to give your lives during the greatest of civil strifes. You have fought your way through until you can say that you have been a great factor in building the "Garden Spot" of the nation.

You, as German-Swiss descendants in all these achievements have done your part well and success has crowned your efforts. Well you may be proud of the part you have taken in building a township like Conestoga, a county like Lancaster, and a State like Pennsylvania.

## A. K. Hostetter's Address.

After music by the band, A. K. Hostetter read an erudite paper on "English and Scotch-Irish Pioneers of Old Conestoga and Their Descendants." He spoke as follows:

By scanning the historic pages of early Lancaster county we find that among the pioneer settlers in this locality were numerous families which came here from the British Isles. We also find, however, that for some reason they did not remain here long, most of them migrating from here to the neighborhood of the "Donegal Meeting-house," around which were grouped many of their old-time friends, most of whom were Presbyterians, and perhaps selected that locality so as to be near their place of worship. From thence they scattered to points farther west, some going to Cumberland, Juniata and Allegheny counties, while others pushed still farther into the undeveloped country of the Middle Western States.

History tells us that there were no white settlers in Lancaster county before 1708 or 09. However, there were a few traders scattered along the Susquehanna as early as 1703, these being Peter Bazillion, Jos. Jessop, James Letort and Martin Chartier, all French; one, — Mitchell, a Swiss; Nicole Godin, an active young fellow, reputed to be a sneak, and one, Franciscus. In 1705, Thos. Chalkley, an eminent Quaker preacher, of Nottingham, Chester county, made a visit to Conestoga, preaching to the Indians (through an interpreter) of the crucifixion of Christ and the saving power of Jesus. In 1706, Governor John Evans, who had come to America with Penn, fearing that the Indians at Conestoga might be alienated

on account of the warfare between the French and English, visited this place and was warmly received. In 1707 Governor Evans again visited Conestoga, but on this visit he was found to be a traitor, for he was permitting French Papists from Canada to trade with the Indians and seduce them from the English interests. In this, as well as other instances, it was shown that he was guilty of conduct far beneath the dignity of his position; so much so that the Legislature sent a petition to England asking for his removal, which request was granted, and Charles Gookin was named as his successor.

In 1709 Governor Gookin made his first visit to Conestoga and was much impressed with the attachment the Indians showed toward the English.

In 1711 he made a second visit to this place.

In 1715 Rev. Chalkley again visited and preached to these Indians.

In 1717, Sir William Kieth, who succeeded Governor Gookin, visited Conestoga, as he also did in 1722.

Having told you about the various visits made by the early English pioneers to this vicinity, we are now about to take up the subject of Indian traders, and, if possible, trace the line of descent of the English and Scotch-Irish down to the present generation.

It is always interesting to note the movement of population, and to trace the records of early settlers and settlements in any locality, particularly when the period covered is several centuries as in the case in this instance. However, to forge a connecting link between the families of those early pioneers and those of the present generation is an undertaking of no diminutive degree.

The earliest Indian traders to locate here were Canadian Frenchmen, the first of whom was Martin Chartier, who married an Indian squaw, and in 1708 died and was buried in Washington Borough, leaving all his property to his son, Peter, who likewise married an Indian squaw. Then followed Joseph Jessop, Peter Bazillion and James Letort. After the Frenchmen came the two Cartlidge brothers, Edmond and John, the only Quakers who were known to be traders. They resided in Chester county as early as 1698.

We now reach that part in the historic annals of our county when the Scotch-Irish and English appear on the frontier. In the list of taxables for 1718, we find that forty-one Englishmen had previously located hereabouts, including the single men, or freemen, as they are significantly called.

Among these we find that James Patterson, a native of Salisbury, England, located in Conestoga-Manor, about one mile east of Washington Borough, where he had a trading post; also, large tracts of land on the east and west sides of the river. The western part of his land was cleared and fenced for grazing. It was here where he kept his pack horses with which he brought his purchased pelts from along the Potomac. The Governor of Maryland, claiming all the land west of the Susquehanna as part of their domain, sent Colonel Cresap, with his band of ruffians, to take possession of this western tract. Cresap began laying claim by killing Patterson's horses. Patterson made a vigorous defense, saying that he would wade in blood up to his knees before he would allow Cresap to drive him away from there. These troubles, however, broke

up the west side trading post, which was a great loss to Patterson. This was the beginning of the border troubles, which led to Cresaps' war. Patterson died at his home in Manor in 1735. To his son, James, he bequeathed three hundred acres, in the Cumberland Valley. He left another son, Thomas, who died young; also, three daughters—<sup>1</sup>Susanna, who married an Indian trader, James Lowery, of Donegal; <sup>2</sup>Sarah, who married Benj. Chambers, a native of Ireland, who landed in Philadelphia in 1726, at the age of eighteen. Being a millwright, he was attracted, by the description of a hunter, to a fine water-fall at the mouth of the "Falling Spring," where he erected, first, a saw-mill, and later a flouring mill, much needed industries which soon influenced new settlements in the vicinity.

Here, in 1764, he laid out the town of Chambersburg. He was commissioned as Justice of the Peace; also, a Colonel of the Militia. His sons, James, William and Benjamin, entered the Revolution at its outbreak, in 1775. James was advanced to the position of colonel, while William and Benjamin became captains.

Colonel Benjamin died in 1788, aged about eighty. The third of Patterson's daughters, Rebecca, married John Keagy, of the old mansion farm. Dr. John Keagy, the eminent educator and author, was a descendent. One of the leading practitioners of the Lancaster Bar, Mr. John A. Coyle, is also a direct descendent of this family.

Mr. Keagy died, after which his widow married James Jacks, who after the Revolution became Register of Wills.

James Patterson died, after which his widow married twice—firstly, to Thomas Ewing, and afterwards to

John Conolly, and became the mother of the notorious Dr. John Conolly, who was imprisoned in Philadelphia for his traitorous conduct toward the patriots in their struggle against Great Britain.

Captain James Patterson settled on his Cumberland Valley farm until the Juniata Valley was opened up, when, in 1755, he got his warrant for 407 acres at Mexico, which, in 1763, he had patented. His home was known as "Pattersons," and to the river boatmen it was known as "Patterson's Landing." He died here. His will was probated at Carlisle January 22, 1722. His wife, Mary (Stewart), died in 1785, survived by the following named children, viz.: Captain William, James, Mary, Susanna and George. William (James, James) was married to Mary Galbraith, which marriage was blest with one son, Galbraith Patterson, who was born at Patterson Fort, now Mexico, in 1776, who studied law with Jasper Yeates and was admitted to the Lancaster County Bar in 1789. He was admitted to the Dauphin County Bar shortly afterwards, where he attained considerable prominence as one of the leading practitioners. He died in 1801. His widow married Jos. Orbison, of Chambersburg. Galbraith's marriage was blest with two children, Dr. Edmund B. Patterson, who practiced medicine at Lewistown, where he died in 1828, without issue, and Isabella, who married, firstly, David Maclay, and, secondly, Judge Alexander L. Hays, of Lancaster, who was born in Delaware, in 1793, graduated from Dickinson College in 1812, was admitted to the Delaware County Bar in 1815, practiced law in Philadelphia for one year and in Reading for six years. While in Reading he married

Miss Patterson. In 1827, Governor Schulz appointed him Associate Judge for Lancaster county, which office he held until 1833, in which year the district was divided, and Governor Wolf appointed him as President Judge of the District Court of Lancaster City and County, which office he held until 1849, when that Court was abolished.

William's wife, Mary, died, after which he married Esther Finley, a granddaughter of John Harris, and daughter of John Finley, who, in 1744, guided Daniel Boone and his party into Kentucky.

Mary (James, James) married General James Potter, of Cumberland county, who, although having had a very limited education, the native force of his intellect and his hopeful tact in military and civil affairs was such as to bring him success in all his undertakings. Having been driven from his settlement by the Indians at the opening of the Revolution, he enlisted and was with Washington during the campaigns at Valley Forge and Brandywine, and many of Washington's orders and letters are preserved among General Potter's papers. After years of military service, in 1782, he returned to his farms in Cumberland county, which farms aggregated about 900 acres. We find him assessed there with negroes, servants and other taxables, which indicate that he had attained great prominence. On one occasion he came within one vote of being elected President of the State.

General Potter's daughter, Mary, married Hon. Andrew Gregg, who, in 1790, was elected a member of Congress, which office he held for sixteen years. During the term of 1806-07 he was a member of the United States Senate.

In December, 1820, under Governor Hiester, he became Secretary of the Commonwealth. In 1823 he was the nominee of the Federal party for Governor in opposition to John Andrew Shulze. His grandson, Hon. Andrew Gregg Curtin, a son of Roland Curtin, was born in Bellefonte in 1815; studied law at Carlisle and Bellefonte; was admitted to the Bellefonte Bar in 1837; took an active part in the Harrison campaign in 1840; was appointed Secretary of the Commonwealth by Governor Pollock in 1855. By virtue of this office he became Superintendent of Public Schools, during which time he made one of his most popular moves by the institution of Normal Schools. In 1860 he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania. At the close of the war he made another, and, perhaps, the most popular, move of his whole career by the establishment of Orphan Schools for the children of those who fell in the service of their country. In 1869 President Grant appointed him Minister to Russia. George Patterson married Jane Burd, daughter of Colonel James Burd and Sarah Shippen, of (Titian) Highspire, Pa., who was a daughter of Edward Shippen, at that time prothonotary of Lancaster county. This Sarah Burd was a sister to Chief Justice Shippen, consequently aunt to the Judge's daughter, who a few years later became so prominently identified in history as the wife of Benedict Arnold.

Among the descendants of this family we find that George's daughter, Charlotte, married William Thompson, of Thompsonstown, Pa., whose son, Theodore S., married Annie Elizabeth Cassel, of Marietta, he being the proprietor of the Thompsonstown flouring mills which were established in 1780. They had a son, Edward Shippen

Thompson, who married Charlotte Patterson Crowthers, and following the line of descent we find that William Haliburton Thomson married Charlotte Patterson, which now brings us to the eighth generation from our pioneer, James Patterson, and as a representative of that branch of the "family tree" we have Edward S. Thompson, a historian of Thompsonstown, Pa.

In the early part of the Nineteenth century there occurred in the Patterson family a romance which historians have been very fond of alluding to, when Miss Elizabeth Spear Patterson (daughter of William Patterson, who was then a prominent merchant in Baltimore) met in that city Jerome Bonaparte, the youngest brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, by whom she was wooed and won as a bride on December 27, 1803. When the war broke out between France and England in 1803, Jerome was cruising off the West Indies, but was soon compelled to take refuge in the port of New York, from whence he went to Baltimore, where, it is said, he was successful only in one particular, viz: That of a "drawingroom artist." Miss Patterson was universally conceded to have been the belle of her day. She was beautiful, rich, and highly accomplished. Young Bonaparte, like many others, fell in love with her, which feeling was at once reciprocated by her, with the above result.

After two years of married life he took his wife on a voyage to England. In the meantime he had heard of his brother, Napoleon's indignation about this marriage, and, therefore, left his wife at Lisbon under a plea of ill-health, and went permanently to plead his case before the Emperor, who had been heard to swear that no

Patterson should ever be a member of his family. He had the marriage annulled, and the young wife was never allowed to set foot on French soil.

While in England she gave birth to a son, Jerome Bonaparte Patterson, after which she returned to again make her home in Baltimore. This son grew to manhood and was married to Susan Mary Williams, by whom he had two sons, Jerome Napoleon Patterson and Charles Joseph Patterson.

The latter matriculated at Harvard in 1871 with a degree of A. B., in 1874 with the degree of LL.B., and at Mt. St. Mary's in 1882 with the degree of LL.D. He married Ellen Channing Day, of Newport, R. I., on September 1, 1876; was admitted to the Baltimore Bar in 1874; was Secretary of the Navy under President Roosevelt's administration in 1905, and Attorney General from 1906 to 1909.

I have previously stated that the first Quaker-Indian traders were the Cartlidge brothers (French), but the first English Quakers who became traders here were James, John and Tobias Hendricks, from Chester. The first two named were here prior to 1718, but we find no record of the date of Tobias' arrival here. However, we find that several bonds of tavern-keepers were taken by Tobias before the county was erected. The immense immigration into Pennsylvania caused the settlements on the frontier of the province to increase so rapidly that it was found necessary to have Chester county divided, and a number of petitions praying for the formation of a new county out of Chester were forwarded to the Governor. On February 20, 1729, the Governor issued an order for such division, and the formation of the pro-

posed new county. Tobias Hendricks was named as one of the viewers to lay out such dividing line. We also find that Tobias was one of the presiding Judges at three terms of Court held at Postlethwaite's—on November 1, 1729; February 3, 1730, and August 4, 1730. In Will book A, Vol. 1, P. 39, of our Court records we find that his will was probated in 1739, and that he was survived by Catherine, his wife, and eight children, among whom was Tobias, Jr., who settled in Cumberland county, and in 1747 became tax collector for East Pennsboro township there. In 1760 we find him listed there among the taxpayers. In the next generation we find that Tobias, Jr., had a son, Abraham, who married Ann Jamison, both of whom are buried in the Presbyterian burying-ground at Ligonier, Westmoreland county.

They were survived by nine children, one of whom was John, who became one of the foremost citizens of his community. He was deputy surveyor of lands under Jackson and ran his first lines around his own pre-emption. He married Jane Thompson, a sister of Judge Alex. Thompson, a renowned jurist of the Franklin-Somerset-Fulton Bedford district. After his retirement from that official position his library became the law school of Marshall College of Mercersburg, at that time a prominent seat of learning in the town in which he lived. Frank Thomson, a son of this Judge Thomson, became vice-president of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. After the marriage of John Hendricks this name disappears from the annals of Pennsylvania history. William Hendricks, an older brother, who had for some time been a prominent lawyer in Cincinnati, moved

to Indiana and became second Governor of that State. He also served as a Member of Congress, and subsequently was United States Senator from that district.

To show what prominence he had attained in the Hoosier State, I beg to refer to Hendricks county, which was named in his honor. John and his bride soon followed William westward, locating near Zanesville, O., where Thomas, their oldest son, was born September 7, 1819. In 1822 he settled on a farm which became part of the plot on which Shelbyville, Ind., was afterwards built.

We have now reached the most prominent part of the Hendricks "Family Tree" when we refer to Thomas Andrew Hendricks, who in his early life, having shown an ardent love for books, was given all possible encouragement in that direction by his parents. After leaving his preparatory school, he was sent to Hanover College at Madison, graduating there in 1841. He then took up the study of law under Judge Major, one of the leading lawyers in Shelbyville, and later, under his uncle, Judge Thompson. He was admitted to the Bar in 1843, and soon attained great prominence as a lawyer. In 1845 he became a member of the Legislature.

In 1851 he was sent to Congress, which honor was again accorded him in 1853. From 1863 to 1869 he was United States Senator. In 1876 he became a candidate for Vice President of the United States with Samuel J. Tilden, and is said to have been elected, but was counted out. Although he had now become a full-fledged politician, yet he had at no time lost interest in his profession; on the contrary, his reputation as a lawyer, was growing and he was be-

coming all the more prominent as such. One of his most successful efforts in behalf of his client was that of Miller, an embezzling officer of the First National Bank of Indianapolis, in the United States Court, and the tact with which Mr. Hendricks handled the case showered the highest commendation on him. In 1884 William A. Wallace, of Pennsylvania, again nominated him for Vice President of the United States under Grover Cleveland's candidacy, and both candidates were duly elected. Mr. Hendricks took an active part in this campaign, but in no State was he more of a favorite or were his services more eagerly solicited than in Pennsylvania, where both lines of his ancestry had their roots. On one occasion, in making a stump speech in Philadelphia, he said: "The war is over; the winds of heaven have blown away the smoke of battle. We are one people. One flag once more floats over us all. One constitution establishes the framework for us all. Let us in heart and in hand, in sentiment, in affection, and fraternity be again one people."

Among the taxable of 1718 for Conestoga appears the name of Robert Middleton, a freeman, who evidently died about 1781, for in that year we find his will probated, and in it learn that he was survived by his wife, Mary, and three children, viz: John, who resided in Donegal; George, who by a Penn grant became the owner of a large tract of land in Martic township, and Jean. The only one of these having issue was John, who married Mary Moderwell. Their daughter, Mary, married John Whitehill in 1783. They had ten children, of whom John married Elizabeth Cameron. The first one of their eight children, Jane C., married Samuel

Redsecker. This now brings us down to the present generation when we refer to their daughter, Jane E. Redsecker, of this city, at present a member of the Lancaster County Historical Society, as the widow of the late Samuel Slaymaker. The surviving children of this family are Miss Rebecca J., Samuel R., one of Lancaster's prominent manufacturers, as the head of the Slaymaker Lock Manufacturing Company, and Henry C., also members of this society. Miss Arabella W. Redsecker, of Columbia, and Samuel Redsecker, of this city, are also descendants of this branch of the family.

Another of the early English traders of this section whose descendants attained great prominence was Robert Wilkins, who settled near Conestoga in 1718, as indicated by a letter written by James Steel, the surveyor for Chester county, which county at that time included all of our present Lancaster county. It read as follows:

Philada, 6th 1st Mo. 1727.

"Loving friend Isaac Taylor:

"Some time in September, 1718 Robert Wilkins obtained a warrant for 150 acres of land near Conestoga as it was then called. Some time after he paid £10 of the purchase money, upon which he was allowed to add 50 more acres. Now, Robert Wilkins having sold his rights in the said land to James Anderson the Presbyterian minister of those parts, who, finding the survey begun but not finished, he desires the same to be completed and if there be any vacancy adjoining that may accommodate him, I desire thee to include it for him and send a return into the Surveyor general's office.

"I am thy real well wishing friend  
"JAMES STEEL."

In 1719 Robert Wilkins bought 300 acres along the Susquehanna and laid out the town of Waterford, now Marietta.

In 1727 he sold this tract to Rev. James Anderson. Thomas Wilkins, the oldest son of Robert, in 1718 took up 200 acres along the river, which he sold to John Lowrey and which afterwards became part of the Duffy estate. He then purchased the tract adjoining the Donegal meeting-house, which he later sold to Gordon Howard. He died in 1747, leaving two sons and two daughters, viz: Andrew, John, Mary and Elizabeth.

Robert's son, Peter, located in the Cumberland valley, where he died in 1748, survived by his wife, Rachael, two sons, William and James, and one daughter, Margaret.

John, the third son of Robert, was an Indian trader who owned several hundred acres adjoining Gordon Howard's tract. He was the first man to take an aggressive stand against the Marylanders during the boundary difficulties. He was wounded several times. The Governor of Maryland offered \$50 for his arrest. John Hendricks, who had turned traitor to the Penns, led him into an ambush prepared by Cresap, where he was captured and imprisoned in a filthy cell for many months in the Annapolis jail. He died in 1741, survived by his wife, Rachael, and five children. In 1742 his widow married John Ramsey, an uncle of David Ramsey, the noted historian, and a distinguished General in the Revolution. John Ramsey died in 1746, and in 1751 his widow was again married to Gordon Howard by a Lutheran minister in Lancaster. In 1755 her third husband died, after which she lived with her stepson, Jos. Howard, until she died.

John Wilkins, Jr (John Robert),

was born in 1733, moved to Carlisle in 1763, when he was appointed a lieutenant for Cumberland county. In 1773 he entered into the mercantile business in Bedford. At the outbreak of the Revolution he organized a company of associates, and in 1776 was commissioned a captain, and as such played a prominent part in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. In 1783 he moved to Pittsburgh and opened a store at the northeast corner of Fourth and Wood streets. Upon the organization of Allegheny county, he was appointed one of the Associated Judges of the Court, serving as a member of the supreme executive council in 1790. He was chief burgess of Pittsburgh, commissioner of public buildings, and County Treasurer from 1794 to 1803. He died in Pittsburgh in 1809, and was survived by General John and Hon. William Wilkins. The former was born in 1761; was an officer in the Revolution; Brigadier General during the Whiskey Insurrection, and was prominent in the history of Western Pennsylvania. He died in 1816, survived by a son, John, who married Rachael Howard, and a daughter, Janet.

Hon. William Wilkins was born 1779. He was a Judge of the United States District Court for western Pennsylvania. In February 1810, when the population of Pittsburgh was 4,800, the "Bank of Pittsburgh" was organized and Judge William Wilkins was elected its first President, and his portrait hangs on the walls of the bank, at this time. In September, 1817 James Monroe, the fifth President of the United States, visited Pittsburgh and was entertained by Judge Wilkins at his elegant home.

In 1816 better intercourse between Pittsburgh and the surrounding country became so necessary that a char-

ter was obtained for the building of the Monongahela bridge, a wooden covered structure at a cost of nearly \$100,000, and William Wilkins was chosen as one of the building committee. He was a member of the Legislature and United State Senate from 1831-34; was Minister to Russia in 1835; was member of Congress 1843-4; Secretary of War under President Harrison in 1844-5.

Wilkinsburg, a town located about ten miles east of Pittsburgh and near to the old historic Braddock field, was founded by Judge Wilkins, and it was here that he erected for himself one of the most elegant houses of its day.

R. W. Guthrie, Esq., a prominent lawyer of Pittsburgh, and Hon. Geo W. Guthrie, at present a Minister to Japan, of the same city, are grandsons of Judge Wilkins.

Other names which we find in history among these early pioneers are, Stephen Atkinson and his sons-in-law, Thomas Doyle, Joshua Minshall, Samuel Reed, his son, Matthew; the Clark brothers, Edward Pugh, John Farrar, Adam Boyd, John Postlethwaite and others, but the time allotted for this paper and its preparation will not permit of any further reference to them, more than to say that we feel highly honored by the attendance at this celebration of ten descendants of the Postlethwaite family from Missouri, Illinois and other distant points, one of whom, Mr. Clarence E. Postlethwaite, of Pittsburgh, Pa., has consented to read a paper to us this afternoon, from which we will learn a great deal of the history of this family.

### **"Old Conestoga Neighbors."**

This was followed by an address on

**"Old Conestoga Neighbors—1715—**

1729," by H. Frank Eshleman, Esq. The address was as follows:

Dear native county of Lancaster, we love you. Dear, beautiful, historic hills and vales of our fathers, our hearts are full because of your ancient story, which you have held in your bosom in silent dignity for two centuries and more. Dear skies of Conestoga, we look into your pure, blue vaults, and say, blessed be the land you have watched and hovered over—smiling in its peace and progress for 200 years.

Good people of lower Conestoga Valley—of our imperial county of Lancaster everywhere, and friends: It is right and proper that we give this day to a review of the work of the pioneers, and to extolling their virtues and their careers. True, not one of those whom we have studied or shall study, on this occasion, were rich in great estates and possessions.

None of them were of social or political eminence, of a degree to attract the attention of America, or of the Province of Pennsylvania. None of them accomplished, in himself, any prodigious feats or acts that made him a Washington or a Lincoln, or an Edison in his times or in his community. Nay, on the other hand, the greatest of them were comparatively humble—achieved only modest results—and when their last day's sun had set saw only the beginnings of a rude civilization accomplished.

Yet, their lives and labors, taken in connection with the results of later generations that have followed, were not mean nor small, nor unimportant. Two reasons make this so. First, great geniuses—men of power and who have achieved much for the world—have descended from those modest pioneers, as we have learned

to-day. Not only that, but strong and virile generations of industrious and thrifty and clever men and women, by hundreds, have come from them, right on these acres round-about, and have made this a garden, a region of wealth and prosperity. The last two or three generations at least, living here, have done a great work. Perhaps, the first generation hereabouts did not accomplish much. Perhaps the great things were done by recent generations—by the modern men of skill and force, etc. May be, we are the greatest generation that ever lived here. Yet, without the humble ancestor, the pioneer from whom we came—we and other modern generations, and the modern men of power and wealth and learning, who came from those primitive, plodding souls, would never have existed. Thus, as they lay at the source of all the goodness and greatness that followed, and made it possible, we should hold them in reverence, in gentle memory and extol in them, the meed of gratitude that is logically just and due to them. Second—what has happened here in 200 years is all a part of God's plan; and the humble beginnings of the life here under that plan are as sacred as the work being done here now. They were humble and poor, but when what God has designed for Conestoga Valley, for Lancaster county, for Pennsylvania, is considered as a whole, the work the pioneer did may be more important than the part which we performed.

When our county was created in 1729, and her first Courts were held here, this was not simply a wilderness, inhabited only by Indians. Neither were the other valleys and hillsides south, east, north and west, to the edge of the Susquehanna, barren of

civilized life and progress at that time.

In 1729, the actual heart or center of Old Conestoga—that land which our eyes now actually behold, two or three miles in all directions—was dotted with homes of civilized man built a dozen to fifteen years before. Off to the east, in Pequea's valley, was the twenty-year-old German Swiss settlement, with Strasburg and Willow Street as sentinels at its eastern and western limits. To the west, the Conestoga Manor, laid out and settled, at least ten years before 1729, was smiling and blooming under the industrial touch and thrifty care of the sturdy German-Swiss Mennonite brethren of that great garden. Off northwest, ten miles, Wright's Ferry, just established a year or two before 1729, was the healthy nucleus of the future Columbia; while farther on, up the Susquehanna, rugged Donegal was well-filled, at least a decade, by the Scotch-Irish pioneer, who worshipped and watched and worked and warred, while the German-Swiss tilled the interior valleys. The Hempfields and Manheim had felt the pulse of civilized life a few short years. The Earls had begun to awaken under the magic of the white man's plow. Lampeter and Strasburg regions had ten years at least of progress. The Valley of the Octoraro could boast of over 100 farms. Old Drumore and Martic, carrying within them their unborn daughters (Little Britain, Fulton and Providence), had throbbed, through a dozen years or more, with the active and hardy life of the buoyant Scotch-Irish. In fact, in 1729, this region of Susquehanna, Conestoga, Pequea, Octoraro and Chickies, just formed into a new county, had about 3,500 white inhabitants.<sup>1</sup>

Considerable history was made here before 1729. In 1638 Claybourne traded in this section.<sup>2</sup> Forty years before Penn reached Pennsylvania Conestoga river, with the Indians.<sup>3</sup> the Swedes carried on commerce upon About 1684 Penn himself visited this region.<sup>4</sup> In 1690 he laid out plans for a small county on the Susquehanna, extending from the mouth of the Conestoga, fifteen miles up the river, in which he designed a model city, to be a second Philadelphia, and drew up a complete plan of government for the same, which he recorded in 1703,<sup>5</sup> in Philadelphia. In 1701 Penn made a second journey to the Susquehanna coming by way of Chesapeake Bay and going home by travelling up the Conestoga and on to its source and then by French Creek to Schuylkill and back to Philadelphia,<sup>6</sup> in 1706 Governor Evans and members of Council, etc., made a treaty with the Indians, here and at mouth of Pequea.<sup>7</sup> The next year, 1707,<sup>8</sup> the Governor, with Col. French and Mitchel, Bezelion and others came here to make a second treaty and particularly held an important meeting at Washington Borough.<sup>9</sup> In 1710 Governor Gookin and French and Worley visited the Indians here in a treaty.<sup>10</sup> In 1711 another Indian treaty was held at Indiantown, partly to get them to agree not to harm the Swiss Mennonites who had recently settled at Pequea.<sup>11</sup> In 1717, just as a settlement by whites here took shape, a great treaty was held at Indiantown, between the Governor and Council of Pennsylvania and the chiefs of the Conestogoes, the Delawares and the Shawanoes and the Ganawese to keep land matters peaceable.<sup>12</sup> In 1720 James Logan and his party came here and held an Indian treaty at John Cartlidge's house, to

prevent these Indians joining other Indians in War.<sup>13</sup> In 1721 Governor Keith and members of Council and eighty horsemen held a big treaty here at John Cartlidge's house, at which a large audience of the Mennonite and other settlers were present, with the Conestogas and Iroquois Indians and again in 1722.<sup>14</sup> Also in 1728 Governor Gordon and members of Council and about thirty others held a treaty here at the house of Andrew Cornish, a mile from Indian-town, and also at Indiantown.<sup>15</sup> Thus we see a great deal of activity was going on here before 1729.

In 1729 an ancient Swede road from the lower Delaware reached into Conestoga.<sup>16</sup> The "Great Conestoga Road"—the first great highway from Philadelphia to Susquehanna—had stretched out across our new shire over thirty miles, from Octoraro to Conestoga, since 1714,<sup>17</sup> just where it lies to-day, before your eyes—now over 201 years old. And for three years, the new road from the Earls, to the head of Pequea, had been in use.<sup>18</sup> Several mills were in operation in different sections of the county. But while all this development had taken place, as we have noticed, in various sections of the county before 1729, Lancaster town was not yet in existence; all there was of that town then was a house or two built a year before.<sup>19</sup> This region then was to become, for a little while, the county-seat because it was about fifteen years older than Lancaster. But Conestoga was soon outstripped when the Hamilton boom took place, where Lancaster now stands.

Who were the Conestoga neighbors in 1729? When did they come here? Where did they live hereabouts?

The assessed inhabitants of what is

now Lancaster County, in 1718, were 129 male heads of families, and 12 single men or 141 in all, about one-third English and two-third German.<sup>20</sup> But there were some Welsh of Caernarvon and whites of other sections also here. In 1722 the most thickly settled sections of Lancaster county were known as Conestoga, Donegal and Pequea, and they included seven-eighths of all the white people then in what is now our county.<sup>21</sup> Donegal in 1722 had 92 male heads of families; Pequea had 42, and Conestoga had 244.<sup>22</sup> In 1724 Pequea embraced the land about the headwaters of Pequea creek, Donegal included all west of main Conestoga river (principally north of the site of Lancaster);<sup>23</sup> and in it lived a considerable number of German-Swiss, though most of the inhabitants were Scotch-Irish. Conestoga embraced all of our present county from the Susquehanna from and below the mouth of Pequea creek up to Columbia and northeastward of that width beyond Strasburg, Bird-in-Hand, the Earls and Ephrata, etc.

Let us see who the old Conestoga neighbors were. They were, in nationality, Scotch-Irish, English and German-Swiss. They were, religiously, Episcopalian, Quaker, Presbyterian and Mennonite. They were industrially farmers, merchants, millers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights and tradesmen. In discussing these old Conestoga neighbors we shall try to keep within a radius of five or six miles of the spot where we now stand.

Let us now draw a picture of this region all about us, within that radius, as it was 186 to 200 years ago. This is the 200th anniversary of the taking up the central tract of old Conestoga, where we now stand—the beginning of the little group of houses called Con-

estoga town, started in 1715 by James Hendricks, who in that year secured the right to 1,166 acres of land, reaching from Rock Hill up Conestoga river, eight miles—almost to Wabank and east along and south of "Stehman's run," nearly to New Danville Old Mennonite Church.<sup>24</sup>

This settlement differed from the Pequea settlement to the east. While the Pequea colony, at Willow Street, were all Swiss Mennonites, the settlement on Conestoga consisted of a Scotch-Irish and English core, bordering on both sides of that river, surrounded by scores of German-Swiss on all sides.

Now who were these old Conestoga neighbors of Postlethwaite's time? Who lived within a radius of five or six miles from this place in the days when our first Courts were held here and before?

Of English and Scotch-Irish residents, starting with John Postlethwaite and his grown up son, William, and passing up the Conestoga river on the eastern side, dwelling in consecutive order on or near the "Great Road," there were: James Hendricks,<sup>25</sup> John Hendricks, Tobias Hendricks, Thomas Baldwin,<sup>26</sup> Thomas Gale,<sup>27</sup> George Gray,<sup>28</sup> John Linvill<sup>29</sup> (all owners of parts of the James Hendricks tract), John Farrer,<sup>30</sup> Richard Grist,<sup>31</sup> John Grist,<sup>31</sup> Wm. Hughes,<sup>32</sup> Edmund Cartlidge,<sup>33</sup> John Powell,<sup>34</sup> Thomas Doyle,<sup>35</sup> Stephen Atchison<sup>36</sup> and James Lewis.<sup>37</sup>

The Scotch-Irish and English people across from the above Postlethwaite's, on the Manor side, were Thomas and Reese Price, Alexander and Samuel Ritchey,<sup>38</sup> Joshua Low,<sup>40</sup> Daniel McConnell<sup>41</sup> and Alexander Beuse,<sup>42</sup> practically all of whose lands adjoined the stream.

On the Conestoga side, going down the stream from Postlethwaite's, there were Robert Wilkins,<sup>43</sup> Thomas Wilkins,<sup>44</sup> David Priest,<sup>45</sup> James Dawson,<sup>46</sup> Richard Carter,<sup>47</sup> Patrick Keregan.<sup>48</sup> And some what separated from the others and over toward Pequea creek, near Susquehanna, were Peter Kline,<sup>49</sup> Peter Creamer,<sup>50</sup> Francis Worley,<sup>51</sup> Joseph Rebman<sup>52</sup> and Robert Baker.<sup>53</sup>

Going down the stream on the Manor side there were Samuel Ritchey,<sup>54</sup> Andrew Cornish<sup>55</sup> and John Cartledge,<sup>56</sup> as English neighbors.

Over to the east on Pequea creek the English and Scotch-Irish, beginning about the neighborhood of Marticville and going down the creek, were: William and Robert Middleton,<sup>57</sup> Albert Hendricks,<sup>58</sup> William Sherrell,<sup>59</sup> David Jones,<sup>60</sup> Samuel Jones,<sup>61</sup> John Robinson,<sup>62</sup> John McCreary,<sup>63</sup> practically all on the east side of the creek, and Daniel Jones<sup>64</sup> on the west side.

Off to the west on and near Susquehanna river, beginning about Washington Borough, and extending up and down the river, the English inhabitants were Edward Smout,<sup>65</sup> James Patterson,<sup>66</sup> Moses Comb,<sup>67</sup> Martha Bezelion,<sup>68</sup> James Letort,<sup>69</sup> Thomas and Robert Wilkins,<sup>70</sup> Jonah Davenport,<sup>71</sup> John Hendricks<sup>72</sup> and the Chartier descendants.<sup>73</sup>

About two miles southeast from where we now stand, extending along the northwest bank of Pequea creek from the neighborhood of the "Burnt Mill," below Marticville, to near the Conestoga township line, there was a small Irish settlement consisting in succession down stream of Roland Ellis,<sup>74</sup> Collum McQuire,<sup>75</sup> John McDonald<sup>76</sup> and Francis McDonald.<sup>77</sup>

And adding both picturesque and

weird romance and melancholy to it all, along a dashing run of water, flowing into Conestoga river from the west, on an eminence, about a mile west of John Cartlidge's farm, was the village of the ancient dusky neighbors of these newcomers, the Conestoga Indian town, pensively looking across the Conestoga Valley to Postlethwaite's hill and village on the east, where their civilized successors and new neighbors were gradually taking the place of these aborigines, who had held forth here for centuries, and whose sun was now setting forever.

These, then, together with a little Indian town in a loop of the Conestoga near Atkinson's, up the stream were the Scotch-Irish and English and aboriginal neighbors of ancient Conestoga, in the center of which we stand and hold our exercises this day.

Who were the German-Swiss neighbors of those English and Scotch-Scotch-Irish making up the center of this ancient section between and about 1715 and 1729? Off toward sunrise, with its western limit at West Willow, was the Pequea Swiss colony; south of it. Amos Stettle's 3,380 acres; and southwest of that, Herr and Kendig's 5,000 acres.

Above Postlethwaite's, and between the English on Conestoga river on the west and the Swiss tract and Herr and Kendig on the east, coming down (from West Willow and the London or Estaugh tract of over 8,000 acres<sup>75</sup>) toward the spot where we now stand, were Harnish<sup>76</sup> and Herr<sup>77</sup> and Schlagel<sup>78</sup> and Pretter<sup>79</sup> and Samuel Gulden<sup>80</sup> and John Burkholder<sup>81</sup> and George Kendrick<sup>82</sup> and John Milen<sup>83</sup> and Christ Herr<sup>84</sup> and Benedict Venrich<sup>85</sup> and Hans Moyer<sup>86</sup> and Melchoir Breneman<sup>87</sup> and Michael Shenk<sup>88</sup> and Christopher Franciscus<sup>89</sup> and

Jacob Eshleman<sup>93</sup> and Tobias Stehman<sup>94</sup> and others.

The German-Swiss neighbors below Postlethwaite's east of the Conestoga across to the Pequea were Jacob Miller,<sup>95</sup> Michael Sprengle,<sup>96</sup> Hans Keagy,<sup>97</sup> Frederick Maynard,<sup>98</sup> Benedict and Jacob Eshleman,<sup>99</sup> John Stoneman,<sup>100</sup> Christian Burkholder,<sup>101</sup> Henry Stehman,<sup>102</sup> Abram Burkholder<sup>103</sup> and a few others.

Across the Conestoga, the Manor, as far north as a line extending from Millersville to Washington Borough, had been generally settled for twelve years in 1729 by the German-Swiss. Passing from the Conestoga river westward, in tiers, reading from north to south, by great large tracts were: Christian Herr,<sup>104</sup> Abram Herr, John George Seeger, Michael Moyer (whose farm of 217 acres coincided with the whole of Millersville to-day west of Manor turnpike, or George street), Henry Kilheffer, Rudy Herr, John Shank, Christian Martin, Jacob Hostetter (containing Windom), John Herr, Abram Herr, Michael Shenk, Michael Baughman (whose farm included Letort), Jacob Brubaker and Michael Moyer (whose farm of 270 acres in partnership bounded Indian-town on the east), John Shank and Martin Funk's 480 acres (whose joint tract included Central Manor), Andrew Kauffman and Michael Baughman's western farm, which reached to the Indiantown 500 acres, and bounded it on the north. Two other ancient Manor tracts lay on the west bank of the Conestoga—Peter Leaman's<sup>105</sup> tract bounding the Cartledge tract on the south, and south of Leaman's, Michael Creiter's<sup>106</sup> tract of 290 acres—this last named extending from the road at the upper end of Safe Harbor, in Manor, to the road near the lower end of Safe Harbor.

leading westward into Manor by the Safe Harbor school-house.

The large tract stretching from Washington Borough to Creswell, of 3,000 acres, extending eastward nearly to Central Manor and Letort, was reserved by the Penns, prior to 1729.<sup>107</sup> And the remainder of the Manor, south of Creswell and west of Indiantown (except such tracts on the river as a few English and Scotch-Irish had taken up) was all vacant in 1729.

Thus we have now traced out the English and the German-Swiss neighbors for several miles in every direction from Postlethwaite's in 1729; and for a dozen or fifteen years prior thereto. Out of the 285 heads of families and single male adults in and about old Conestoga, in 1726 or 1728, nearly half of them lived there as early as 1718, as the assessments show. Therefore, in 1729, a great portion of the people who lived round about here were old residents. Some of them lived there since 1712.<sup>108</sup>

Those desiring more accurate information as to the location of the several tracts, and as to who dwell on those tracts to-day will be aided by consulting the map accompanying this paper and the key explaining the same, so far as the map includes the tracts mentioned.

Many interesting personal incidents could be told about most of those old Conestoga pioneers, if time and the occasion permitted it. A few can be mentioned, however. Postlethwaite died a few years too early to make golden returns out of his land investment. He borrowed 247 pounds on his 496 acres and failed, and it was sold for 500 pounds, and a few years later the purchaser sold it in parts, receiving over 3,000 pounds for

it.<sup>108a</sup> Thomas Baldwin was a son-in-law of James Hendricks and a brother-in-law of John Linville.<sup>109</sup> Tobias Hendricks and Andrew Cornish were the Conestoga members of the county's first bench of Judges. John Grist was tried for attempting to dispossess Indians from their land. Schlagel-Worley and Atkinson all had mills in the Conestoga.<sup>110</sup> James Patterson could fight as well as pray; when his ferry, near Washington Borough, was interfered with, he declared, to defend it, he would wade in blood up to his knees.<sup>111</sup> Wm. Clark in his will gave his wife an estate conditioned on "Christian behavior."<sup>112</sup> Daniel Preece in his will gives a certain daughter a full share if she marries a Dutchman, but only a shilling if she marries an Irishman.<sup>113</sup> Francis Worley was an important factor in all Indian treaties. John Cartledge was given his land at twenty per cent. off on condition he looked after the welfare of Indiantown.<sup>114</sup> Samuel Gulden was a Swiss Mennonite minister and also John Estaugh.<sup>115</sup> Herr and Kendig, who received the 5,000 acres of land, owned everything on Pequea creek, below Beaver down to Marticville. They sold it at great profit to many holders. Christopher Franciscus was noted for killing panthers and wolves in the woods and was a reputed giant.<sup>116</sup> Mart Mylin started brick making in 1724.<sup>117</sup>

When we turn to the public activities of those early neighbors of Conestoga, we find that thirty-eight of them were signers of the petition in 1728 to create the county of Lancaster out of 188 signers from the entire county, or over one-fifth.<sup>118</sup> This section furnished more signers according to the area than any other. Jones, the Hendrickes, Postlethwaites, Gales,

Swifts, Linvills, Worleys, Pattersons, McCurrys, Bakers, Middletons and Wilkinses, Hughs, Willises, Mitchells, Brians, Powells, and Ludford, representing the English, and Stoneman, Stehman, Ferree, Barr, Funk, Lemon, Hans-packer, Miller and others, representing the German-Swiss, all signed it.

The Court records in Chester county as to Conestoga township in those days show that both the English and the Swiss took part in public affairs.<sup>119</sup> Christopher Franciscus was Constable in 1722 and 1723, John Roberts in 1724, Benedict Venrick in 1725, David Jones in 1726, 1727, 1728 and 1729. The Constable of West Conestoga in 1727 was Daniel Ashleman, and William Hughes in 1728 and 1729. Peter Worrall, John Baldwin, Robert Carter, Thomas Lindley, William Hughes, John Carter, Samuel Lewis, John Baker and others, early Conestoga citizens, served on the grand juries and made up petit juries, etc., in 1720 to 1729.

The minutes of the County Commissioners from 1729 onward show also that Conestoga and her citizens were taking a leading part in the public affairs of the new county.<sup>120</sup>

The steady growth of the ancient Conestoga region from the time when the inhabitants were first assessed here in 1718 is shown by the assessments to be as follows:<sup>121</sup> English, 43; single, 12, and Dutch, 86; total, 141, male heads and families and adults in 1718—166 in 1719, the same in 1720. 142 Swiss and 56 English in 1721 or 196—66 in West Conestoga and 148 in East Conestoga or 214 in 1722. (The assessment of 1723 is missing). Two hundred and forty in 1724—243 in 1725, and 285 in 1726. From 1726 to 1729, when our county was organized, the assessments of Conestoga, Donegal

and Pequea (all there was of now Lancaster county) are lost or destroyed. And since 1729, when our new county began its career, the assessments, of nearly a score of years of practically the whole county, are lost or destroyed and no copy or record of virtually any of them were ever made, except a few appearing in Evans and Ellis' history.

The assessment of 1721 shows the valuation of the property owned by the various citizens of Conestoga. In it we find that among the English, John Cartlidge was valued at sixty pounds, Francis Worley at 20, Robert Baker at 31, John Gardner at 24, James Patterson at 50, James Letort at 100 and Peter Bazillion at 154 pounds. Among the Palatines the largest land owners and the wealthiest men in 1721 about Conestoga were Christian Herr, 32 pounds; John Herr, the same; Martin Kendricks, 60; Christ Franciscus, 30; John Buckwalter, 40; John Line, 55; Jacob Kendrick, 46; Isaac Lefever, 50, and Daniel Ferre, 50 pounds. From this we see that Letort and Bazillion were the best rated men of the times here.

In religious profession, as we have said, Quakers, Episcopalians, Presbyterians and Mennonites flourished here. The Quaker leaders were James, John, Tobias and Albertus Hendricks<sup>122</sup>—Francis and Susanna Worley<sup>123</sup> and their family, viz.: Rebecca, Mary, Caleb, Brosey and Henrry Worley—John and Edmund Cartlidge,<sup>124</sup> Thomas and Elizabeth Gale, Samuel Jones, Joshua Low and a few others.<sup>125</sup>

These Quakers were the southern branch of the Quaker migration from old Chester. They were likely the earlier branch, arriving about or before 1718. The northern branch followed John Wright to the Columbia

locality about 1726.<sup>126</sup> Sufficient proof that they came from old Chester lies in the fact that Worley, Baldwin, Cartlidge, Hendricks, Linvill, Hughes, Gale, Worrall and others all appear as residents of Chester in the Chester County Recorder's office records, from 1696 to 1720, etc.<sup>127</sup>

Then, too, the Concord quarterly meeting of Friends in and about Philadelphia, in 1722, as shown by their minutes, resolved that it was "necessary to visit those friends that are removed to Conestoga, etc."<sup>128</sup>

The Episcopalian branch was represented by John and William Postlethwaite<sup>129</sup> and others. The society for the propagation of the Gospel to foreign ports aided their movement to these regions.<sup>130</sup> The Presbyterians living in this old Conestoga region were James Patterson,<sup>131</sup> the Middletons,<sup>132</sup> the Wilkens,<sup>133</sup> the Carters,<sup>134</sup> the Lindleys,<sup>135</sup> the Atkinsons,<sup>136</sup> the Linvills, the Evanses,<sup>137</sup> and others.

The Mennonites were the German-Swiss of the Manor and in fact the other scores of them on all sides.

Somewhere in these valleys did these religious ancestors worship as early as 1718. The Mennonites worshipped here in some sort of meeting house before, Masonville church ground was given them out of the Michael Baughman tract,<sup>138</sup> before they received the New Danville Church grounds out of the Samuel Gulden tract<sup>139</sup>—before Samuel Boyer gave them "Beyerland"<sup>140</sup> and before Benedict Eshleman gave them "River Corner."<sup>141</sup>

As to the Episcopalians, Hazard's Register, Vol. 5, p. 21, tells us that an Episcopal Church was built in Conestoga in 1732. That may mean the Episcopal Church at Churchtown, far up the Conestoga Valley.

The minutes of the Donegal Presbytery of 1732<sup>142</sup> and other records from the year 1725<sup>143</sup> onward make reference to the Presbyterians of "Conestoga;" and Ministers were more or less regularly sent to them at those dates. Somewhere here surely the Presbyterians I have mentioned worshiped. They did not (except one or two) worship at Donegal, because Donegal itself refers to them as Presbyterians of "Conestoga," and sent ministers to them. It seems likely that wherever they worshipped that they were the predecessors and ancestors of the First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster, and moved in or began to worship there after the county government and other public county activities moved in from Conestoga. It is certain that the calls for ministers by the "Presbyterians" of Conestoga" cease and the calls for ministers by the "Presbyterians of Lancaster" begin simultaneously, 1741-2.

As to the Quakers (who, next to the Mennonites, were the strongest sect here, in earliest times) it seems they worshipped, either at Wright's Ferry (now Columbia) or at Bird-in-Hand, or both. These were their first known meeting houses near here.<sup>144</sup>

I may stop long enough, at this point to say that in 1729 there were large regions round about this place not taken up. The region, of Conestoga Center was not opened up until twenty years later. Much of the land about Shenk's Ferry was not taken up until 1750.<sup>145</sup> The Creswell and Highville region also opened up late. Colemanville and Martic Forge lay dormant also for ten or twelve years after the time of the Postlethwaite Courts. The same is true of other adjacent sections.

I must stop also to observe the influence of early land boundaries upon the public roads of to-day. In many cases the division lines of the ancient large tracts were used as roads and finally became the public highways, and are so to-day.<sup>146</sup> Thus, when you spin along these old highways, pray do not forget that the roads became fixed where they are, simply because at the beginning that road on which you pass (as well as other roads) happened to be the dividing line between two large 500 acre farms, etc. The surveyor ran those lines as they are so as to make the first tracts abut properly on the great streams; and the whole plan of our principal roads grew from it.

Such was the Conestoga neighborhood from 1715 to 1729; such the movements and activities and incidents in the opening years of civilized life here, and such were the old Conestoga neighbors, English, Scotch-Irish and German-Swiss.

Very early in their careers the English and Scotch-Irish began moving up the river to Donegal, and joined their brethren who first landed there. Pattersons,<sup>147</sup> and Middletons<sup>148</sup> and Mitchels and Burts<sup>149</sup> and Gardners and Wilkinses,<sup>150</sup> among others moved there from Martic and Conestoga before 1726. They continued moving out of Conestoga—out of Donegal—moving westward and southwestward, and by 1750 they and their descendants dwelt numerously in the Cumberland Valley, in now West Virginia, in western Pennsylvania and along the Ohio. By that time, too, very few of them were to be found in Conestoga. Those Scotch-Irish and English followed the frontier line as it moved westward—they followed the political offices wherever they newly opened,

they followed and managed political affairs and public affairs. And thus it happened that they left Conestoga entirely. Not one Scotch-Irish or English Quaker name exists in the Conestoga or Manor region to-day. The races that founded the settlement and first managed its affairs are now all gone; and no physical evidence remains to-day that this region ever had a Scotch-Irish and English admixture in its origin. But, on the other hand, the German-Swiss who were practically contemporaries of the Scotch-Irish and English, who held the plow while the latter held the offices, are here in their descendant, to this day. Very early they began buying out their English and Scotch-Irish neighbors; and many patents issued to German-Swiss settlers for land warranted to Scotch-Irish and English holders attest this fact.

And now our task is done. We leave these ancient Conestoga, Scotch-Irish, English and German-Swiss neighbors and also their dusky Indian friends, who lived in peace, one with another for many years. The Indian and the Scotch-Irish both have gone from Conestoga. The one to the "Happy Hunting Ground;" and the other to regions where the German-Swiss did not hamper them. Your knowledge of history and of the Scotch-Irish character must help you determine where these regions are. Both those races are gone. But the stocky, steady German-Swiss are here to-day, guarding the graves of their fathers, helping to feed the world from the soil, heightening the glowing sunset over Conestoga's valley, by reflecting upon the sky, the lustre of their golden corn, and "holding fast to that which is good."

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### TOWNS.

A, Washington Borough; B, Creswell; C, Safe Harbor; D, Windom; E, Letort; F, Millersville; G, Rock Hill; H, New Danville; J, Marticville; K, West Willow; L, Marticville; M, Martic Forge; N, Colemanville; O, Pequea; P, Slackwater; R, Wabank.

### STAR AND CIRCLE.

Postlethwaite; Large Stream, Susquehanna River; next in size, Conestoga River; smallest, Pequea Creek.

## KEY TO MAP OF LAND OWNERS.

1, James Patterson; 2, The Proprietors' 3,000 A; 3, vacant; 4, Andrew Cornish (later John Shenk and Martin Funk); 5, Andrew Coffman; 6, Abram Stoner; 7, Michael Bachman; 8, vacant; 9, Jacob Hostetter; 10, John Herr; 11, Abram Herr; 12, Michael Bachman; 13, Michael Shenk; 14, Jacob Bropather, Michael Moyer; 15, Thomas and Reese Price; 16, Indiantown; 17, Andrew Cornish (later James Logan); 18, ~~John Cartlidge~~; 19, Peter Leaman; 20, Michael Creiter; 21, Andrew Hamilton; 22, Samuel Overholtz; 23, Henry Kilhaver; 24, Rudy Herr; 25, John Shenk and Christian Martin; 26, Alexander and Samuel Ritchey; 27, Michael Moyer (later Millersville); 28, Joshua Low; 29, Dan McConnell; 30, John George Seeger; 31, Abram Herr; 32, Christian Herr; 33, John Postlethwaite (formerly part James Hendricks); 34, John Postlethwaite (formerly Tobias Hendricks); 35, John Postlethwaite (formerly Michael Shenk); 36, John Postlethwaite (formerly John Hendricks); (35 and 36 inclusive are John Postlethwaite's 500 acres; 35 and 39, inclusive, are parts of James Hendrick's 1,100-acre tract); 37, Thomas Baldwin; 38, Thomas Gale (later George Grey); 39, John Linville; 40, Richard Carter (later Robert Wilkins, finally Jacob Miller); 41, Richard Carter (later Michael Stringle); 42, Hans Keagy; 43, James Logal; 44, Francis Worley; 45, Fred. Maynard; 46, Benedict Eshleman; 47, vacant; 48, Kaleb Baker (this and 56 were the original Col. French tracts); 49, Christian Burkholder; 50, Isaac Burkholder; 51, David Jones (later John Robinson); 52, vacant; 53, Benedict Eshleman; 54, Francis Worley (later Joseph Stone); 55, Abram Burkholder; 56, John Rebman (later Jacob Good); 57, Daniel Jones; 58, claim of Henry Stehman; 59, vacant; 60, Melchoir Breneman; 61, Hans Moyer; 62, John Ferree; 63, Richard Greist; 64, Benedict Venrich; 65, Christopher Franciscus and Hans Nissley; 66, Samuel Guldin; 67, Pequea Swiss Mennonite Settlement; 68, David Priest; 69, James Dawson (later Jacob Ashleman); 70, vacant; 71, vacant and Collom McGuire; 72, John Meyer; 73, Hans Hess; 74, Christopher Franciscus; 75, John McDonald; 76, vacant; 77, John DeHoff; 78, vacant; 79, Ulrich Hoober; 80, vacant; 81, Collom McGuire; 82, Robert Ellis; 83, vacant; 84, Hans Boyer; 85, Thomas Lindley; 86, John Warder and John Swift; 87, Samuel Boyer; 88, Albertus Hendricks; 89, William Sherrell; 90, Ulrich Stauffer; 91, Peter Good (now Jacob Good); 92, Robert Middleton; 93, vacant, in Martic Twp.; 94, York county; 95, Hempfield Twp., north of Conestoga Manor, now part of Manor Twp.; 96, part of Lancaster Twp.

## "Postlethwaite Family, 1750."

"How Firm a Foundation" was sung by the audience, led by the band, after which Mr. C. E. Postlethwaite read an interesting paper on "Postlethwaite Family, 1750." He spoke as follows:

While attending the annual Pennsylvania Society dinner in New York some five or six years ago I first met the Honorable W. U. Hensel, whom you all knew better than was my fortune and whose death has left a gap in your historical and other political, business and social societies, and whose memory will always be honored and kept green by Pennsylvanians everywhere, but especially in Lancaster county. Mr. Hensel said that he needed no introduction to any member of the Postlethwaite family and commented with such complete and detailed knowledge upon the history of our forebears in the early days of Lancaster county that I then and there realized that I owed it as a duty to my children to know more about the family than I did at that time.

I had heard more or less about our ancestors of Lancaster county, but did not have all the facts, and after obtaining the information from various records here in Lancaster, and from various histories, I became deeply interested in following the various family lines.

The late Reverend William Morton Postlethwaite, for many years chaplain of West Point Military Academy, and my brother, Albert Gayton Postlethwaite, of Passaic, New Jersey, have in years past contributed much information from records both in this country and in England. The Reverend William Morton Postlethwaite made a trip to England, and in his investigations there it seemed clear that all

Postlethwaites trace back to one original family at or near Millom, Cumberland county, England.

Judge Landis has referred very fully to the life of John Postlethwaite, who occupied this property in 1729, and of his six children, Susannah, Samuel, John, William, Edmond and Richard. We have not been able to trace any descendants of Edmond, William or Richard, nor have we yet been able to look up the daughter, Susannah, who married Benjamin Price. There is no information concerning her other than is conveyed in the statement of her marriage.

The family seems to have left Lancaster county about the time, or shortly after, the old-homestead was sold, which was October 28th, 1761.

Samuel went to Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, was in the Revolutionary war, first as a captain and later as lieutenant-colonel, and was elected Sheriff of Cumberland county in 1782.

John went first to the vicinity of Harrisburg and then Mifflin county about 1789, settling in Wayne township on a farm for which, according to tradition, he traded one horse and ten dollars.

Just here let me say it is not my intention to follow family lines in detail in this talk to-day, nor do I intend even to try to cover all the important or interesting points in the field of action by the descendants of the John Postlethwaite who lived here. Time permits reference to the family only in a general way. A more detailed account will appear in the archives of the Historical Society.

Samuel had seven children and John eight, and many of these children left Pennsylvania, going to other parts of the country and we next hear of them

in Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky and in the western part of Pennsylvania.

Dr. James Postlethwaite, a son of Samuel, was a noted physician and politician in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and was the ancestor of the McLean family of Pittsburgh, represented here to-day by Mr. Jay Donald McLean.

A son of John Postlethwaite, of Mifflin county, another, John, by the way, went to Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, about 1814, and there is a large branch of the family still in Jefferson county, while many of them in turn have gone to other parts of the country. William Perry Postlethwaite and his son, David Neal, represent this branch here to-day.

Then a grandson of John Postlethwaite, of Mifflin county, also named John, went to the state of Illinois about 1830, and there is a large branch of the family in that section. This branch is represented here to-day by Dr. John Arthur Postlethwaite, of Tarkio, Missouri, and his cousin, Calvin, of Alexis, Illinois. Members of this family have also gone to other States.

The "stick to Pennsylvania" Postlethwaites have representatives here from two branches of the family. Mrs. L. Banks Doty, daughter of the late Thomas Fisher Postlethwaite, of Mount Union, from one branch, and Samuel Cloyd Postlethwaite and myself from the others. Trace back in a straight line to your John Postlethwaite, of Lancaster county, our ancestors lived and died in Pennsylvania. I, myself, digressed from the State during seven years residence in Virginia, and I am proud of the fact that my two daughters are Virginians, but with all that has been said here to-

day I leave you to judge the delight it gives me to tell you my son, Clarence Gayton Postlethwaite, was born in Pennsylvania.

It is practically impossible to trace the location by families any further, for many members of the western branches came East, while members of the eastern branches went West, until to-day we know of them in the majority of the States, and we doubt very much if there is a State or territory in the United States that does not give citizenship to descendant of your John Postlethwaite of Lancaster county.

We have been able to obtain considerable data concerning some of the branches, but there is still so much yet to be done that those of us who have been devoting what little time we have to sport on the subject sometimes feel that this Postlethwaite family is getting too much for us.

One of the interesting features brought about by my investigation has been the fact that while the Postlethwaites were prominent in the organization in 1744 of St. James' Church, in Lancaster, and continued their interest in this church up to the time they left this district, yet in coming in contact with the different branches of the family who have not been in touch with each other for a generation or two, we find almost invariably they are all Presbyterians. One notable exception to this was the family of the late Rev. William Morton Postlethwaite, who was an Episcopalian minister, yet his brother, Thomas R. Postlethweite, of Chattanooga, Tenn., is a Presbyterian.

We find the family, as a rule, industrious, faithful and loyal and I have yet to locate a Postlethwaite family who were not able to take care of themselves. They can be found in practically every occupation or profession,

both as officials and workmen. As legislators, my grandfather, Thomas Irvin Postlethwaite, now deceased, represented Mifflin county, Pa., in 1843, when he made the trip to and from Harrisburg on horseback. Dr. John Arthur Postlethwaite, who is here to-day, was elected to the Missouri Legislature in 1888 for two years. There have been many legislators descendants of John Postlethwaite through the feminine side of the family. I do not have a complete list but notable among them was the late Dr. William P. McNite, who represented Huntingdon county in the Pennsylvania Legislature.

As a general thing they are a peace-loving people and in spirit are forbearing, but on the other hand they have been well represented in the wars of this country, starting with the Revolutionary War, and have always been ready to fight for their country when necessary. Every branch of the family in all parts of the country were well represented in the Civil War. William Perry Postlethwaite, of Jefferson county, who is with us to-day, is a veteran. General Basil W. Duke, of Confederate Army fame, told me he knew two families of Postlethwaites in Kentucky, the head of one family being in the Federal and the other in the Confederate army.

Another point of interest in following the various lines of the family, and this will, I believe, apply to all families, is the constant use of family names; thus we have the original John Postlethwaite, of Lancaster county, and his sons, Samuel, John and William. These names run all through the families of the various branches and it is a reasonably safe proposition to meet a Postlethwaite anywhere and ask for his brother John, his uncle John or his cousin

John, or any other relationship that you care to use. In the representation here to-day we have a John, a William and a Samuel.

Speaking generally of the early day families of this country, we do not always think of the hardships through which they must have gone in order to make this glorious country the habitable place we find it to-day. We have at our hand so many facilities for travel and for communication, one with another, no matter where we are, that we cannot do better than obtain the records as far as possible and put them in the possession of the descendants in order that they may more fully appreciate the blessings which they enjoy to-day, and at the same time do honor to those who have gone before. Such a record should give inspiration to those of us who are living to-day and those who follow us to see that our records, when we have passed on, fit in well with those who have gone before, and this thought has been our incentive after having been started on the subject by your most honored neighbor and fellow-citizen, the late Hon. W. U. Hensel.

It is gratifying to be here to-day. This is my second visit to the old homestead, I having been here three years ago. The late Rev. William Morton Postlethwaite and my brother, Albert Gayton Postlethwaite, of Passaic, N. J., visited the homestead in 1879, and I think Mr. Fehl told me that as far as he knew we were the only Postlethwaites who had come back to see the place. There are five branches of the Postlethwaite family represented by those present to-day. No one of us knew all the others before to-day so that there was a general introduction of the Postlethwaites among themselves before the

committee met us. We all feel specially privileged in being here to-day and we all extend our best thanks and deep appreciation to Judge Landis, Dr. Diffenderffer, Messrs. Eshleman, Magee, Hostetter, and other members of the committee of the Lancaster County Historical Society, not only for the opportunity given us to be here to-day and for the honor done our ancestor, but for the many courtesies extended to us after our arrival. It is a day we shall not forget. We shall always be proud of our association with Lancaster county through our ancestors and for this visit to-day. This I am sure will be shared by all the descendants who know the history of those early days. It is our hope that Lancaster county may always be proud of the family who went out from here about one hundred and fifty-five years ago.

### **The Benediction.**

Rev. Thomas Roberts, pastor of the Methodist Church, then dismissed the assemblage with the benediction.

### **Postlethwaite Descendants Present.**

The affair was honored by the presence of a number of the descendants of the original Postlethwaite family who were domiciled at the Brunswick.

The group included the following persons: Mr. W. P. Postlethwaite, of Valier, Pa.; Mr. D. N. Postlethwaite, of Columbus, Ohio; Mr. C. W. Postlethwaite, Alexis, Ill.; Dr. J. A. Postlethwaite, of Tarkia, Mo.; Mr. S. C. Postlethwaite, of Huntingdon, Pa.; Mr. Clarence E. Postlethwaite, manager of sales of the Pressed Steel Car and the Western Steel Car and Foundry Companies, Pittsburgh. Mr. and Mrs. L. Banks Doty, of Philadelphia, and Mr. Jay Donald McLean,

manager of the W. B. McLean Co., of Pittsburgh.

### **Inscription On Tablet.**

The inscription upon the tablet is as follows:

ON AUGUST 5, 1729, AT OR NEAR THIS SPOT ON THE LAND OF JOHN POSTLETHWAITE, HIS MAJESTY, KING GEORGE THE SECOND'S JUSTICES MET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LANCASTER COUNTY AND HELD THE SEVERAL COURTS OF JUSTICE. THE MAGISTRATES PRESENT WERE JOHN WRIGHT, TOBIAS HENDRICKS, ANDREW CORNISH, THOMAS READ AND SAMUEL JAMES. JOHN WRIGHT PRESIDED.

THE COURTS WERE HELD AT POSTLETHWAITE'S FOR AUGUST AND NOVEMBER TERMS, 1729, AND FEBRUARY, MAY AND AUGUST TERMS, 1730. THIS STONE AND TABLET HAVE BEEN ERECTED BY THE LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON OCTOBER 8, 1915.

### **The Expenses.**

The expenses incident to the event, besides the great amount of labor contributed free, were:

Bronze plate .....	\$ 60.00
Conestoga Band .....	35.00
Powder, dynamite and fuse....	6.50
Photographic work .....	6.00
Haldy, attaching plate.....	8.00
Expressage on plate.....	.95
Automobile hire, Oct. 8.....	12.00
A. S. Dombach, auto service etc., at divers times.....	5.00
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$133.45

## Those Who Contributed.

These expenses were met by contributions made by Messrs. George Steinman, Henry S. Stehman, B. C. Atlee, R. M. Reilly, W. N. Appel, H. Frank Eshleman, A. K. Hostetter, F. R. Diffenderffer, Litt.D., D. F. Magee, A. J. Zercher, A. S. Benedict, John LeFever, Hiram Warfel, J. W. Morrison, The New Era, Judge Chas. I. Landis, Mrs. Mary Landis, F. S. Harnish and A. A. Onney.

All of which we respectfully submit and report to your Honorable Body, and ask to be discharged.

H. FRANK ESHLEMAN,

Chairman.

A. K. HOSTETTER,

F. R. DIFFENDERFFER, Litt.D.,

D. F. MAGEE,

Committee.

Title: Report of the committee having in charge the marking of the site of the Postlethwaite Tavern where the first Courts of Justice in Lancaster County were held.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Postlethwaite, John.

Postlethwaite Tavern (Conestoga Township, Pa.)

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Speeches, addresses, etc., American.

Courthouses--Pennsylvania--Lancaster County--History.

Dedication services.

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