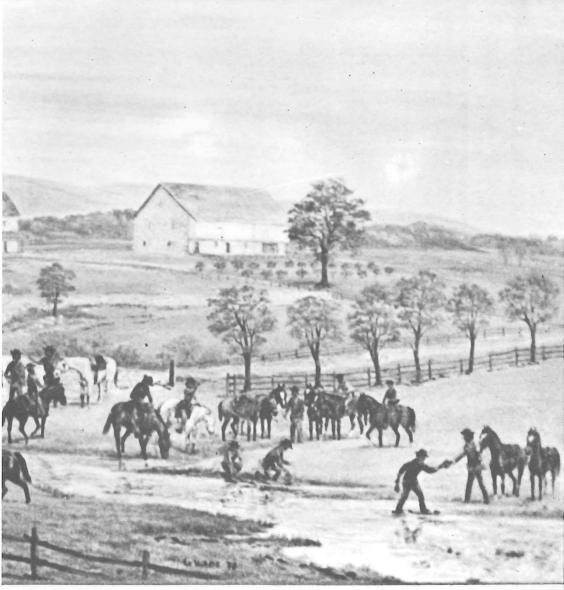
Cumberland County





History

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Number 1

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Membership and Subscription

Cumberland County History is published semi-annually. All members of the Cumberland County Historical Society receive a copy of the journal as part of regular membership. The regular membership fee is \$20.00 annually. Members receive other benefits, including a quarterly newsletter, special invitations to programs and exhibits, and the satisfaction of joining with others to preserve county history. Correspondence regarding membership should be addressed to the Executive Director, Cumberland County Historical Society, 21 North Pitt Street, Carlisle, PA 17013.

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Cumberland County History



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Cover: Hogestown in June 1863. Reproduced is a photograph of a oil painting by Dr. George N. Wade, Jr. In the foreground Confederate cavalry take water from Hoge's Run. The Harrisburg-Carlisle Turnpike crosses in the midground. In the rear stand Jonathan Hoge's house and barn, now owned by the artist.

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The Great Grangers' Picnic Exhibition at Williams Grove, Pa., 1783-1916

Warren J. Gates

A gricultural fairs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries contributed significantly to the dynamics of American rural life. Of such fairs the one held at Williams Grove annually from 1873 through 1916 was among the most important not only regionally but nationally as well. The Great Grangers' Picnic Exhibition, the most commonly used name for the event, combined commerce, entertainment, agricultural education, politics, Grange sponsored activities, and social opportunities to those who attended. Its rise and evolution reflect the changing state of rural life, the effects of the transportation revolution, and the desire to modernize both farming methods and living conditions in rural and small town America. Its commitment was to progress of both individuals and society in general.

The Great Grangers' Picnic Exhibition originated from initiatives of local railroad interests and the entrepreneurial leadership of Colonel Robert H. Thomas of Mechanicsburg, the first secretary of the Pennsylvania Grange. Key developments occurred in 1873. In that year the Cumberland Valley Railroad first leased from the Williams family an attractive twenty-eight-acre grove about ten miles west of Harrisburg. The railroad invested in facilities for outings and began to promote excursions to the new railroad park. That year, too, the Pennsylvania State Grange was organized at Reading and selected as its secretary Colonel Thomas, who had participated in the founding convention. Before the summer ended, several of the local granges held a joint picnic at Williams Grove; that picnic had purely fraternal and social purposes. When the second annual grangers' picnic convened there in August 1874, however, a new dimension of the outing supplemented the original purposes. Merchants and alert representatives of farm implement firms were present by invitation, displaying wares and offering special "granger" prices to purchasers.²

Colonel Thomas was the key figure in development of the Picnic Exhibition and a publicist for agricultural interests of the region. His secretaryship of the Pennsylvania Grange ran from 1873 to 1894. From 1874 until his death in 1908 he was both publisher of the Mechanicsburg *Farmers Friend and Grange Advocate* and manager of the fair at Williams Grove. His son, Robert H. Thomas,

Jr., who succeeded him both as editor-publisher and as manager of the Picnic, had long been associated with both enterprises; consequently there was continuity of management and policy. Colonel Thomas worked closely with the railroads to secure service at excursion rates for passengers and favorable tariffs for freight. Local and national businesses found exhibiting at the Picnic profitable, and the event was well managed. Thomas won recognition as an authority on agricultural expositions. He represented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the 1884-85 World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition at New Orleans and at an American exposition in London in 1887. He traveled extensively visiting agricultural expositions and serving as what we would today term a consultant to managers of fairs and expositions. The Spartanburg, S.C., Interstate Farmers Summer Encampment was directly modeled on the combination of agricultural programming and field demonstration of farm equipment which Thomas had developed at the Grangers' Picnic.³

From the second picnic forward essentials were in place, and within a decade all key elements were functional. The core rested upon the commercial exhibits. Annually these provided opportunities for farmers to observe and compare changes in equipment, witness demonstrations in the fields and make inquiries of their fellows who were using the new machines. The commercial exhibits attracted crowds, while the fees paid by exhibitors financed the programs offered by the fair's management and covered expenses of organizing and conducting the event. The Grange connection attracted leaders and a core of persons active in the Noble Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, while its organizational dimension augmented the focus of the programs. For six years the Picnic Exhibition was a one day event, but in 1879 it expanded to a three day affair and soon to a full week. A multiple day event increased programming flexibility, while the crowds attending became a magnet for political leaders and vocal advocates of societal reforms who sought a hearing from a rural constituency. Entertainment was added. This both stimulated daily attendance and responded to the interests of the growing number of persons who became temporary residents at the Grove as campers, renters of cottages, or boarders at the hotel there.4

The scale and success of the burgeoning event caused the railroad to expand physical facilities and develop means to handle the logistics of massive freight and passenger movements. The one day picnic in 1877 attracted eight to ten thousand persons including individuals and groups from Maryland and West Virginia. Weekly attendance from the 1800's on regularly exceeded 100,000. In 1885, for example, the attendance was reported as 150,000, with persons present from twenty-nine of the thirty-eight states. More than three hundred freight car loads of implements, stationary and traction steam engines, western livestock, and the like were exhibited. The area leased for the park was expanded from the original twenty-eight acres to forty acres to meet needs for more exhibit space, an enlarged amphitheater, erection of a tent and cottage area, development of recreation space, enlarged railroad sidings and passenger shelters. During the picnic period additional acreage, adjacent to the park, was rented to permit working demonstrations and field trials of equipment. By 1887 the facilities included a two thousand seat open air auditorium (later enlarged to



Colonel Robert H. Thomas. From halftone engraving in Biographical Annals of Cumberland County (Chicago: 1905).

3,500 seats), a one thousand seat assembly and exhibit hall, a hotel which could lodge 150 and board one thousand persons. Tent and cottage areas were served by vendors of meats, groceries, ice, kerosene; sanitary facilities were provided, and streets were sprinkled to control dust. In the last years of the Picnic the "camp city" could accommodate 7,500 persons.⁵

Both the Cumberland Valley Railroad (later absorbed into the Pennsylvania) and the Dillsburg and Mechanicsburg provided rail service to the park. Because of the scale of operations required during the Picnic period, both carriers invested in track, holding yards and passenger facilities. The Cumberland Valley rented extra engines, usually four, to handle the special trains or sections. When fully developed the railroads could move a train in or out every ten minutes and could handle fifty or more trains daily. They also benefitted from heavy freight shipments in the weeks preceding and following the event. By contract the Picnic Exhibition preempted the entire facility for fair week and had access periods before and after as required to install and dismantle exhibits, etc. For the balance of the year use of the facility by individuals and groups was controlled by the railroad, not by the Picnic Association.⁶

The Picnic's relation to the Pennsylvania Grange and the Washington headquarters of the national organization contributed significantly to establishing the pattern of this fair and to its place in the agricultural mainstream. In the first quarter century the organizational connections were close and had a major influence on programming, attendance and the growing national reputation of the event. Thomas, as noted, was secretary of the Pennsylvania Grange to 1894. The Pennsylvania Grange executive committee annually met in extended session at the Picnic and was involved in the direction and execution of platform events. The state connections and Thomas's contacts promoted participation by officers and staff on the national order, while these persons also were in turn channels through which officials of the United States Department of Agriculture and other civil servants were identified and encouraged to accept platform assignments. Such contacts promoted timely attention at the Picnic to the latest directions and interests in American agriculture.

Activities from the first half of the history of the Picnic Exhibition illustrate the close organizational interaction which prevailed. In 1886 and again in 1895 the National Grange secretary, the national lecturer, the Pennsylvania master and Pennsylvania lecturer had program positions. In 1894 Colonel Thomas arranged a Founders Day to which the three surviving founders of the national grange, Oliver H. Kelley, Dr. John Trimble the national secretary, and William Saunders a former national secretary, came to reminisce about early struggles. Nostalgia reigned at this "grand reunion, the last perhaps that will be held in this world."

National recognition came in 1891 when Dr. Trimble speaking, from the Williams Grove platform said:

This is not a meeting of the Patrons of Pennsylvania; it is more, it is a meeting of the National Grange; is so recognized by every State Grange in the United States and will be so supported.

Thomas regarded this as more than a rhetorical flourish, for his report of Trimble's comment concluded:

The Williams Grove meeting is now under the care of the National Grange of the United States and will grow in power and influence as the years roll by. It is a permanent institution which no human agency can harm and will go steadily forward in the line which it has followed for eighteen years, feeling confident that those who know it best appreciate it most and will work to make it the grandest and greatest agricultural exhibition on this continent.⁸

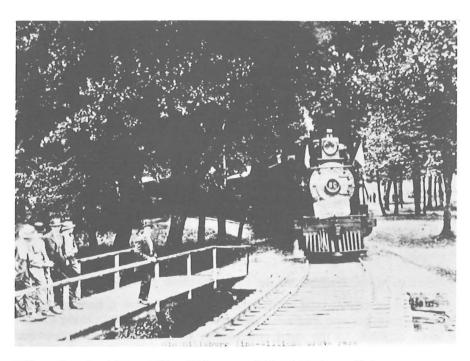
Periodically thereafter program covers such as that of 1905 carried the legend "Under the Commendation of the Granges Throughout the United States" or words to that effect.

The close organizational orientation eroded from its high point in the nineties. Thomas ceased to be secretary of the Pennsylvania Grange in 1894. After the turn of the century, the state group increased its support of a rival fair, The Encampment and Exhibition of the Patrons of Husbandry at Grange Park, Centre Hall, Pennsylvania. The Encampment, like the Picnic, dates from 1873. Although the break was not sudden, as Colonel Thomas aged and particularly when his son succeeded him in management, contacts with the agricultural establishment weakened. After 1900 the sources of modernization at the Picnic increasingly derived from commercial exhibitors and advocacy groups rather than from the Grange connection.9

The Picnic Exhibition at Williams Grove took shape as the "golden age" of fairs (1850 to 1870) ended and as agricultural societies sponsorship of agricultural experimentation and information dissemination declined. It flourished when access to improved tools and equipment plus a transition to steam and later to gas powered machines was revolutionizing agricultural practices. Its role in the exhibition and sale of equipment appeared in the seventies, a decade when granges in the mid-west were organizing cooperatives, seeking price concessions through purchasing agents, and on occasion engaging directly in the production of agricultural equipment. In a period when hostility between farmers as consumers and the large equipment makers such as Deere,

McCormick, et al was recurrent, the managers at the Grove seem to have ameliorated tensions to the mutual advantage of equipment vendors, farm purchasers and the economic viability of the Picnic. Developments at Williams Grove with its clientele of farmers with diversified crops and interests were more positive and less confrontational than modes often associated with granger and populist militants of the farm belt. At this fair, exhibition of machinery and equipment was primary; exhibition of agricultural products was never more than incidental to other aspects of the grange week. The lack of emphasis on competitive showing and judging of agricultural products is somewhat atypical of major fairs of the period. It may be explained as a consequent of the diversity of agricultural interests in the region. ¹⁰

The Great Grangers' Picnic Exhibition promoted modernization not only of farming methods and equipment but also of social outlook and community activism. The messages being conveyed by most of the activities of the week were that change is good, and that the goal of individual and collective progress is not only attainable but a moral imperative. It is a thesis of this paper that Colonel Thomas and his associates endorsed progress as a goal. It was, they believed, the product of many pragmatic decisions by individuals, who abandoned old ways in favor of new, based on their assessment of cost benefit ratios. In every area of activity at the Picnic the call was for modernization. That message was reenforced each year, since our evidence suggests that individuals, families, even sequent generations, attended the annual fete which, like religious revivals, called again for a changed way of life.



Williams Grove Special. From William H. Thomas and Richard H. Steinmetz, Trains to the Grove (Privately printed, 1977).

MODERNIZATION

It would be useful to look at the several lines of activity in some detail treating them in the apparent order in which they contributed to modernization. The commercial function of the Great Grangers' Picnic Exhibition was both the key to the financial viability of the event and to modernization. Management's recognition of this relation was repeatedly stated in terms which varied little over almost five decades. Two considered statements from the 1890's conveniently relate agricultural progress in technology and attendance at Williams Grove to breaking with traditional methods in order to move toward scientific agriculture. Colonel Thomas in 1892 wrote:

It would be a misnomer to call the great meeting at Williams' Grove, Pennsylvania, a fair nor would the word picnic convey to the mind of the reader a clear idea of what the Grangers' Exhibition really is. Here in the shade of the beautiful and well watered island may be found on exhibition the best and most improved farming machinery and farming implements; the products of field, garden and orchard, and the finest specimens of thoroughbred horses, cattle, sheep and swine. There is nothing the progressive farmer may want that he cannot find on exhibition here; can see in operation, so that he can judge of its merits and its adaptability to the work contemplated. The loom, the shop and the factory contribute to the general display. Here the farmer meets the manufacturer face to face and can purchase at first hand whatever he may desire, at prices that leave him in possession of the commission which generally goes to the agent.¹¹

Because the fees from commercial exhibitors and concessionaires met operating and programming costs, no admission was charged at the gate: both exhibits and platform events, other than evening entertainment, was free. Thomas believed it ws the progressive farmers who attended. In 1897 he wrote:

But to derive any benefit from the competitive display farmers must be present to see these implements and this varied stock of machinery. To him who stays at home, satisfied to travel on in the way his ancestor trod; content to work with poor implements and raise poor crops and fill up his spare moments growling and grumbling at that mysterious something which has made his enterprising, thoughtful and observant neighbor more successful, the Exhibition brings no advantages. You need to see the latest and most improved machinery and to hear leading agriculturalists discuss the great question of farming in a practical common sense way. This is what the meeting at Williams Grove is for and this is what will be done here. 12

Modernization was available for the taking by those who sought it.

Inclusion of commercial exhibits at agricultural fairs, a heritage of the European trade fair, was traditional and contributed meaningfully to the sources of ideas available to the rural community. In this era, when agricultural technology was making rapid advances, exhibits and the efforts of salesmen provided information about the newest developments and promoted innovative methods for performing traditional tasks. Individuals who never read a farm



Prominent Grangers, 1901. From Thomas and Steinmetz, Trains to the Grove, 1977.

journal or attended a program on agronomy went to the fair. There they learned much.¹³ Contemporary accounts as well as reminiscences confirm the primacy of commercial exhibits in attracting attendance at the Grove; other elements took a back seat to the viewing of exhibits, comparing performance of equipment and determining prices. The commercial function overwhelmed the competitive exhibition of agricultural products which is customarily an aspect of rural fairs.¹⁴ At Williams Grove exhibits of fruits, vegetables, poultry, cattle and other farm products were of minor importance. Although prize lists in several categories can be found for most decades, the number of entries judged and the inconsistency with which results were reported suggest how low a priority this activity had for the public. Yet the obituary of Joseph T. Kast of Mechanicsburg notes that for forty years he was in charge of the horticultural exhibits. Even in the agricultural exhibits there was a commercial presence for the lists show that nurserymen, florists, and cattle breeders bulk large and often carried off the prizes.¹⁵

Management, perhaps exercising a bit of the showman's hyperbole, contended that the exhibition exceeded in size and diversity any other in the country. Advertising for the thirty-sixth Picnic Exhibition claimed "Largest display of farm machinery in the U.S.; Greatest Grangers Encampment in the World." By 1912 the equipment display was billed as the largest in the world. A 1915 statement of purpose read "The prime objective ... is that manufacturers all over the country may meet annually in friendly competition, for the purpose of

displaying what each has wrought during the year." Sales and purchasing were central to the mission as the following quotations testify:

- 1896 Farmers have come to the wise conclusion that if they desire to take advantage of modern invention and profit by the experience of others this is the time and place to come.
- 1908 If you want to introduce new implements on your farm Williams Grove is the place to select them.
- 1909 A man wanting to purchase a gasoline engine should have no trouble to be accommodated for there are myriads of different styles to select from.¹⁶

Although figures concerning sales and value of equipment and supplies exhibited are at best generous estimates originating with management, they provide a measure of the magnitude of commercial aspects of the Picnic. The levels for 1885 were: value of items shown \$1 million; sales \$300,000 and quantity three hundred railroad car loads. Only two years later the Harrisburg Patriot placed exhibits, including livestock and horses as well as manufactures, at \$2 million. Later in the evolution of the event sales were reported at \$500,000 in 1908 and \$1 million in 1914.17 Some perspective on what these levels mean may be gained by brief comparisons. Nordin's study of sales by agents of state granges shows that the Indiana agent in 1875 sold \$300,000 for the year while the Wisconsin agent from 1875 to 1888 sold as little as \$34,000 in the poorest year and \$164,445 in the best year. These were sales for a year; those at Williams Grove were accomplished in a single week. Another indicator of the relative strength of the Picnic is that, whereas many state fairs were suspended in years when there was competition from world fairs or special expositions, attendance and exhibits at the Grove were not perceptibly reduced in such years. For example in 1893, the year of the famous Columbian Exposition at Chicago. neither program nor attendance were reduced at the Picnic. In 1904 when a world's fair was held at St. Louis, the Farmers Friend noted that most leading manufacturers exhibited at the Grove as usual presenting exhibits which would have been "a great credit" at St. Louis. 18

The number and extent of commercial exhibits varied considerably. For some years news items or reports on the Picnic list exhibitors by name and provide detail on the content of each display. Such a list for 1892 names 164 persons or firms displaying 1,329 items or lots of merchandise. The detail offered shows that 129 different items were being offered. These ranged from major pieces of farm equipment through tools and utilitarian household articles like sewing machines to luxuries such as parlor organs. Numerous versions of the same item were offered. In 1910, for example, thirty-seven different styles or makes of washing machines were exhibited. The focus of exhibits varied with some exhibitors showing a range of related items. For example, in 1892 the John Deere Company displayed plows, hay tedders and harvesters, all of its own manufacture. In 1893 the Farquahr Company of York in a representative display of items from different makers showed:

2 grain drills	1 one horse	2 plows	1 shingle machine
3 traction engine	cultivator	2 separators	2 cider mills
1 saw mill	3 two horse	3 harrows	2 corn planters
1 horsepower mill	cultivators		1 feed cutter

Horses, cattle and swine were shipped in by western stockmen; these were not for show but for sale. Fifty car load lots of animals were often on hand around the turn of the century. Nurserymen also used the horticultural exhibit as a channel for sales.¹⁹

Power in its applications to agricultural tasks and equipment used on farms was both a major force for modernization and an object of almost universal fascination. Steam powered stationary engines and traction devices were focal points for demonstrations from the 'eighties to later years of the Picnic Exhibition. Gas powered engines appeared in the 'nineties and became increasigly important thereafter. The 1896 exhibit list, for example, notes a St. Albans, Vermont foundry showing a thirteen horsepower gas engine operating a fodder shredder, and a New York road machinery company demonstrating a stone crusher run by a ten horsepower gas engine. At the 1912 Picnic the J. I. Case Company was showing a stock tractor climbing a 45 degree incline. The Farquahr Company had a field demonstration of a gasoline powered tractor pulling a five bottom Oliver gang plow. A Locomobile agent showed a car in 1900. The Picnics of 1912 through 1916 included auto shows as a special attraction which was justified as a means of demonstrating the usefulness of motor vehicles to rural Americans. The 1915 Program brochure proclaimed "This is a great place to show automobiles. The farmer is buying them without stint and, as Williams Grove is a mecca for the farmer, it is certainly the place for manufacturers of cars." Newspaper comment in that decade noted the increasing number of those attending who came by car, reported on the consequent reduction in rail traffic and speculated on the changes which these developments implied.20

Recollections of persons attending the Picnic Exhibition frequently focus on the fascination with power in action and associate it with the dynamics of change in rural America. An eloquent reminiscence reaching back to ca. 1912 reads:

Those massive hissing steam traction engines, all black and brass, gleaming clean, operating saw mills and threshing machines by long racing belts. The rumble and roar and activity filled the air to create a feeling of apprehension in this kid.²¹

The same source recalls seeing a small one-cylinder gas engine mounted on four glass bottles to demonstrate its minimal vibration; it was suggested as a power source for a separator or washing machine. Currently a steam engine association annually offers at Williams Grove a display of working engines which they term the Grangers Picnic. Many of their steam powered tractors and other engines are counterparts of ones shown and sold at Williams Grove in the years chronicled in this article. The present festival testifies to the strong commercial heritage treated in this portion of the paper and gives tangible evidence of the

modernization which occurred. But whereas the interest to 1916 was in the new and the innovative, the interest in the 1980's combines nostalgia for a world which is lost and perhaps an element of anti-technological sentiment alien to the Thomases and the patrons of their agrarian fair. The prewar cohort valued change and sought out the latest and the best to point the way.

Platform programming provided the second primary source of new ideas, information about agricultural innovation, and a focus for public attention. As with other fairs programming created an order of interdependence between the Picnic management and those advocacy organizations which used their places on the program as a base for developing wider support for their "cause" among a rural populace. Although the platform speakers were highly visible and widely reported, individual speakers were probably seldom heard by any significant fraction of those attending the Picnic. As a fictional account of a visit to this fair phrased it, "I don't bother with the lectures much ... we hear them talked over and know as much as those who sit their necks stiff and nod approvingly."²² Yet ideas presented from the platform during the many sessions of a Picnic week contributed to modernization, and the tone and circumstances of their presentation warrants our attention.

Portions of the programming communicated information about new agricultural techniques, reported scientific discoveries, and popularized improved farming methods. At Williams Grove, as at many state fairs, talks were scheduled for representatives of agricultural schools as well as speakers from state and federal agencies involved with agriculture and rural life. In the 1880's and 1890's "Professor" S. B. Heiges, principal of the Cumberland Valley State Normal School (now Shippensburg State University), was a frequent speaker on



Farquabr Company Exhibit. From Thomas and Steinmetz, Trains to the Grove, 1977.

agricultural topics. At the turn of the century members of the administration and staff of Penn State regularly appeared on the programs. The Picnic as a forum supplemented other sources of information and, as previously noted, touched individuals who would neither read the agrarian press nor attend local meetings. The most elaborate programs dealing directly with farming methods were attempted in 1896 when a "Farmers Institute," arranged by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, occupied the first two days of the week. In topics and participants it replicated the "short course." The subjects ranged from use of fertilizers though animal diseases and forestry practices to a discussion of road building methods and the importance of good roads to the farmer. In the progressive era state and federal officials were often scheduled to discuss services of government agencies for the farmer. Displays and printed literature frequently supplemented the spoken word in these educational efforts. In 1912, for example, the Chestnut Tree Blight Committee set up a display and distributed pamphlets on combating the problem.²³

After its first decade the Great Grangers' Picnic permitted political advocacy which brought current issues to the fore and generated some of the excitement which builds crowds. This development reflects the support of civic involvement which was so strongly part of the Grange ethic and lay at the roots of Populism and Progressivism. Although the Grange order banned political discussion from its meetings, the Thomases, as managers of the Picnic, welcomed party rallies and gave a hearing not only to candidates of the major parties but to spokesmen for minority parties as well. The parties arranged their own programs, determined who would appear and what topics would be treated in the time allotted to them. Because of the potentially large audiences and the excellent rail service, leading state and national figures regularly participated.

Until 1884 the Picnic Exhibition hosted no overtly political presentations although incumbent governors, congressmen, et al appeared by virtue of their office. In that year Benjamin F. Butler, of Massachusetts, ex-Radical Republican ex-Democrat and then presidential candidate of the Greenback and Antimonopoly parties, spoke on the topic "Prices of Farm Products Go Down while Railroad Fares and Freights Keep Up." Notices of his appearance ignored the particular irony of such a presentation at a railroad park. He was only the first of a series of advocates of radical political solutions for farmers' problems to appear at the Picnic. Within a decade newspapers and Picnic advertisements were referring to Politician's Day or Statesman's Day; this was an age of strong political advocacy. Partisanship was noticeably reinforced by the thrust of Populism. In 1891 Mortimer Whitehead, lecturer of the National Grange, without apology diverged from his announced organizational topic to rebutt Congressman Frank E. Beltzhoover's advocacy of hard money solutions to the financial problems of the country. Whitehead called for meaningful changes in both the monetary and political systems. The next year the Pennsylvania State Grange Lecturer used his Granger's Day appearance to present a Populist oriented analysis of the problems of the day, and General James B. Weaver, Populist candidate for President, included an appearance at the Picnic in his campaign schedule.24

Both major and minor parties rallied at the Grangers Picnic. The management, perhaps reflecting the Thomas's journalistic orientation, encouraged presentation of opposing views and celebrated the tradition of free speech and responsible advocacy of change through the political system. William Jennings Bryan, whom manager Thomas "confidently expected" in 1896, did not come for reasons which are unclear, since he was at the time in upstate New York. Nor did he visit Williams Grove thereafter. Despite his absence, gold, silver and monetary problems received much attention from speakers throughout the nineties. The most famous major party candidate to come was Woodrow Wilson in a 1912 pre-Labor Day foray to open his Pennsylvania campaign and appeal to the farm vote. He was introduced by Congressman A. Mitchel Palmer of Stroudsburg, who became Attorney General late in Wilson's second term. Wilson's address was farm oriented dealing with the threat of trusts and tariffs to rural interests. Although a record crowd gathered, a local paper commented "The crowd was not demonstrative, for farmers seldom make much over campaign speeches."25 State reform parties, especially those in which Grange leaders took an active part scheduled rallies at Williams Grove during the Grangers' Picnic. For example, the Keystone Party gathered there in 1910 and the Washington Party in 1913. In 1912 the state socialist party provided a session at which its spokesmen addressed farm and reform issues. The fair management used the opportunity to hear both sides of issues in its promotion of attendance.26

Advocacy went beyond partisan political efforts or exclusively agrarian concerns to broader social issues. The Picnic, which reached a dispersed rural population whose isolation was ordinarily difficult to penetrate, provided a unique opportunity to apprise the farmers and their wives of current social concerns and efforts to accomplish change. Both managers and those directing the affairs of advocacy organizations recognized the annual opportunity offered by the Picnic. In 1908 Robert C. Thomas, Jr. succinctly expressed the relation of advocacy groups to the Picnic:

A number of the various Philanthropic Associations will have headquarters on the grounds, literature to distribute and able speakers present to set forth the objects of these noble organizations and impart to the public correct views of the work in which each is engaged and the good that has been and is being accomplished by them.²⁷

In the last years of the Picnic tensions from the larger world affected programming, introducing elements of confrontation and reflecting ambivalence in American attitudes. In 1915 Monday was Preparedness Day. As if in calculated rebuttal, on Wednesday the Pennsylvania Peace and Arbitration Society sponsored an address by Mrs. Perry D. Pennybacker of Austin, Texas, President of the National Federation of Women's Clubs, and J. Augustus Cadwalader of Philadelphia, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Peace Society. Mrs. Pennybacker's appearance was arranged by Mrs. Edward W. Biddle, wife of the Cumberland County judge, and Mrs. Mabel Cronise Jones of Harrisburg, who



1895
Program Advertisement.
From Thomas and
Steinmetz,
Trains to the Grove, 1977.

was president of the Central Pennsylvania Suffrage Association and other suffrage activists. Between these events the Pennsylvania unit of the American Antivivisection Society inaugurating its first statewide campaign consciously attempted to reach the rural community through its activities at the Grove. Its speakers discussed the use of animals and poor children as research objects, and it distributed printed materials. In 1916 a National Guard recruiter was present. That same year representatives of the Associated Charities of Pennsylvania were also in attendance with an exhibit on feeble mindedness. Concerns in those closing years seem to have been less exclusively agrarian and more focused on sociological problems.

Although women's activities and the suffrage effort at the picnic were sporadic, their development perhaps most clearly illustrates the relation of advocacy to modernization of social concepts. A Grange organizational initiative to further implement its established tradition of female participation within the order triggered the first period of activity. In 1890 the Pennsylvania Grange, apparently in response to a directive from the national organization, created a committee on women's work in the grange. That committee held public meetings at the Picnics of 1890, 1891 and 1892. The first two years' sessions focused exclusively on such organizational matters as reports from local women's work committees. Wives of Pennsylvania Grange leaders were active in the women's programs. Like their male counterparts they not only spoke themselves but also scheduled women who held significant offices in other state granges. Colonel Thomas was supportive of the new dimension, giving it publicity and in conjunction with the executive committee of the state grange gave women's programs prior claims on a newly erected and formally fitted assembly hall.²⁹ In 1892 the thrust of women's programming broadened to include the drive for suffrage which had been reinvigorated by the founding of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association. The Reverend Anna Shaw spoke for the new association in 1892 in the first of her platform appearances at the Grove. At that time she was lecturer for the suffrage society but would soon become its vice-president under Susan B. Anthony. She spoke on the goals and tactics of NAWSA. The following year Mrs. Rachel Foster Avery, secretary of NAWSA and of the organizing committee of the "World Congress of Representative Women" which assembled at the Chicago Columbian Exposition, spoke on "Women and Government."³⁰ That she found time to appear at the Picnic in what must have been a very busy year suggests both that the opportunity was regarded as important and that those arranging the Picnic's program were knowledgable and had good contacts with the suffrage leaders.

Suffrage advocacy continued throughout the decade, but the speakers were less nationally prominent than Reverend Shaw and Mrs. Avery. During 1897 and 1898 an effort was under way to revise Pennsylvania statutes concerning the legal rights of women and the provisions of the intestacy act. Farm families had an obvious stake in the outcome of the move to change laws governing property distribution, and women's programs were built around these concerns.³¹ Suffrage understandably received less attention in those years.

Colonel Thomas supported suffrage advocacy as part of the Grange tradition. He wrote in 1897:

The Grange is the only organization that confers upon women equal rights with men, it is therefore eminently appropriate that the Patrons of Husbandry should give aid and countenance to this move for the disenthrallment of women.³²

Yet Women's Day or Suffrage Day, as it was variously called in the 1890's, disappeared after 1900, and suffrage advocacy did not resurface until 1912. Since both Thomases supported suffrage in their paper, the *Farmers Friend and Grange Advocate*, and readily included pro-suffrage programming in events at the Picnic, it seems reasonable to conclude that the women's movement in Pennsylvania failed during the lacunae years to appreciate the usefulness of the Picnic as a forum to reach farm women.

With the suffrage movement nationally approaching a critical point in its campaign for the ballot in the prewar years, revival of advocacy at Williams Grove came as no surprise. The sponsor in that period was the Women's Suffrage Organization of Pennsylvania. In 1912 and 1913 its speakers were either officers or leading activists in the cause from nearby communities. In addition to Mrs. Biddle and Mrs. Jones, previously identified as local leaders of pro-suffrage activities, other local suffrage leaders were involved in activities at the Grove. Among them were Dr. Ruth Deeter and Miss Katherine Keefer of Mechanicsburg, Misses Mary Norcross and Nellie Penrose and Mrs. C. Guiles Flower of Carlisle. Their level of visibility was considerable, however, for they staffed a headquarters booth and distributed leaflets to persons attending political rallies. In 1915 Anna Shaw, now president of NAWSA, was again on the platform. Her message was that there could be no peace, no cessation of agitation until suffrage was won. This time, however, there was organized opposition to her views; later in the week Mrs. O. D. Oliphant of Trenton, New Jersey, appeared at a session arranged by the Pennsylvania Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage.³³ Advocacy was indeed open, and both the pros and the cons received a hearing if proponents of those positions had enough initiative to secure places on the platform program.

For youth and the youthful at heart in fair time when programs and exhibits pall, the thrill and excitement of entertainment options beckoned irresistibly. In subtle but light-hearted ways elements of the entertainment offerings and the



Tent Area at Night.

social interactions inherent in the Picnic experience also contributed to broadening horizon and developing appreciation of many accepted forms of popular entertainment. From the 1890's to World War I illustrated lectures, especially those of Frank R. Roberson, a noted lecturer and author, transported audiences to exotic places such as India, Japan and Eygpt (1895) to newsworthy events such as the war in Cuba (1898), the Boer War (1900), Belgium (1915), and the Panama Canal (1907).³⁴

Other attractions, even the physical facilities, at Williams Grove provided contacts with new technology and changing life styles. In 1909, only six years after the Wright brothers were airborne at Kitty Hawk, the *Golden Butterfly* demonstrated the reality of flight as a special attraction. Electric lighting appeared at the Grove for utilitarian purposes rather than as spectacle. In 1881, two years after the first United States commercial electric street lighting, six 2,000 candle power arc lights were installed at the park. The power was generated by a temporarily installed steam engine and dynamo. Before the next Picnic the Cumberland Valley Railroad extended the idea by mounting a steam engine and a larger capacity dynamo on a rail car which could be moved among its several railroad parks as events required. That system's capacity was upgraded in 1889 to support forty arc lights plus incandescent lamps.³⁵ In the initial years the lighting itself must have been an attraction as well as a harbinger of new forces which would transform lifestyles in complex ways.

Entertainment is an inclusive but value neutral term, and fairs sometimes cater to "uncritical and unsophisticated tastes." In this the Picnic was no exception. Its offerings ran the gamut from high culture to plebian. In 1878 an Italian opera troupe was on the list of attractions. Baseball was offered in the 1880's and succeeding decades; for example, an 1882 game between the Reading Actives

and the Albert Merrill Club of Camden, New Jersey, ended in a tie after sixteen innings. A midway appeared by 1883 offering rides and shows of varying quality. A newspaper account of that year reported:

a traveling side-show, composed of the King of Zululand and his retinue was too big an attraction for the Grangers sons and daughters who emptied the contents of their pockets into the ever ready paws of the door keeper.

Minstrel shows, some offering "coon songs" in Pennsylvania German dialect. competed for patronage with "Professor" J. Warren Gilbert's lectures on the battle at Gettsburg and one day rail excursions to that nearby battlefield. Rides could be had on a fifty foot Ferris wheel, a merry go round, or a naptha launch; but such an investment might preclude a visit to the menagerie or force one to forego a dish of ice cream on a hot day. Two years after minstrel shows were introduced, the sideshow pitchmen were sufficiently entrenched so that they protested to Colonel Thomas that a commercial exhibitor was hurting their take by offering free entertainment.³⁶

Despite the best efforts of the managers of the Picnic, the event with its massive crowds and holiday atmosphere sometimes attracted less desirable elements. Unlicensed sale of alcoholic beverages on or near the grounds was a recurrent problem. Pickpockets sometimes mingled with the crowds and infrequently were apprehended by railroad police assigned to the event. In some years midway operators openly, or on the sly, permitted gambling. There were also years when some of the shows on the midway provoked protest as being indecent or fraudulent. Occasionally fights broke out. In 1895 in the most egregious instance of violence John Fernawalt of Mooredale, who became involved in a dispute over the upset of a picnic basket, died as a result of an assault by two Harrisburg men. Problems of law and order seem to have been greatest in the mid and late nineties, but that decade had no monopoly. Thomas and his co-workers recognized how damaging rowdy or illegal activity could be and sought to prevent it both by assignment of police and attention to booking acceptable entertainment.³⁶

Generally, however, contemporary accounts of the Picnic were quite positive, and this is as true of notices in Carlisle papers as it is of the Thomases' house organ the *Farmers Friend and Grange Advocate*. Socialization in consequence of a shared experience, annually renewed, offset rural isolation and contributed to a sense of community. In 1901 Aaron Jones, worthy master of the National Grange, shrewdly recognized the constructive consequences of the Picnic experience and their contribution to modernization of behavior and values:

This Exhibition has likewise done great good in a direction hitherto too little recognized and too little appreciated. Association has developed esthetic taste to a degree that renders it impossible to continue to distinguish the young people of the farm from the residents of towns and cities. There is no longer dissimilarity in intellectual attainments or the polish of polite society. ... The result of these meetings is the uplifting of the farming population.....³⁸

The week, especially for those who rented tents or cottages, provided a recreational experience which could be justified by participants as providing education in agricultural methods, information about equipment, and contacts which made Grange activities more meaningful.

Salutary as the influences of The Great Grangers' Picnic Exhibition may have been, internal and extraneous factors combined to end its existence in 1916. Distribution patterns for farm equipment were changing, and manufacturers, with full order books and the alternative of defense related production, cut back on or eliminated their exhibits. Threat of a rail strike which might strand exhibitors and their equipment at the Grove, and a polio outbreak both decreased attendance and deterred participation. Manager Robert H. Thomas, Jr., died leaving no successor committed to continuing the operation. With United States entry into World War I the railroad surrendered its lease of the site leaving subsequent use of the park to other hands.³⁹ With this termination a component of the rites of late summer and an institution, which for forty-three years had promoted modernization in complex ways among a rural constituency, was gone.

In what respects, if any, was the Picnic Exhibition exceptional? Clearly it was a superbly successful regional fair serving an interstate clientele in much the way that the better midwestern state fairs attracted fairgoers from considerable distances. Unlike those fairs, however, the Picnic was self-supporting. Yet it had a strong organizational function in consequence of the Grange connection. Although that relation diminished after Colonel Thomas ceased to be Secretary of the Pennsylvania Grange, it never wholly disappeared. The message of the Picnic was that through modernization of farming methods and rural living conditions farmers could maintain their self-respect, raise their standard of living, and offset the pull of urban America for their children. The Thomases, especially the elder, and their associates were unusually perceptive and verbalized the sociological implications of modernization for rural life. Their thoughtful statements, many of which are quoted above in part, show that they rationalized their venture and were well acquainted with managerial techniques and effective public relations. There is much evidence that while they sought to revolutionize farming techniques through mechanization and scientific agricultural methods, they had strong respect for traditional rural values. These they sought to support, even as they urged adaptation to meet new conditions realistically. The Picnic flourished as the second Granger movement with its strongly eastern base peaked.40

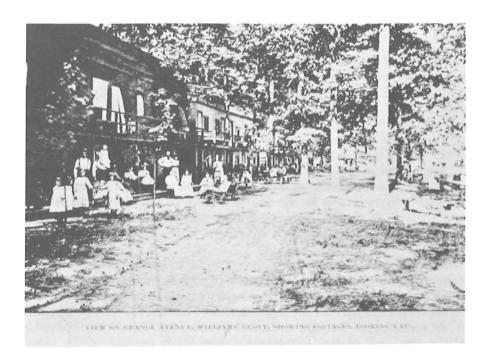
Like that movement the Picnic offered attractions for all members of the farm community. It was a mecca for both sexes, for all ages, and for family units. These circumstances provided a favorable context for education. Those who attended were repeatedly exposed to the message that change was required of this generation. Changing rural economic status, relation of consumers to agricultural equipment makers and suppliers, recreational opportunities were all provided in the offerings at the Grove. The Great Grangers' Picnic Exhibition at Williams Grove contributed in unique and complex ways to the modernization of farming techniques and social values of a cross section of rural and small-town families. Like the present day Farm Show it also contributed

significantly to the economic health of Mechanicsburg and Cumberland County. It was one, and only one, of a host of institutions that transformed and modernized post-Civil War American society.

ENDNOTES

- The information on which this paper is based has been presented in variant forms at the Zatae Longsdorf Conference on Women's Studies at Dickinson College in 1978, at the Cumberland County Historical Society in 1979, at the Duquesne History Forum in 1979 and most recently at a Symposium on the History of Rural Life in America sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural History Society and Florida A. & M. University in September 1983. The present text incorporates both materials and specific phrasing from the author's "Modernization as a Function of an Agricultural Fair: The Great Grangers' Picnic Exhibition at Williams Grove, Pennsylvania 1873-1916," Agricultural History '58 (July 1984): 262-275 while expanding references to local participants and events. Preparation and presentation of the paper were assisted by the Dickinson College Faculty Research Fund.
- ² History of Cumberland and Adams Counties, Pennsylvania (Chicago: Warner Beers & Co., 1886. Reproduced by Unigraphics Inc., Evansville, Indiana, 1964), pp. 192, 227; Paul J. Westhaeffer, History of the Cumberland Valley Railroad, 1835-1919 (Washington: Washington D.C. Chapter National Railway Historical Society, 1979), p. 122.
- ³Cumberland and Adams Counties, pp. 192, 227, 436, 437; Frederick C. Brenkman, History of the Pennsylvania State Grange (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania State Grange, 1949), p. 309; Mechanicsburg [Pa.] Farmers Friend and Grange Advocate, 11, 25 Jan. 1908; hereafter FFGA, Ruth Salisbury, Pennsylvania Newspapers: a Bibliography and Union List (Pittsburgh: Pennsylvania Library Association, 1969), p. 74 shows publication from 1874 to 1918. Unfortunately known holdings are limited to 1891-1912. D. Sven Nordin, Rich Harvest: A History of the Grange, 1867-1900 (Jackson: University of Mississippi Press, 1974), p. 106.
- 4 Carlisle [Pa.] Sentinel, 31 Aug. 1877; 6 Aug. 1879.
- Sentinel, 31 Aug. 1877; FFGA, 19 Aug. 1893; 20 July 1912; Westhaeffer, p. 215; William H. Thomas and R. H. Steinmetz, Sr., Trains to the Grove: A History of Dillsburg and Mechanicsburg Railroad (n.p.: privately printed, 1977), p. 12; Williams Mansion, National Historical Register Background Paper, Cumberland County Historical Society MSS; Cumberland and Adams Counties, p. 227; Program, 1908. This and other Programs cited are in Cumberland County Historical Society MSS.
- 6 Westhaeffer, ibid; Thomas and Steinmetz; ibid; Cumberland and Adams Counties, ibid.
- 7 Sentinel, 25 Aug., 1 Sept. 1886; FFGA, 25 July 1891.
- 8 FFGA, 26 Sept. 1981.
- Pevidence of the shift in support is inferential, but after c. 1900 the state grange executive committee ceased to meet regularly at the Grove, the FFGA coverage of the Picnic Exhibition was minimal, while its content was influenced by Lester Rhone, master of the state grange and the Thomases counterpart at the Encampment. See Sandy Romanow, "The Centre County Grange Fair," Pennsylvania Heritage 5 (1979): 12-17.
- 10 Alan Bogue, From Prairie to Corn Belt (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1963), p. 205; Wayne C. Neeley, The Agricultural Fair (New York: Columbia University Press, 1935), pp. xi, xii, 99, 163; Wendell Berry, The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1977), p. 58; Solon J. Buck, The Granger Movement: A Study of Agricultural Organization and its Political, Economic and Social Manifestations, 1870-1880 (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1913), Chapt 7.
- 11 FFGA, 5 June 1892.
- 12 FFGA, 7 Aug. 1897.
- 13 Bogue, pp. 204-06; Neely, pp. 163, 251.
- ¹⁴ FFGA, 9 Oct. 1897; 17 Sept. 1898; 22 Aug. 1903; 10 Sept. 1904; 6 Oct. 1906; 10 Sept. 1910; 25 Nov. 1913; Sentinel, 8 Aug. 1879; Program, 1915; Neely, pp. 163, 251.
- FFGA, 8 Aug. 1879; 26 Nov. 1892; 9 Oct. 1894; 10 Sept. 1904; 4 Sept. 1909; 3, 10 Sept. 1910; 17 Aug. 1912; Sentinel, 31 Aug. 1885; 25 Nov. 1913; Program, 1915.
- 16 FFGA, 5 Sept. 1896; 22 Aug. 1908; 8 May 1909; 4 Sept. 1909; 20 July 1912; Program, 1915.
- ¹⁷ Cumberland and Adams Counties, p. 27; Stevenson W. Fletcher, Pennsylvania Agriculture and Country Life, 1840-1940 (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1955), 513 quotes the Patriot.
- ¹⁸ Nordin, pp. 134-136; Earle D. Ross, "The Evolution of the Agricultural Fair in the Northwest," *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 24 (1962): 46f.; FFGA, 10 Sept. 1904.
- 19 FFGA, 12 Nov. 1892; 8 July, 5 Aug. 1893; 27 Aug. 1910.
- ²⁰ FFGA, 12 Sept. 1896; 25 Aug. 1900; 17 Aug. 1912; Carlisle (Pa.) Herald, 2 Sept. 1915; 3 Sept. 1915; 30 Aug. 1916; Program, 1915.
- 21 Letter, George Mizell to author, 22 Nov. 1978.
- 22 Neely, p. 181; FFGA, 17 Sept. 1892.

- 28 Neely, pp. 174ff; FFGA, 9, 30 May 1896; 11 July 1896; 25 Aug. 1896; 5 Sept. 1896; 17 Aug. 1912; John E. Hubley, Hilltop History: Shippensburg State's First Hundred Years (Shippensburg, Pa.: Public Relations Office, 1976) p. 15.
- ²⁴ Sentinel, 28, 30 Aug. 1884; FFGA, 25 July 1891; 12 Sept. 1891; 27 Aug. 1892; 1 Oct. 1892; 8 Aug. 1896.
- 25 FFGA, 22 Aug. 1896; Sentinel, 29, 30 Aug. 1912.
- 26 FFGA, 20 Aug. 1910; 17 Aug. 1912; Herald, 28 Aug. 1912; 29 Aug. 1913.
- 2" Program, 1908.
- 28 Program, 1915; Herald, 28 Aug. 1915; 1, 2 Sept. 1915; 31 Aug. 1916.
- ²⁹ FFGA. 18 July 1891; 1, 15 Aug. 1891; 5 Sept. 1891; 10 Oct. 1891; 27 Aug. 1892; 1 Oct. 1892; 29 Oct. 1892; Brenckman, pp. 75, 201.
- ⁵⁰ FFGA, 27 Aug. 1892; 9 Sept. 1893; 14 Aug. 1897; Notable American Women 1607-1950 (1971). S.V. "Rachael F. Avery", "Anna Shaw"
- 51 FFGA, 14 Aug. 1897; 11 Sept. 1897; 13 Aug. 1898; 17 Aug. 1899.
- 52 FFGA, 21 Aug. 1897; 3 Feb. 1900.
- 44 Herald, 29 Aug. 1912; 28 Aug. 1913; 30 Aug. 1912; 2 Sept. 1915; 3 Sept. 1915; 4 Sept. 1915.
- 14 FFGA, 3 Aug. 1895; 21 July 1900; 3 Aug. 1907; Herald, 28 Aug. 1915.
- 35 FFGA, 5 Aug. 1899; 28 Aug. 1909; Sentinel, 2 Sept. 1881; 25 July 1882; Westhaeffer, p. 179.
- ⁴⁶ Sentinel, 25 July 1882; 21 Aug., 24 Aug., 1883; FFGA, 8 Aug. 1896; 20 Aug. 1904. See Neely, pp. 190, 202ff re the place of the midway and horseracing at agricultural fairs.
- ** Sentinel, 2 Sept. 1881; 4 Sept. 1885; 26 Aug. 1886; 30 Aug. 1895; 2 Sept. 1895; FFGA, 12 Sept. 1896; 14 Aug. 1897; 23 Apr. 1898; Herald, 31 Aug. 1916; 1 Sept. 1916.
- ³⁸ FFGA, 7 Sept. 1901; Neely, p. 211 also notes the socialization resulting from contacts at the fairs with "good" popular amusements, but Jones is more nearly celebrating the fair as a socializing instrument in the sense Neely develops on p. 217.
- ³⁹ Herald, 28, 30, 31 Aug. 1916; 1 Sept. 1916; Interview with Mrs. George Brougher, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; Westhaeffer, p. 215.
- 40 Nordin, pp. 39-44; Neely, pp. 258-260.



Grange Avenue Cottages. From Cumberland County Historical Society Collection.

Crime and Its Resolution In 18th Century Cumberland County

G. S. Rowe

The number and variety of crimes committed by members of a society, the types of crimes occupying the attention of that society's law enforcement personnel, and the degree of enthusiasm and skill that they and their fellow citizens exhibit in punishing offenders reveal much about that community. From the inception of Cumberland County in January, 1750, its citizens sought clearly to identify acceptable behavior and to seek out and prosecute persons unable or unwilling to adhere to that conduct. A look at their successes and failures offers a valuable glimpse into early Cumberland County history and, by extension, into modern Cumberland society as well.

The number of criminal offenses in Cumberland rose steadily throughout its first half century. Between the birth of the county and the Revolution its courts prosecuted an average of twenty charges a year (or about five accusations per court term). Its criminal court dockets more than doubled (to forty-five charges per year or eleven accusations per term) in the quarter of a century after 1776. Whether this represented a real increase in crime is not altogether clear, for the population of the county grew steadily in the first five decades. If available population figures are to be trusted, the county's actual crime rate did increase slowly after the Revolution. Without question, the number of alleged offenses continued to rise, and in the last five years of the eighteenth century Cumberland's courts were processing more than seventy cases a year, a heavy burden on its local justices.

Most of the charges significant enough to be treated by justices sitting *en banc*² were handled by the county courts of quarter sessions and general gaol delivery. Crimes audacious enough or brutal enough to be treated in oyer and terminer proceedings—mostly capital felonies—remained at about five percent of the total charges throughout the first five decades. Males were involved in nearly nine out of ten accusations (eighty-seven percent of the cases) prosecuted before Cumberland courts in that period. Prior to the Revolution the most likely allegations against Cumberland males in courts of quarter

sessions were assaults and batteries, thefts, operating illegal or unlicensed tippling houses, sexual infractions, and riots—in that order.³ Much of the violence was domestic, involving assaults by one member of a family against another.

The Revolution brought with it new crimes for which males were charged, including treason and misprision of treason. Several inhabitants of Cumberland were accused of "going to the enemy" or in the case of Henry Magee, for "being inimical & unfriendly to the United States." Criticism leveled against the Continental Congress and the American cause by John Gibson and Edmund Dean was taken seriously. They were among Pennsylvanians prosecuted for "speaking inimical to the United States."

The pre-war pattern of charges emerged again following the Revolution and continued to the end of the century. As before 1776, assaults and thefts far outnumbered other offenses. The continuation of the pattern of infractions and punishments suggests that many community standards remained largely unchanged in Cumberland after the War.⁵ However, the emergence in the dockets after the Revolution of such crimes as "setting up a billiard table" and "removing a land mark" and the absence of earlier offenses such as "selling liquor to the Indians" suggests something of the growth and development of the county.

Oyer and terminer accusations against males centered on crimes such as murder, counterfeiting, forgery, and burglary, with murder accounting for more than half (11/21) of the charges before 1776 and one-third (15/45) after that date. The impression left by these charges—and those in the quarter sessions—is one of a rough and tumble, even violent, society preoccupied with the accumulation and protection of property. Even in the number of charges against males for fornication and bastardy (four percent of all charges against males before 1776, six percent thereafter), the county seemed primarily concerned with tax rolls and public charity, for in most cases the preoccupation of the courts clearly was less with upholding moral conduct than with guaranteeing that illegitimate offspring would not become public burdens. Behind a dramatic rise of charges against individuals for forcible entry and detainer in Cumberland after 1776 lay a growing permanent county population and an increasing concern of its citizens and authorities with recognizing and protecting property rights.⁶

When females in eighteenth century Cumberland came before the county courts they were most likely to be charged with theft, fornication and bastardy, or assault. The same crimes composed most of the allegations against females after the Revolution, but following 1776 sexual infractions outnumbered the others. Of these latter, most were bastardy prosecutions instigated after a failure to identify and charge the father. A small rise in charges against women for rioting and operating illegal or unlicensed taverns after the Revolution testifies to the county growth, especially in and around Carlisle, and to the leveling out of the sex ratio within that population.

When Cumberland females faced oyer and terminer courts it was generally to be tried for infanticide. That was true in seven of twelve cases. Every charge of murder leveled against Cumberland females involved the killing of an infant. These crimes are explained in part by the sizeable number of unmarried servant maids in the county who faced severe legal penalties as well as social censure when they became pregnant. Few opportunities existed for young unmarried women to keep and to raise their offspring. To kill and dispose of the child (and to hide the fact of the pregnancy generally) seemed to many young women the lesser of the evils. Only after the Revolution were Cumberland females charged before these courts with such offenses as burglary, arson, and riot.

The level of allegations against females in the county courts remained constant, throughout the first fifty years, although in the years immediately after the Revolution, for about a decade, the number of accusations dropped.⁸ Nonetheless, the percentage of accusations against females for serious criminal activity, crimes prosecuted in oyer and terminer courts, rose slightly in the last quarter of the 18th century.

According to the 1790 census, Cumberland ranked sixth in the number of black inhabitants among eleven Pennsylvania jurisdictions established before the Revolution. Cumberland authorities prosecuted twenty-six blacks after 1780, when legislation decreed that black offenders were to be charged before mainstream criminal courts. Prior to 1780 the county doubtless charged blacks at "Negro Tryals" for criminal behavior—as the law directed—but few records remain. After 1780 most charges against blacks, male or female, were for property offenses such as theft and receiving stolen goods. Of the five Cumberland blacks appearing before over and terminer courts, only one ("Negress Sukey" charged with arson) involved a female. Charges of burglary and murder, or being an accessory to those crimes, accounted for the capital felony charges leveled against black males.

Cumberland was one of two counties in Pennsylvania where blacks committed a proportion of the crimes much higher than their percentage of the total county population. Whereas blacks constituted 2.3 percent of Cumberland's population, they were accused of committing 5.3 percent of its crime. In no other Pennsylvania county did the black population account for such a high a portion of a county's criminal activities.⁹

The numbers and types of charges leveled by officials against the people of Cumberland county reflect not only crime patterns within that county but also something of county priorities and concerns. The aggressiveness of county courts in prosecuting persons charged with criminal offenses, and the successes of those courts in achieving convictions also reveal county values and priorities. Clearly authorities prosecuted most quickly and most aggressively crimes which they deemed most threatening or most frightening to their constituents.

Punishing criminal behavior was not an easy task for early Cumberland authorities. The size, rough terrain, and scattered population of the county made capturing suspected criminals difficult. That its citizenry generally was armed did not make efforts any easier. Winter weather and poor road conditions played their own part in frustrating county officials, as citizens often found it difficult to

reach courts. Citizen apathy and opposition also at times stalled proceedings. A campaign of fining heavily those refusing to serve on grand and traverse juries, very apparent in the first two decades, did not completely resolve these difficulties. ¹⁰ In part as a result of these problems Cumberland courts achieved a smaller percentage of convictions than comparable courts in Berks, Chester, Lancaster, and York Counties. ¹¹

Even so, Cumberland courts worked desperately to bring law and order to the community. In the earliest years, court officials sought to stop illegal trade with the Indians and to ferret out illegal distilleries. However, as noted above, most of the activities were directed toward reducing theft and violence. During its first half century Cumberland sentenced sixteen males and four females to death. Twelve died for their offenses; six males and two females escaped death when they received pardons from the State Supreme Executive Council. Only one Cumberland County black was executed, "Negress Sukey," who was hanged in 1780. Sally Clark, the other female executed, died for killing her child.¹²

The increasingly heavy load faced by county courts after the Revolution diminished somewhat their effectiveness. Heavier dockets combined with emerging republican ideas to force a change of priorities among court officials and shifts in attitude among Cumberland citizenry. Many of the changes centered on the treatment of females. Fewer and fewer women coming before Cumberland courts after 1776, for instance, pleaded guilty; a larger proportion of female defendants demanded jury trials, and fewer and fewer females were convicted by traverse juries. In addition, court personnel—from grand jurors to county prosecutors—threw out a larger proportion of charges against females after the Revolution than they had before 1776. All this suggests that Cumberland women viewed themselves and their legal roles differently after the Revolution. It suggests, too, that male officials—and probably male jurors—had changed their perceptions of women and of legal rights to be accorded them.

Changes also involved males. The number of guilty verdicts for both sexes dropped following 1783, even as the number of dismissals of accusations on the part of grand jurors, judges, and prosecutors rose. Both patterns suggest that Cumberland citizens placed a higher value on human life following the Revolution and insisted on more careful examinations of allegations brought against individuals, both male and female.

To identify these patterns (and others) for early Cumberland county is but a first step. To measure them—and changes within them—with some exactitude, and fully to explain them is the real challenge facing today's historian. Cumberland crime and law enforcement patterns generally challenge those interested in its early history. The crime rate was clearly higher than that of neighboring counties. The total of accusations against its citizens was higher than those found in Berks and York, counties formed at nearly the same time Cumberland was. Indeed, the number of accusations in Cumberland County was nearly the same between 1750 and 1800 as those of Chester and Lancaster Counties. The populations of Chester, Lancaster, York, and Berks were much higher than those of Cumberland; the 1790 population of York was almost twenty thousand more than that of Cumberland.

Equally important, Cumberland's number of violent crimes-murder,

manslaughter, infanticide, rape, and assault—was much higher than those counties formed at the same time (such as Berks and York) and, indeed higher than older and more populous counties such as Lancaster and Chester.¹³

Whether its more transient population and more obvious frontier conditions explain these patterns, or whether its religious, ethnic, or racial composition was the more compelling factor in shaping crime patterns in early Cumberland County will be determined only by more intensive study of its people and institutions. That challenge should be no burden to those who love the county and its history.

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ All observations and conclusions here are based on a computerized study of crime and its resolution in 18th century Pennsylvania, especially as found in Cumberland County's quarter sessions dockets located in the Cumberland County courthouse, Carlisle, and in Oyer and Terminer dockets and files housed in the manuscript division of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg.
- ² Very minor offenses were treated by justices of the peace acting singly or in conjunction with one or two other justices. Non-capital felonies and more important misdemeanors were tried by justices sitting *en banc*; that is, at formal terms of the quarter sessions court which, as its name implies, met four times a year. Specially commissioned county judges also joined justices of the Supreme Court at over and terminer proceedings held twice a year in each county.
- ³ Percentages of the male totals for individual male crimes between 1750 and 1776 include assaults (33.3%), thefts (28.4%), tippling house offenses (10.9%), fornication or bastardy (6.6%), and riots (2.7%).
- 4 Cumberland County Quarter Sessions dockets, Jan., 1778 (Dean and Gibson), April, 1778 (Magee).
- ⁵ Percentages of the male totals for individual male crimes between 1776 and 1800 include assaults (33.8%), thefts (19.2%), fornication or bastardy (10.2%), tippling house offenses (9.6%), and riots (3.9%).
- 6 There were nine cases of forcible entry between 1750 and 1776 and ninety-seven cases between 1776 and 1800.
- ⁷ The percentage of the female totals for individual female crimes between 1750 and 1776 include theft (30.7%), fornication or bastardy (29.5%) and assault (19.3%). For the period following 1776 they are: fornication or bastardy (34.5%), assaults (27.6%), and thefts (19.5%).
- ⁸ This pattern is discussed in Rowe, "Women's Crime and Criminal Administration in Pennsylvania, 1763-1790," *Pennsylvania Manazine of History and Biography*, CIX (July, 1985), esp. pp. 354-355.
- 9 The specific figures for Pennsylvania blacks:

COUNTY	% OF 1790 CO. POP.	% OF CO. CRIME
Bedford	0.6	0.0
Berks	0.8	0.2
Bucks	3.2	4.0
Chester	2.4	2.6
Cumberland	2.3	5.3
Lancaster	2.4	2.4
Northumberland	0.9	0.9
Phila City & Co.	4.4	2.2
Westmoreland	1.0	1.0
York	3.4	1.1

¹⁰ See, for instance, Cumberland Co. QS dockets, Oct., 1764, Oct., 1766, July, 1770, October, 1772.

¹³ Total crimes and county populations for 1790 appear below:

COUNTY	TOTAL CRIMES	VIOLENT CRIMES '	1790 POPULATION
Berks	1470	499	30,179
Chester	2474	626	27,939
Cumberland	2148	648	18,243
Lancaster	2282	611	36,147
York	1690	474	37,747

includes rape, murder, infanticide, manslaughter, assault.

 $^{^{11}} The percentage of convictions are Berks (40.8\%), Chester (45.2\%), Cumberland (37.5\%), Lancaster (43.6\%), and York (43.4\%).$

A convenient compilation of executions in early Pennsylvania is provided by Negley K. Tetters, "Public Executions in Pennsylvania, 1682-1834," Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society (Spring, 1960), 85-164.

"Pennsylvania" -- A Song

One mission of *Cumberland County History* is to make available to a wider audience than might otherwise see them documents pertaining to Cumberland County. The song "Pennsylvania" that appears on the next two pages is the first of such items to be printed.

For some years following its publication by Helen Hall Bucher in 1946 it was promoted by the late Harrisburg newspaper columnist Paul Walker as a competitor for the status as "Official Song" of the Commonwealth. Forty-two years later a General Assembly not known for its speed has designated neither this song nor any other.

Words in the second verse, "While the wealth of buried treasure In the mines of Mother Earth," hint at the personal experience of the lyricist herself, who as the bride of the ironmaster Jared Bucher *circa* 1880, lit the charcoal iron furnace at Boiling Springs.

Her mother Fannie Porter Mullin and her grandfather Captain William M. Porter were both poets. Helen Hall Bucher majored in music at Metzger College in Carlisle and became organist at sixteen at the Methodist Church in Mt. Holly Springs. Later she was choir director and organist for forty years at St. John's Lutheran Church in Boiling Springs.

In 1958 she published *Mountain Echoes*, a body of her own poetry. A foreword by her son-in-law Gilbert Malcolm, president of Dickinson College, speaks of her "dauntless and charming spirit" and of the joy of working with "Lady Nell." She died in August 1962 at ninety-eight.

Her two children were Helen Fannie Bucher Malcolm and William Mullin Bucher, whose son Paul G. Bucher made "Pennsylvania" available to this journal.

Mrs. Bucher lived until her death in 1962 at the former Ege Mansion, "Highland Terrace."—RGC.

PENNSYLVANIA





Thy fields and fertile valleys And every fruited vine Yield food for starving nations O: Pennsylvania mine. Where the happy songs of toilers As they till the verdant sod Reveal their faith in harvests That come from Nature's God.

We'll sing of all thy grandeur Of woods and blooming flowers, Where water falls make music Throughout the sunny hours. Here William Penn found beauty In every bush and tree He called it Pennsylvania For all posterity.

HELEN HALL BUCHER

"Highland Terrace" Boiling Springs, Pa.

Pre-1858 Architecture In Lower Allen Township

Virginia Rupp

Since the end of WWII Lower Allen Township has experienced a great growth in population and an accompanying change in character from rural to urban and suburban. There is concern in many quarters that continual growth will result, inexorably, in the destruction of part of its cultural heritage, that is, its old houses, mills, barns, and other structures which now dot the countryside.

Until the 1940's, the township was primarily an agricultural area, with gentle meadows and wooded hills, two villages, and a generous sprinkling of farms. Its population in 1850 was only 1,134. As late as 1930 there were only 1,209 persons living in the township. However, after the war, when the American dream became a reality for many, and the exodus to the suburbs began, Lower Allen became one of the fastest growing communities in the Greater Harrisburg area, and its character changed from agricultural to suburban in the south, and commercial and industrial in the north. In 1964 a census estimate placed the population of the township at 12,881; today, the estimate is that it is a little over 15,000 and growing.

Already the surge in building of commercial and industrial properties has brought some destruction of pre-1858 architecture in the upper part of the



1521 Main Street, Lisburn, ca. 1820.



1741 Main Street, Lisburn, ca. 1800.

township. Now many acres of land in the lower part are being bulldozed, and the old houses and their outbuildings are disappearing forever.

The thesis from which this article has been excerpted was intended as a permanent record of all architectural elements existing in Lower Allen in 1858 which still survive. Every house, mill, church, schoolhouse, and any other structure of note, which appeared on the 1858 map of the township was described, an attempt made to date each (if the date was not already known) and pictures taken. In years to come, it is to be hoped that it may prove to have some value.

The pre-1858 architecture of Lower Allen Township is mainly Scots-Irish-English and German, or varied and distinct blendings of the two vernaculars. Scots-Irish from the north of Ireland, together with some Scots and a few English, began moving into the area in the 1730's, followed about forty years later by German settlers. Both groups brought with them their own vernacular architectural styles and adapted them to local terrain and building materials. Eventually there was some melding of the styles, and new forms emerged.

There were log houses built in Cumberland County from the time of earliest settlement, but if any of these very early dwellings remain, they are not identifiable as such. They were one-room structures with a fireplace on one wall and an enclosed stair to a sleeping loft either on the same wall, or opposite it. This type of dwelling was also built of stone, and some of these survive, usually as outbuildings, or parts of later structures.





1724 Sheepford Road, ca. 1798. Before and after a 1980s restoration.



Richard Rodgers House, 14 Chelten Circle, Lot **8 of Lowther Manor, ca. 1771.

The predominant house form in Lower Allen Township was the Midland log house, a combination of the Scots-Irish-English, one-room-deep hall-and-parlor or "I" house, and the Germanic log house, which utilized logs hewn square, then placed horizontally to form a solid wall. The British house form had a center enclosed stair and an end chimney. Thus, the most popular house style was a one-room-deep log house of either one or two stories which had a center enclosed stair and an end chimney.

The traditional German log house, known as the Continental log house, had an almost square, three-room floor plan and a center chimney. Only three center chimney houses survive in the township.¹ They have unbalanced facades. Other dwellings with German floor plans are square, or almost square, beautifully proportioned, and have balanced facades and end chimneys. The entrance opens into a long, narrow kitchen, or, in some instances, into a stair hall, or vestibule, which leads into the kitchen. Two rooms, or another long room, adjoin the kitchen. Position of the stairs varies. In houses with vestibules, the enclosed staircase is just inside the front door, along the outer wall. In those which have no vestibules the staircase is placed either against the rear wall, or against the inside wall, or winds up beside the fireplace on the outside wall. In a *circa* 1800 house in Lisburn the old whitewashed log walls are visible or can be seen inside the kitchen closet.²

More than a third of the old houses in Lower Allen are log under a variety of sheathings, including clapboard, German siding, shingle, brick veneer, Insul



John Heck House, 108 Creek Road, Lot *11 of Lowther Manor, ca. 1819.

brick, and such modern materials as aluminum and vinyl siding. Oak and hard pine were most often utilized in their construction, and today the wood is so hard that it seems almost, if it is not actually, petrified. The saddle notch was the most popular method of securing the corners, but a most unusual peaked notch was found in an early nineteenth century house in Lisburn. The chinking was of stone or chestnut, obliquely placed and directionally changed in alternating layers. An example of the use of wood chinking was noted in the miller's helper's house of the old Weber mill, along the Yellow Breeches.

The owners of one old German log house have recently restored it, stripping it of its layers of shingles and German siding and exposing the basic log structure, to view.³ The house, according to Edward LaFond, Jr., dates to the late eighteenth century, and was remodeled. c. 1860.

The Richard Rodgers House (c.1771-2) is a half-Georgian, dressed stone house, which still has its original lights, back-to-back Scots-Irish fireplaces, and a



John and Rachel Scherich House, 1450 Main Street, Lisburn, 1851.

six-panel door (1740 to 1820). It was built by Richard Rodgers, a Scots-Irishman, and was acquired in 1792 by another Scots-Irishman, Martin Thomas, who paid the mortgage debt on it. Two frame sections were added in later years.⁴

About 1815 brick houses began to appear with more regularity in Lower Allen. Some of the locally made brick was a soft brick, salmon in color which, because of its porosity, had either to be framed over or painted, when used on exteriors. Jacob Hickernell had a brickyard near Lisburn on Route 114, which may have produced this particular kind of soft brick. Slate Hill Mennonite Church, built in 1818, is an example of the early use of brick in the township. In Lisburn, a Georgian "I" house (c.1820), now covered with aluminum siding, is another.

There are very few examples of classic Federal architecture in the township. Probably the most outstanding is the 1819 John Heck house, which faces Cedar



Barber House, 4060 Lisburn Road, ca. 1847.

Run, near Eberly's Mills.⁵ A handsome, balanced five-bay structure of dressed stone, it originally had the traditional Georgian floor plan consisting of center hall with open stair and two rooms of equal size on either side, each with its own fireplace. Over the years the floor plan has been somewhat altered, but the house retains its integrity. It is one of the truly elegant houses in the township. All of the stone used in building came from a small quarry near the house. The interior is transitional in that it shows the influence of the Greek Revival period in its bullseye design, and in several of its fireplaces. Interior doors date 1815-1845, and the front door is eight-paneled and has a lovely fan, reeding and bullseyes on its surround.

Certain features of the Greek Revival period were extremely popular, as the use of the bulls-eye motif on both exterior and interior door and window lintels attests. Double recessed porches appeared throughout the area, and windows were longer and larger. Two Lisburn houses, both c.1850, have modified Palladian windows in their gables, as does a house near White Hill, which dates c.1850-55. Sidelights and wide, rectangular transoms at front entrances appear only on the 1851 Scherich house,6 however, and there are no examples of eyebrow windows on pre-1858 houses in Lower Allen Township. Such windows are very common in nearby Mechanicsburg and Carlisle. With one exception, corner pilasters on frame houses did not appear in the township until after 1858, and then only in Lisburn. Some of the more elegant houses which were built in the 1840's have the deeply molded woodwork and bullseye trim, and large, high-ceilinged rooms made to accommodate the massive furniture of the Empire period (1830-1860).

The German Georgian house appeared in Lower Allen in the late 1830's and the 1840's and was different from other styles in that it had a balanced four-bay facade with two front doors and a four-over-four floor plan. Apparently in a move to avoid wasting space the stairway was boxed in between the two rear rooms. These houses abound in Central Pennsylvania, but there are only a handful in Lower Allen Township. The 1847 Barber house near Lisburn was originally German Georgian and retains that floor plan, except for the fact that the two front rooms are now one large living room. On the exterior a single, centrally-placed entrance has supplanted the two original front doors.⁷



1340 Rossmoyne Road, 1842.



Henry M. Bitner House, 2901 Lisburn Road, 1871.

In the township there are several half-Georgian houses. They have three balanced bays, stair hall, and two rooms on one side only. Each room has, or once had, a fireplace on both first and second floors. Attached kitchen wings, usually with German floor plans, are sometimes found with half-Georgian houses. Three such outstanding houses were once owned by James Dunlap. The interior of one of them, built in 1842, has a Federal staircase, Greek Revival woodwork and fireplaces, and Empire doors.⁸

Largely ignored in the area was the Gothic Revival period (1830-1860), although there is one post-1858 example of the style. That is the Henry M. Bitner house, which dates to 1871.9

The wedding of the German with the Scots-Irish-English architecture has produced some interesting architectural forms. Some "I" houses have the Germanic, almost square proportions but, though deep, have only one room on either side of the center enclosed stair, and they have end chimneys. There is access to the stairs at either end in these deeper houses. Some "I" houses have German Georgian facades — four balanced bays and two front doors — but not the German Georgian, four-over-four plan.¹⁰ The little German three and four balanced bay houses often front a British "I" house, while in the outlying area are found the half-Georgian houses with German kitchen wings.

With a single exception all houses surveyed were of summer beam construction. Joists of hard yellow pine or oak were usually half-hewn. The 1781 John Meisch house has flat Hessian joints, a fact that could be explained by the information that Hessian prisoners, captured by General George Washington at Trenton, were used to help build the Carlisle Barracks in Carlisle, in 1777, and thus were in the area.

Until about the middle of the nineteenth century when the supply was exhausted, flooring, wide and random in width, was of yellow pine. After that time, soft white pine floors became common. About the same time, flooring became narrower and more regular in width. Machine cut nails, found in the attic flooring of a Georgian "I" house, in Lisburn, probably came from Mr. Young's nail-cutting factory, which opened for business in the village in 1820.

Roof construction was predominantly of the mortise, tenon, and pin type. In houses built after about 1845, ridgepoles were employed. They appeared, as well, in older houses which had been moved from their original sites or had had their roofs replaced after that time. A very few roofs were mortised and tenoned,

but not pinned. Rafters were sometimes half-hewn, and in a Lisburn house (c.1800-1815), slim saplings had been cut and raised, bark and all.

Roofs were most often covered with white cedar shingles. When tin roofs became popular toward the middle of the nineteenth century, the tin was most often put on over the existing roofs, and where this was done, the old wood shingles can often be glimpsed, today, peeking out along the edges of the roofs, or from inside the attics.

Foundations were generally of limestone, but the use of sandstone was not uncommon, especially in Lisburn where the red shales and sandstones of York County lie just across the Yellow Breeches Creek.

Several of the oldest houses in the township had vertical tongue and groove boarding for curtain walls, most usually on the second floor, and batten doors with simple lift and thumb latches. Such construction was also common in areas used to house hired help.

Box locks, most of them of the kind that was manufactured about 1840, were numerous, but open rim locks were found in only three houses. All of them date to c.1820. Bean-shaped latches, when they were found, were usually on basement or attic doors. A smattering of Norfolk latches was still in use. Both the bean-shaped and the Norfolk latches date to the early nineteenth century.

Some antique glass survives. The oldest found was very thin, green in color, and had imperfections in the form of wrinkles. It was so brittle, so fragile, that extreme care had to be taken, when washing it, not to put too much pressure on it. Most old glass, however, was clear, rather than colored, and the most common imperfection was small bubbles. The majority of lights were set in a 6/6 pattern or the later Victorian 2/2, with the size of the former varying in accordance with the date of the house, or usually so. Muntins varied. Some were just plain wooden



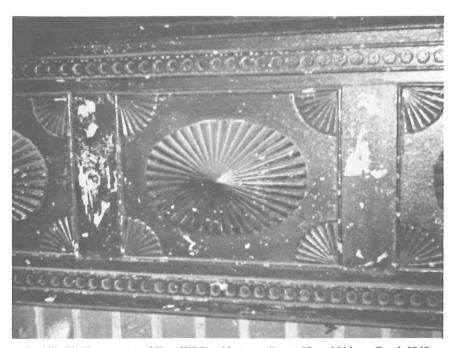
This bouse ca. 1840-1850, of log construction under modern siding, is unusual because it is a one-room-deep British floor plan with a German-Georgian facade.

strips. Others had noses which ranged in width from 1/8" to 5/8," while a few had noses which came to a soft point.

Door paneling, if original, was found to be a reliable indicator of the age of a house. Before 1776 handmade doors had plain quarter round framework. After the Revolution (1783), these rounded, convex moldings were given more interest by the addition of beads and grooves, or were made into a molding with the profile of the letter "S," known as an ogee. The number of panels, their shape and disposition were also important clues in dating a house. After 1835, with the advent of woodworking machinery, then wood planing mills and steam power, doors eventually ceased to be made by hand.

Few original corner cupboards survive. There are two in the 1842 Levi Merkle house, and there were two, also, in a house which was built at the same time as the Merkle house and was similar to it, but they were removed at the time the house was torn down, and are, today, in separate dwellings. The Levi Merkle house also has a fireplace with unusual detail.¹¹ Until the past few years, a lovely corner cupboard stood in the Eichelberger house, on Eichelberger's curve. It was removed and taken to Carlisle, where it remains.

Corner fireplaces seem to have been equally popular with both Scots-Irish and German settlers. There are ten of them in the township, seven of which are in early stone houses. The remaining three are in houses which date from 1845 to 1855.



Levi Merkle House, west of Slate Hill Road between Route 15 and Lisburn Road, 1842.

Longsdorf Originals

Robert J. Smith

William and Lydia Longsdorf raised an exceptional brood. Their children, one in particular, literally, caused bells to ring and lights to go out. The Longsdorfs erased tradition when it stood between them and their legitimate goals.

A western Cumberland County village in the middle of the 19th century seems an unlikely place to find pioneers. Pioneers create and do what has not been tried and done before. No one can predict who they will be and where and when they will be found.

A hundred years ago the Longsdorfs began upsetting the limitations put on women by the myth of female inferiority.

In the mid-1880's Zatae Longsdorf became the first female student to attend Dickinson College in Carlisle. She put further strain on a sensitive situation by entering the Pierson Oratorical Contest. During her presentation male hecklers tried to upset her concentration with hoots and cat calls. Another group rang the College bell to distract her, and then the gas lights were turned out. Zatae kept her composure and finished her speech. At the end of the competition the judges declared Zatae the winner and awarded her the gold medal.¹

William Henry Longsdorf, the fourth child of Adam and Mary Senseman Longsdorf, began life March 24, 1834 on a farm in Silver Spring Township, Cumberland County. In 1844 his father was elected Sheriff; the family moved to Carlisle, but in 1848 the father died.² At age fifteen William entered Dickinson College and after three years study decided to make medicine his career. He spent some time with a Dr. Dale and then entered Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, graduating in 1856. He went on to Pennsylvania Dental School and qualified in that profession the following year.

Less is known about Lydia Rebecca Haverstick. She too was born on a Silver Spring Township farm, on March 7, 1836. There is confusing information about

Lydia's education. One account credits her with graduating from a school named Wellsley [sic], but Wellesley College was not founded, until 1875, so it could not have been that institution. An undated newspaper clipping names Lydia as principal of Newville High School at age sixteen.3 While some students then graduated from college at an earlier age than now, sixteen is a young age for both graduating and for filling a principal's position. Since she married in 1857 and went west, it is probable that she was at Newville for about three years.

William and Lydia were married April 7, 1857. William graduated from Pennsylvania Dental School in that year, and the young couple followed the American trend of many decades and went west. While traveling down the Ohio River their steamboat caught fire and burned, destroying their belongings. Somehow they coped with this crisis and boarded a second boat which wrecked and sank. They finally arrived in Bellevue, Nebraska, a small town a short distance south of Omaha. William began a medical practice and the first Longsdorf child, Harold Hamilton, was born there July 28, 1858. After about a year in Bellevue the young family decided to move farther west.

Because Denver was the destination, there is the suggestion that gold played a part in the move, but one can only speculate about the trip from Bellevue to Denver. The 1850's were still the time of the Indian and the buffalo.

Denver is credited with consisting at that time of four cabins and forty men. This implies that Lydia was the only woman in the camp. If so, she probably received the same kind of respect and near reverence that Mark Twain notes was extended to lone women in a gold camp in his book, Roughing It. One can imagine young Harold in the role of a favorite in the camp. Living arrangements were made for the young doctor and his family. For the next year William cared for the medical needs of the fledgling community and combined prospecting with medical business. Perhaps both gold and fees failed to come to hand regularly, because in 1859 the Longsdorfs reversed directions and returned to the east. They settled in Centerville, Penn Township, Cumberland County where the doctor established a practice.

In 1860 the second child, Ernest, was born. In the Spring of 1861 the Civil War began. Whether the young doctor had strong convictions about slavery or if adventure attracted him does not appear. In any event, he joined the 9th Pennsylvania Calvary, as a first lieutenant apparently serving as a field officer rather than as a physician. After being in eighty engagements, he was discharged January 18, 1864 as a major with two broken ankles. While on leave in November of 1863 he attended Zatae Longsdorf Straw,



the dedication of the Military Cemetery at Gettysburg From Straw Col., Dick, Coll. with his five year old son, Harold, and heard Lincoln's famous speech. Special provisions had been made for veterans on the occasion. Lincoln noticed the pair and motioned them to the front, where he shook hands with Harold, an experience recounted throughout his life.

W. H. Longsdorf now settled into his professional and private life. He belonged to the Second Presbyterian Church, was an officer in a Masonic Lodge, and a Democrat. The medical practice and the family grew as the two Longsdorf sons were followed by four daughters.⁴ Zatae was born in 1866. The name was created by the mother for this child, an indication of Lydia's individuality. Hildegarde was born in 1868, Jessica in 1870, and Persis in 1874. When they were only a few years beyond childhood, they were put in situations where much was required of them, and they performed under difficult circumstances. The term "tomboy" was likely an accurate description of the girls, but the arts, particularly music, were part of their life. Academic development was important; accomplishments in the following years show this.

It is not possible to know in what combination the parents exerted their influences. A father with a medical degree would have been able to provide a good academic climate. In the Longsdorf family the mother was educated as well and would provide similar potential. Perhaps a situation existed where the parents regarded the intellectual, cultural, and personal growth of the children as a mutual undertaking. In a newspaper interview Harold Longsdorf credited his mother with the stronger hand in directing the educational path taken by the children. Whatever the family dynamics, impressive results followed.⁵

The routine of the Longsdorf family involved managing the house, rearing the children, and making the money. Each parent was involved in at least one activity beyond the parental roles. An obituary notice of Lydia states that she wrote articles about economics and education for what are described as "well known, widely-circulated magazines," not more particularly identified.

William was involved in building the Miramar Iron and Railroad Company along the Yellow Breeches Creek, a line which later became the Harrisburg and Potomac and in 1879 part of the Philadelphia and Reading (the so-called "Huff and Puff," "Hungry and Poor," and "Hush and Push.") When the organization meeting for the first of these was held 20 June 1870 at the Big Spring Hotel in Newville, William Longsdorf was named a director. When the railroad was built, the small station one-half mile south of Centerville was named Longsdorf. The station is now gone, but the feed mill and the area are still known by that name.

In 1898 he moved to Camp Hill and erected a substantial frame house still standing at the corner of present South 17th and Market Streets. There he practiced medicine until his death in 1905.6

In 1879 Harold graduated from Dickinson College.⁷ The year 1881 was an eventful one for the family. Ernest, who was born in 1860, died, the cause of death left unreported, although a fictional account of the family written in the 1920's by Zatae's daughter Enid tells of the lifelong heart problem of a son who died. In 1881 William ran for the office of County Treasurer and won. Soon after this the family moved to Carlisle. Meanwhile Harold had been attending the Baltimore College of Physicians and Surgeons and graduated in 1882. The same year he married Eleanor Ernst of Walnut Bottom and assumed his father's practice at Centerville.

Education continued to have a priority with the Longsdorfs. In the fall of 1883 Zatae entered Wellesley and completed her first year there. In the summer of 1884 something very different was being planned. Dr. William went to James A. McCauley, the President of Dickinson College, to say that he had four daughters who could handle the Dickinson curriculum and at the same time cope with the

male students, if the College would adopt a coeducation policy. Oberlin College in Ohio had led the way with coeducation fifty years earlier. The trustees were consulted and approved the idea. In the fall of 1884 Zatae Longsdorf entered Dickinson as a second year student, and her sister Hildegarde was in the Freshman class.

Their presence on the campus upset a good portion of the student body. Live mice and garter snakes were put in the girls' coat pockets. The girls' country childhood had prepared them for this kind of hazing; it was not a serious problem. The oratorical competition mentioned above was a structured attack on Zatae's composure while she was in a stressful situation and went beyond fair play. Fortunately she had the personal resources to prevail over the shouts, bells, and darkness. Her youngest sister, Persis, stood by the lectern and turned the pages while wearing a necklace made from gold her father had mined in Colorado. In 1887 Zatae became the first woman to be graduated from Dickinson.

Zatae went on to Woman's Medical College in Philadelphia and was graduated in 1890, having borrowed at least part of the money for her medical education. After receiving her degree she worked at the New England Hospital for Women and Children, at Tweksbury Alms House in Massachusetts, and at Blackfoot Indian Reservation in Idaho. While at the Reservation she once treated a patient who was having delerium tremens. He imagined he was seeing rats and kept throwing furniture and sticks of wood at them, while Zatae dodged in self defense. Her agility allowed her to get a chloroform-soaked cloth over the man's face and quiet him. The Massachusetts and Idaho work enabled the young doctor to repay her college loans.

While working in Massachusetts she met Doctor Amos G. Straw, a graduate of Dartmouth and Harvard Medical School. They were married November 12, 1891 at the Longsdorf home in Carlisle but settled in Manchester, New Hampshire, where they both started practices.

The other Longsdorf girls followed their older sister as students at Dickinson. Hildegarde was graduated in 1888, one of three women in a class of twenty-eight. She went on to Woman's Medical College and received her medical degree in 1890. After a short period in New England she returned to Carlisle to practice. Hilda was the first woman member and a vice president of the Cumberland County Medical Society. When she joined, she became the third Longsdorf, along with her father William and her brother Harold, to enter the group. Later she became Associate Editor of the *Pennsylvania Medical Journal*.

Jessica was graduated from Dickinson in 1891, attended Woman's Medical College, but was not graduated. Instead, in 1917 she earned a degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry at the age of forty-seven and practiced until she was eighty-one. Jessica married the Reverend Hiram R. Bozorth of Millersville in 1894, but was widowed at an early age. She lived to be ninety-three.

Persis was a Dickinson graduate in 1894. She married Ernest W. Sipple and resided at Wallingford and later Montrose. She lived to be 101, writing in a firm

hand not long before her death to remind Dickinson College that three of her mother's brothers were also graduates.⁸

Zatae Longsdorf and her sisters were being educated at a time when women were gaining acceptance into the medical profession. In 1886 some fifty-six per cent of the Boston University Medical School class were women, and at Tufts forty-two per cent were women. After World War I, however, there was a decline in the number of women entering medical schools, a trend that reversed in the 1970's. It is curious that in the 1920's, when women became eligible to vote and were liberated from certain social taboos, that the number of female medical students dropped and that at Dickinson "some trustees suggested that admission of women be suspended and contracts of women faculty be terminated."

While his sisters were ignoring tradition, Dr. Harold continued the country practice begun by his father at Centerville. Because Carlisle Hospital did not open until 1916, all routine and emergency care was given in the home or at the doctor's office. The iron-making community at Pine Grove Furance was under Dr. Longsdorf's care, and he made the five mile trip over the mountain routinely to care for the illnesses and injuries of the people there.

A brief look at rural medical practice at the time appears in a diary of John Myers of Centerville. On December 17, 1901 he wrote: "H. H. Longsdorf, M.D., assisted by his sister Dr. Hilda Longsdorf, amputated a leg for Wm. Fisher of Centerville." ¹⁰

In 1900 Dr. Harold took a four month leave from medicine at the request of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. He was asked to make a study of the consolidation of country schools into central units and the transport of pupils to such schools. He went to New England and later to Ohio where this experiment was in operation. At the end of this period he submitted a 127 page report titled, "The Consolidation of Country Schools and Transportation of Scholars by Use of Vans." The Commonwealth printed 25,000 copies of the report. A Penn Township School Director and President of the Cumberland County School Directors Association, Dr. Longsdorf was also an elder in the United Presbyterian



The depot named for William Longsdorf, who was an original director of the Miramer Iron and Railroad Co. Author's collection.

Church in Newville and from 1902 until his death was a director of the Farmers Trust Company in Carlisle.

In the early 1890's Zatae and Amos Straw began their married life in Manchester, New Hampshire. Two sons, Wayne and David, and two daughters, Enid and Zatae, were born to them. Until she died in 1955 at age eighty-nine Zatae was occupied in an amzing number of interests and was credited with an impressive list of "firsts."

She held offices in both the Manchester and New Hampshire Medical Societies. In 1926 Zatae was elected president of the New Hampshire Republican Convention. Dissatisfaction with school conditions caused her to run for school office, and Zatae was the first woman elected to the New Hampshire House legislature. While in the New Hampshire House she sponsored legislation requiring premarital health certification. A love of the outdoors caused her to support the licensing of women to fish. Earlier she had spoken of voting as a woman's right, not as a privilege or gift. She supported the hiring of women police.

The automobile came along in her time, and Zatae was one of the first women in the State to drive. After the death of Dr. Henry in 1905, Lydia visited Manchester regularly and added her voice to Zatae's on suffrage and other women's issues.

When the United States entered the war in April 1917, Dr. Amos Straw was assigned to a training unit that prepared doctors for the situations they would find in France. At the war's end Amos became commander of the American Legion Post in Manchester, and Zatae headed the Auxiliary. They were active in veterans interests the remainder of their lives. During the War Dr. Zatae was involved with home front support of the men in military service.

In the Longsdorf collection at the Dickinson College Library are two scrapbooks of newspaper clippings that chronicle the activities of Zatae and Amos. There was a continually unreeling variety of issues and causes that attracted their interest and energy. There were no doubt some public figures in the city of Manchester who wished at times that this pair would occasionally rest on their laurels. It probably never happened.

Zatae was enthusiastic for the outdoors and interested in flying. She was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by Dickinson in 1937 on the fiftieth anniversary of her graduation. Several times she was a successful deer hunter. At least once she was on a successful "coon" hunt. Fishing was important to her. She was a skier. On one occasion, when she was nearly sixty years of age, she hiked eighteen miles in four and one-half hours.

At Carlisle Dr. Hilda carried on an active practice and was involved with membership in the medical organizations. In addition she belonged to the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Carlisle Civic Club, and to other community groups. At age forty-four, in 1912, she married Dr. Guy Carlton Lee, who is credited with writing forty-five books and was active in business ventures in Carlisle. Dr. Lee built a summer home at the foot of the mountain in Penn

Township along Rt. 233. Mt. Asbury was later the A. F. Blessing residence and is now owned by the Methodist Church.

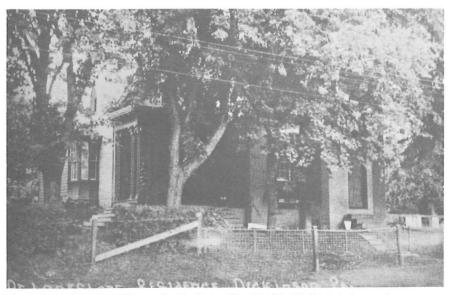
Dr. Hilda was a voice student in her youth and enjoyed music throughout her life. Outdoor life was another interest she continued from her early years. She died in 1922 at the age of fifty-four from cancer of the liver.

Dr. Harold Longsdorf and his wife, Eleanor, had two children. Harold, Jr., and Helen were born in the 1890s. Both were trained in the medical profession. Harold Jr., graduated from medical school and practiced in Mt. Holly, New Jersey, and Helen became a registered nurse. She served in France during World War I and later lived in Camp Hill after her marriage to John Mohler, a postal employee.

The Longsdorf property was the showplace of Centerville. Mature trees and shrubbery enhanced the setting. Several outbuildings completed the property. The grounds and buildings were carefully maintained.

The outbuildings which once sheltered the Doctor's horses and carriage, later held his expensive automobiles, including a Moon, a Marmon, and a Buick. Dr. Harold made the transition to the auto but never made his peace with it. It should be said that coordinating the throttle and clutch on some of that early machinery required a delicate touch.

The story is told of one occasion, when Dr. Harold had just bought a new car, of his getting someone to drive to Carlisle. The Doctor chewed tobacco and not wanting to splatter the paint, did not spit on his trip to town. At the first stop, however, he turned and delivered himself of the full charge, but the window was up!



The residence of Dr. Harold Longsdorf in Centerville c. 1906. In 1986 it is the home of Dr. and Mrs. Donald F. Bletz. Author's collection.

The author remembers Dr. Longsdorf telling of coming home in his buggy through a Penn Township village at dusk on a winter evening. A child came out from a house, stopped him and asked if he could pull a tooth for the father. Dr. Harold was not a dentist but did this kind of duty when it was necessary. He went into the lamplit house and asked the patient which tooth hurt. In the shadowy light they agreed on the offending molar, and the Doctor got a hold with his forceps. Longsdorf recalled, "The tooth seemed to be coming out hard but I kept rocking it and finally it let loose. I turned around to the light to look at it and I had two! I slipped the good one into my pocket and turned to the patient with the other one. He was rolling his tongue over his gum. He said, 'Doc, that feels like a big hole!' I told him, It always feels big to your tongue." Dentistry in "the good old days!"

Through the 1930's cars were parked at the Longsdorf place during office hours, and Dr. Harold continued to make house calls. From the middle 1930's he was the jail physician.

The Doctor went quickly. In 1944 a stroke ended a life that had begun eighty-five years earlier and a medical career of sixty-two years. For the first time since 1859 there was not a Dr. Longsdorf at Centerville.

William and Lydia's children would live on into the 1970's. From the birth of William in 1834 until the death of Persis in 1975 was a two generation span of 141 years.

Today's descriptive term for the Longsdorf parents and their children might be "overachievers." They excelled academically. They abandoned social requirements that were not reasonable or fair for a more rational way. They were doers. They took their knowledge and newly claimed freedom into the real world and used it.

William and Lydia left an impressive record.

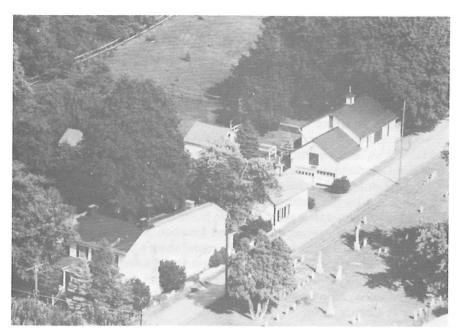


Zatae Longsdorf c. 1890. From the Straw Collection, Dickinson College Library.

ENDNOTES:

The author wishes to give major credit for the background material to be found in a paper, "The Longsdorf Physicians," by Marion L. Johnston, which was presented 11 March 1982 to the Cumberland County Historical Society. Additional information can be found in the Longsdorf Collection of the Dickinson College Library and in a collection of undated newspaper clippings in the possession of Martha and Fred Gill of Penn Township.

- ¹ Charles C. Sellers, *Dickinson College: A History* (Middletown, Conn.: 1973), pp. 278 and 302 discusses the harassment and accomplishments of Zatae, James Henry Morgan, in his *Dickinson College: A History of One Hundred and Fifty Years* (Carlisle: 1933), 349-351, manages to discuss the advent of co-education without naming her at all. His attitude is probably reflected in a summary: "Seven of the first ten women to graduate married, showing that they had no fixed purpose to depart from the usual activities of the sex and seek 'careers'."
- ² Ibid
- ³ Warner, Beers & Co., History of Cumberland and Adams Counties (Chicago, 1886), p. 383.
- ⁴ Much of the biographical information in this article comes from several scrapbooks containing undated clippings from unidentified newspapers which are in the Longsdorf Collection at the Dickinson College Library, Carlisle.
- ⁵ Genealogical Publishing Company, Biographical Annals of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania (Chicago: 1905), p. 703.
- 6 Robert G. Crist, Camp Hill: A History (Camp Hill: 1985), p. 83.
- ⁷ Biographical data on seven of the Longsdorfs are summarized in George L. Reed, *Alumni Record of Dickinson College* (Carlisle: 1905).
- ⁸ Letter, Longsdorf to Charles C. Sellers, 10 November 1968, Longsdorf Collection, Dickinson College Library.
- 9 Dickinson Alumnus, December 1972, p. 6.
- 10 Diary of John Myers of Penn Township. In possession of Dorothy and Olive Myers, Dickinson, Pennsylvania.



Aerial View in 1982 of the former Longsdorf home and outbuildings. In the right foreground is part of the Centerville Lutheran Church cemetery. Author's collection.

What's in a Name? Hogestown

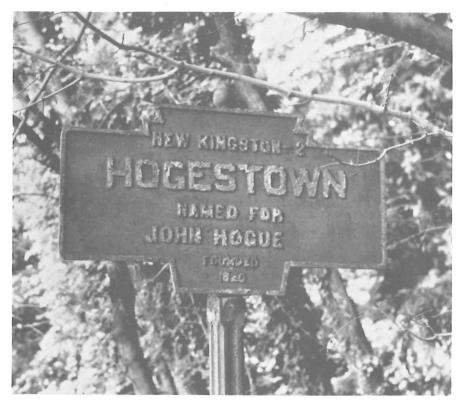
Lori Harrison and Maureen Agistini

The Hoge family of America is of pure Scottish ancestry. Their ancestors came from the heart of Scotland, near Edinburgh, where they lived until religious and political difficulties drove them away.

William Hoge came to America in 1682, from Musselburgh, a small royal and parliamentary seaport six miles east of Edinburgh. He settled in Perth Amboy, New Jersey and there married Lady Barbara Hume, whom he met on the voyage from Scotland. After a few years they moved to the "lower three counties," later Delaware, and then to the region of Winchester, Virginia. The couple had five sons: John, William, Alexander, James, and George. William's son, John (1699-1749), moved up the Shenandoah Valley to Pennsylvania.²

John and his wife, Guintheleum Bowen Davis (1700-1784), settled on or near a small stream called Hoge's Run, which rises at Stony Ridge in the southwest part of Silver Spring Township and empties into the Conodoguinet Creek at what use to be Sporting Green. Sporting Green was a favorite resort in the area in the late 1800's. Indians had settled on these banks previously but called the stream "Kokakunk," or "Sinking Run".3 The couple settled on Hoge's Run circa 1730. It is said that Guintheleum was a descendant of the royal family of Wales and sold her jewels in order to purchase their land. The couple had four sons: Benjamin, who was killed by the Indians; David, who served in the militia during the Revolutionary War and later as sheriff; John Jr., who was a graduate of Princeton and an ordained Presbyterian minister; and Jonathan. John Hoge owned all the land on which the town was built and other land south of it. Hoge was not only a farmer, but an associate judge, having been appointed several times to the office of Justice of the Peace. John resided here until his death, when his land was divided among his four sons.4 At the time of his death, the area was still part of Lancaster County.

The entire population of Cumberland Valley in the early 1700's was Presbyterian with the exception of a small Episcopalian congregation.⁵ It



This sign, from the 1920 series sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Highways, gives a founding date of 1820. Customarily the Department gathered data for the signs from local "old residents."

remained this way for at least thirty years. When the first settlers arrived, one of the first things they did was set up a place of worship, although services sometimes took place in private homes, barns, and even in open air. Hogestown was situated in a part of Pennsborough Township, now known as Silver Springs Township. There were two congregations in the township. The residents of Hogestown attended Silver Spring Presbyterian Church, which was a wooden structure built in 1734, but replaced with one of stone in 1783. By the 1830's the Silver Spring congregation had lost some of its strength and formed a new congregation in Mechanicsburg.

The first stone house in the village was built on a portion of David Hoge's land at the east end of the village⁷ This stone house was later used as a tavern and remained the only building for several years, until the town was laid out in 1820. It also served as the mail stop for several years.

David Hoge also built a log cabin in 1780 on the site of what is today "Shillelagh Farm," in Hogestown.⁸ Additions were made over the years by various owners to the original log foundations. Today it is a substantial stone farmhouse at 6628 Carlisle Pike. At the east end of the village, a stone house was built upon Jonathan's share of his father's property. The dwelling is believed to

have been begun by Jonathan and later completed by his daughter. The house is now owned by Dr. George Wade Jr., and goes by the name "Shadow Oaks".

The earliest road to go through Hogestown was the Harrisburg-Chambers-burg Turnpike, which was extensively traveled before the completion of the Cumberland Valley Railroad in 1831.9 The Turnpike brought with it business and trade. Hogestown was the only post town in the township in the 1840's, but by 1879 there were several, the most important being New Kingstown. Hogestown was at one time the mailstop between Philadelphia and Fort Duquesne. It is also said that thousands of pack horses would go through the small town in one day.

However, the bustling activity did not last long. Once the Cumberland Valley Railroad was established, things changed. The railroad bypassed Hogestown taking much of Hoestown's business and the busy life it had enjoyed until then. Eventually their post office was taken away as well.

Possibly another factor contributing to Hogestown's lack of growth was the expansion of Mechanicsburg. By the mid-1800's Mechanicsburg was the business center in the area. It could be that Hogestown was passed by, by both business and the railroad. Hogestown has not seen significant change in the last century. It still remains a small close knit farming community in the heart of Cumberland County.¹⁰

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Mary Virginia Agnew, The Book of the Agnews (Philadelphia: 1926), p. 147.
- ² Richard L. Norrie, et al, A History of Silver Spring Township (Camp Hill: 1976), p. 19.
- ³ Manuscript at Cumberland County Historical Society by David M. Houck, dated 9 December 1922.
- 4 Interview with Albert L. Gaskin April 1986.
- 5 Conway P. Wing, History of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: 1879), p. 28.
- 6 Ibid., p. 29.
- 7 Norrie, History of Silver Spring, p. 19.
- 8 Gaskin Interview.
- 9 Wing, Cumberland County, p. 125.
- ¹⁰ The authors wish also to acknowledge help from John C. Fralish, Jr., and Jean E. Thompson.

Editor's Corner

Planned for publication in the next issue are:

- * "Ephraim Blaine" by Willis Kocher
- ° "Dickinson Township" by Barbara Lillich
- * United Methodist Home, Shiremanstown" by Martha Detweiler
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