

# SOME EARLY INDIAN TRADERS.

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Samuel Evans, Esq., has contributed the following notes on some of the more prominent Indian traders living in the early part of the eighteenth century in Conoy, Donegal and the adjacent townships:

I noticed by the papers that the President is about to appoint Charles J. Bonaparte Secretary of the Navy. I wish to call the attention of this Society to the fact that he is a descendant of Donegal stock.

As early as 1715 there were many Indian traders residing in Donegal. Their numbers increased largely during the succeeding twenty years. Jonas Davenport took up 300 acres of land where Bainbridge now is. Adjoining his land below J. Comb took up several hundred acres. Peter Bizailon, his brother-in-law, took up 700 acres in the name of his wife, Martha. What is known as the old "Peters Road" was named for Peter Bizailon, whose permanent home was in Caln township, Chester county, near the Compass. This road was laid out in 1718, and extended to Logan's Ferry, now Bainbridge. It run through a large settlement of Indian traders at Conoy Creek, and around what is now known as "Stackstown."

James Le Tort took up 900 acres below Bizailon, which was put in the name of Ann Le Tort, wife of James. This tract extended to what is now Schock's Mills. This last tract passed into the hands of James Logan. These four tracts were surveyed by Taylor

in 1718 and 1719. Melchoir Brenne-  
man, of Conestoga township, bought  
the Bizailon tract; he conveyed it to  
his son, Christian, and the latter gave  
it to his son, Melchoir, and son-in-  
law, John Stehman.

There was an Indian town on the  
Bizailon tract, but the Indians had no  
title to the land, and about 1741 they  
moved to Shamokin. On the north-  
east side of this town, upon the farm  
now owned by Simon Engle, Patrick  
Campbell had a tavern, which stood  
a few yards east of Mr. Engle's dwell-  
ing. A beautiful spring ran near the  
dwelling. The "Peters Road" passed  
in front of the tavern, and crossed the  
creek at Martin's mill. Campbell was  
an Indian trader, and when the county  
was organized he was the first con-  
stable of Donegal township. He was  
a member of Donegal Presbyterian  
Church. His second wife was the  
widow of James Smith, Indian trader,  
who owned 600 acres of land along  
Peters Road, on the east side of  
Campbell's, which passed to Herman  
Long. Campbell, the hero of King's  
Mountain, was a brother of Patrick  
Campbell.

Along the road leading from Camp-  
bell's Tavern to the creek, Isaac Mi-  
randa subsequently settled in 1715,  
and became a noted Indian trader. He  
kept a large number of pack horses  
and brood mares, which he used in his  
business. His brother, Joseph, was  
steward to the Duke of Tuscany.

James Cook had a trading post on  
the north side of Campbell. He owned  
242 acres. He was the grandfather  
of David Cook, who laid out "New  
Haven," now Marietta.

Captain Samuel Smith, Indian trad-  
er, was on the north side of the tav-  
ern. There were several other Indian  
traders around Campbell's Tavern  
whose names I cannot this moment

recall. I must, however, mention one very important one, namely, John Galbraith, who owned several hundred acres between Campbell's Tavern and the river. He was one of those who were caught when encamped near "Bloody Run," by the Indians in November, 1763, and lost largely, as Mr. Diffenderffer can see by referring to his list of the losses at that time.

Mr. Galbraith and his wife, Dorcas, had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married William Spear, of Donegal, who was collector of that township in 1751. About 1752 he moved to Baltimore with William Smith (son of Mrs. Patrick Campbell) and David McClure. William Spear's daughter married William Patterson, a merchant of Baltimore, and a daughter of the latter married Jerome Bonaparte, the grandfather of Charles J. Bonaparte, just appointed Secretary of the Navy.

John Galbraith died in 1767, and his widow, Dorcas, moved to Carlisle, where she died. William Smith, named above, married a daughter of William Spear. His son, Samuel, became a prominent General in the Revolutionary War from Maryland, and was a United States Senator from that State for two or more terms.

I wish to call the attention of Mr. Hensel and the Historical Society to a slip of the pen in his address delivered at the Scotch-Irish banquet in Philadelphia. He said Andrew Galbraith defeated George Stewart, a Quaker, for the Assembly in 1731. The latter was a member of Donegal Church and a Justice of the Peace for Donegal before the county was erected. Mr. Galbraith and his wife made their first fight against John Wright, a Quaker, who resided where Columbia now is, and defeated him. Mr. Stewart resided where Marietta now is, and owned 600 acres of land there.

He died in Philadelphia while the Legislature was in session, in January, 1732. Mr. John Wright was elected to fill the vacancy, and he and Andrew Galbraith were elected without a contest for many years thereafter. James Wright, son of John, was also elected to the Legislature for many years.

I wish to make another correction in Donegal affairs, which may creep into the Society's records: On the tablet in Donegal Church it is stated that "Arthur Patterson found the Church in 1722." Mr. Patterson did not come from the Parish of Rapho, Donegal, Ireland, to Donegal, in this county, until 1725 or 1726. The minutes of the New Castle Presbytery show that supplies were sent to Donegal in 1720 and 1721.

SAMUEL EVANS.

Author: Evans, Samuel, 1823-1908.

Title: Some early Indian traders / by Samuel Evans.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Fur traders--Pennsylvania--Lancaster County.  
Lancaster County (Pa.)--Biography.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society,  
1904/1905

Description: [297]-300 p. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 9,  
no. 9

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.9

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

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