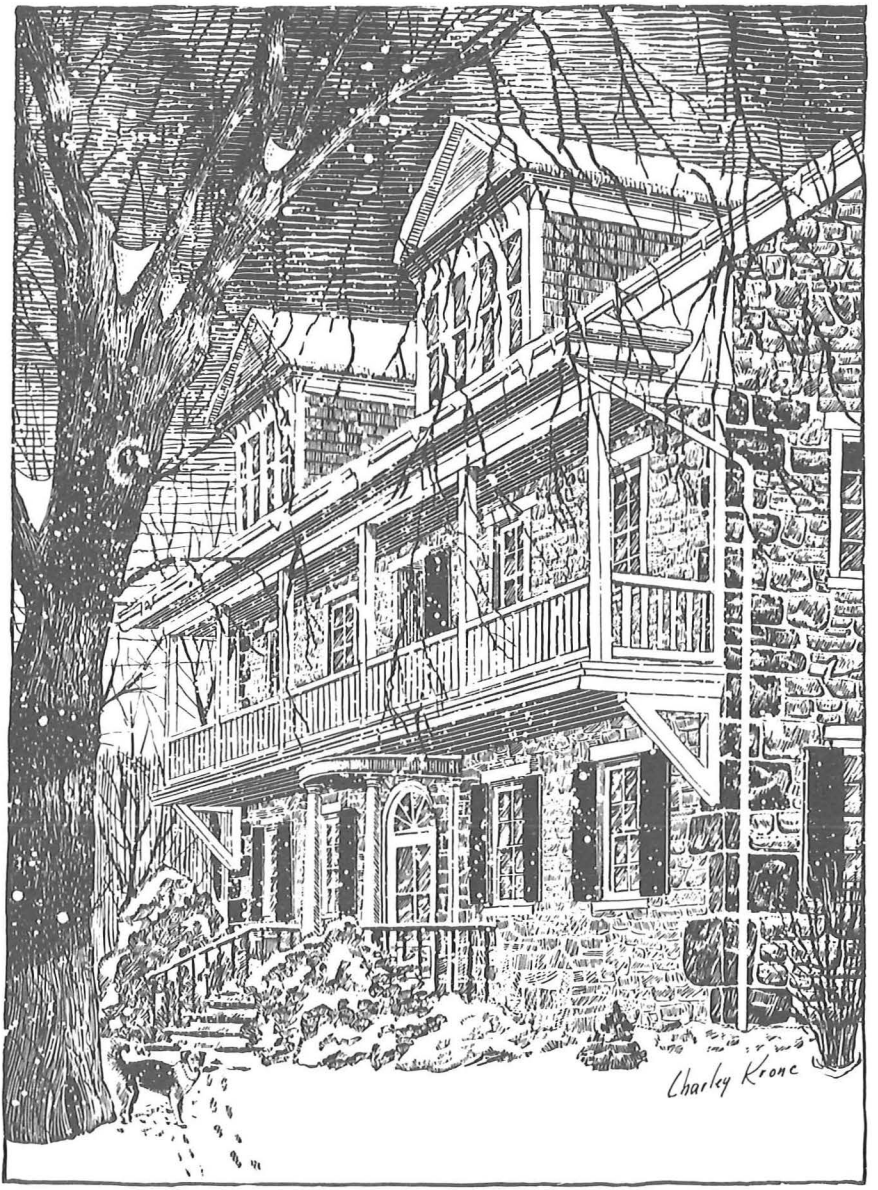
Cumberland County



History

Volume 3
Number 2

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The publications committee invites the submission of articles or notes dealing with all aspects of the history of Cumberland County. Articles may investigate new areas of research or may reflect past scholarship. Manuscripts should conform to the University of Chicago *Manual of Style,* 13th ed. Footnotes should be doublespaced and placed at the end of the manuscript. Manuscripts should be sent to the Editor at 1915 Walnut St., Camp Hill, PA 17011.

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

Volume III, Number 2

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Cover: The Benjamin Library in New Cumberland from a sketch by Charles Krone. The 1819 structure built by Jacob Shelley at the death of Muriel and Roland Benjamin in 1973 became by their gift the property of the Borough of New Cumberland. To it was added in 1976 a 7,500 square foot addition designed by Lenker Architects. The structure houses the 47,000-volume New Cumberland Library, which was founded in 1941.

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Ephraim Blaine

Willis Kocher

Tiny Carlisle, with perhaps half a hundred males of fighting age, contributed no fewer than eight colonels or generals to the War of the Revolution. None of these, from Armstrong to Watts, made quite the contribution to victory that Ephraim Blaine did. As Commissary General, a post far removed from the glory of the combat arms, he gained the attention of Congress and of General George Washington and developed procedures that eventually became the precedents upon which the reorganization of the supply services were based.

FAMILY

Family tradition, always a shaky source, has his father, James A. Blaine, his mother Isabella and four-year-old Ephraim arriving from Londonderry, Ulster, about 1745 in New Castle, Delaware, and moving shortly after to Donegal in Lancaster County. James Blaine, who in 1767 at Donegal was appointed a guardian of the minor children of Temple Thompson, was said to have sent his own son to the Academy of the Reverend Francis Allison at New London, Chester County.[1]

Ephraim was the oldest of the nine children of James A. Blaine and his two wives. James's will of 7 August 1792 names eight of the offspring, excepting only the recently deceased William, who had been close to his brother Ephraim and an assistant in his trading enterprise. Father James purchased one hundred acres of land in Sherman's Valley, Vol. H 8, p. 191, present Perry County, in February 1755 and other land along the Juniata River in Toboyne Township. The farm in 1979 was owned by Ben B. Bower near Blain, Perry County, and has been a Bower farm since 1812.

Ephraim enters the extant records in February 1761 as a twenty-year-old Indian trader and horsemaster at Fort Pitt.[3] The census of April 1761 at Fort Pitt identified Ephraim Blaine as an owner-occupant of a two-man house.[4]

Within a month of the census the following order was issued by Brigadier General Robert Monckton, "Commanding His Majestys Forces in the Southern District of North America:"

> Whereas Ephraim Blane Trader has Disobeyed the Commanding officers orders and attempted to carry on an Illicite Trade, and whereas James Harris Trader has likewise been Concerned in the same Illicite Trade, it is the Generals orders that their houses be pulled down and...[they] be banished... .[5]

Their crime was having engaged in an illegal trade with a Frenchman, Antoine Baby, who had not taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown.

One of only three hundred men in the Province licensed to trade, he apparently contracted his services to the army. A letter of November 11, 1764 states: "Yesterday two of the Horse Masters viz Barclay & Blane Arrived here with their drivers & Some Horses... ."[6]

Blaines' dual work as trader and horsemaster enabled him to make various contacts and form friendships that proved useful to him. None had a more lasting effect than his association with Captain John Byers, who lived east of Carlisle and who served under Colonel Henry Bouquet with Ephraim. In marrying the widow of John Calhoun, Byers became the stepfather of Rebecca Galbraith. Ehpraim subsequently courted and on 26 June 1765 married Rebecca. They attended First Presbyterian Church, Carlisle, and paid a pew rent there.

During the first three years of the marriage the young couple lived in Carlisle, possibly in the home that Ephraim purchased in 1764. The marriage produced two sons: James born in 1766 and Robert in 1769. In that year the family of four moved to a two hundred acre farm in East Pennsborough Township. There in 1771 Ephraim Blaine was taxed for the land, livestock, two grist mills, a saw mill, and two servants.[7]

The servants could have been either redemptioners or slaves. Human bondage was not a condition that aroused strong moral feelings with Ephraim. Prior to his marriage he bought an advertisement in a newspaper offering as reward for the return of an "Irish servant man named Michael Futrill, aged twenty-six."[8] Just two years prior to the abolition of slavery in Pennsylvania, Blaine confided:

> You rote me in yur last you purchased a small family of negroes but mentioned it being necessary my seeing them before you would close your bargain if the man is honest and the wench is active and acquainted with house work they will suit you are certainly a better judge than me.[9]

It appears that Ephraim Blaine continued to operate a trading business along with his farming and milling enterprises. The extent of his trading operation is suggested in a letter of 16 August, 1766, that he wrote to the partners of Boynton, Wharton and Morgan of Philadelphia:

> Thomas Day is come down and has delivered me twenty one loads of deer skins, which came from the beaver there is one of the Girtys with five loads that is not come yet but I daily expect him, Day has been a good deal...I have this day received ten loads of dried (?) leather and parchment, which I have examined and find them all very safe, I have about four wagons to load off which I hope will be down the first of next week I am going up to Fort Pitt next week but has left my brother [William] here who will take care till I return, in case any peltry should come, what skins are in store I have made out in waggon loads all carefully numbered which case I canot get loaded before I set off, he will hurry them down with all speed...[10]

By the early 1790's Ephraim's sons, James and Robert, appeared to be assuming growing responsibility in their father's business ventures. In 1793,

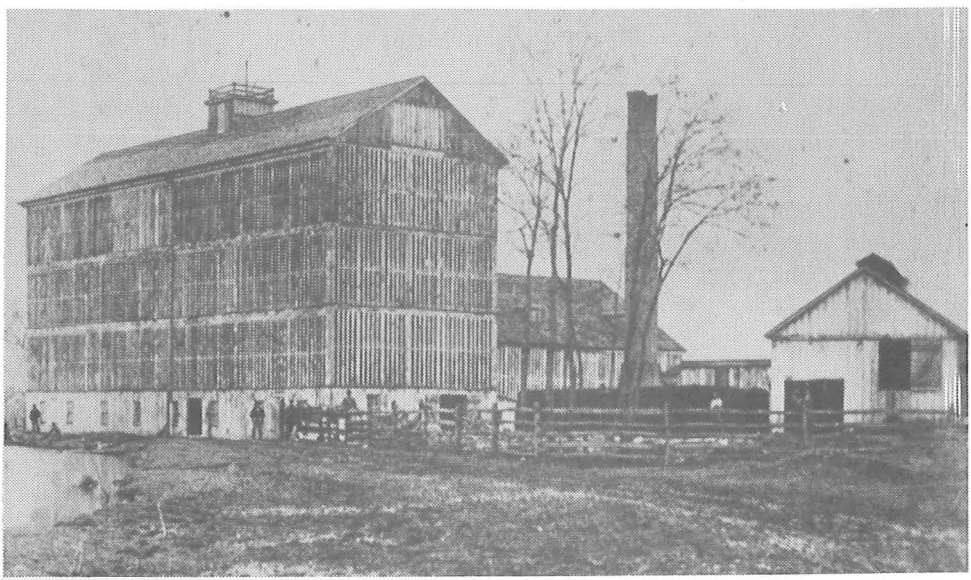
both sons were on the county tax roll: James as a Carlisle merchant, while Robert was taxed in Middleton Township on 375 acres, including a sawmill.[11]

Although the evidence is lacking, Ephraim may have sent both sons east for some period of time during the 1780's in an effort to complete their education. It may have been that final educational refinement that led John Banister Gibson, the Carlisle attorney and later Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court, to describe James as one of the "most accomplished and finest looking gentlemen in Philadelphia."[12]

In 1791 James married Jane Hoge, but the marriage ended in tragedy two years later when his wife and infant son died during childbirth. Within two years, he wed Margaret Lyon, a cousin. Their son, Ephraim Lyon Blaine, years later sired James Gillespie Blaine, the prominent Maine Congressman, Speaker of the House, Secretary of State, and Republican presidential candidate in 1884. James chose not to remain in Cumberland County. Shortly after the death of his father in 1804, he moved his family west to Brownsville, present Fayette County, Pennsylvania. His son, Ephraim L., returned briefly to Carlisle and entered Dickinson College in the class of 1814 but never graduated; instead, he returned home to farm.[13]

Robert's marriage to Susanna Metzger produced three daughters and a son who later was graduated from Dickinson College and eventually earned his degree in medicine.[14] Robert, like his father who was a Dickinson trustee from 1792 to 1804, was respected enough also to be elected to the Board and served from 1811 until his death in 1826.[15]

In early 1795 Ephraim Blaine lost Rebecca, his wife of thirty years. Two years later, at fifty-six, he married Sarah Elizabeth Postlethwaite Duncan, a thirty-eight year old widow. Her letter of 8 March 1797, to Ephraim who was then in Philadelphia on business, is significant for several reasons; the letter reveals an unusual formality for a husband-wife relationship, it announces the birth of their



Blaine paper mill at Middlesex, Cumberland County. From the author's file.

son, and it shows the presence in the Blaine household of at least two young daughters from Sarah's earlier marriage:

> My Dear Mr. Blaine
>
> You good son James must not meet you empty handed as you will perhaps call me a lazy slut...We are all well & wish much for your return tis six weeks this day since you left us and I fear it will be almost four more before you are here. Our dear boy is baptized...he is at present a sweet little fellow...I think my dear you had better make haste home, for as long as you are in the city I shall be asking for something. The girls all send their love to you.[16]

In his will dated 11 February 1800, the proud father left to his infant son, Ephraim, Jr., the Middlesex farm, never realizing that within three years the son would drown in the swift waters of the mill race on the farm property.

SERVICE

Ephraim Blaine began a lifetime of public service in October 1771 when he was elected Sheriff of Cumberland County by a vote of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania. His term of office ended in late 1774.[17] The receipt book that he began while Sheriff, and in which he continued to record entries until 1798, contains the signatures of three signers of the Declaration of Independence: James Wilson, George Ross, and James Smith.[18]

Although much of Blaine's daily schedule as Sheriff was devoted to the routine functions of office such as the collection of court claims, there was at least one occasion when he had to carry out a death sentence. On 27 June 1774, Governor John Penn directed Sheriff Ephraim Blaine to hang James Anderson, who had been recently convicted in county court on the charges of felony and murder. The sentence was carried out as instructed on Saturday, 16 July.[19]

A meeting of great urgency was held in the First Presbyterian Church of Carlisle on 12 July 1774, with Sheriff Blaine, along with other freeholders and freemen of Carlisle and neighboring townships of the county, in attendance. The emergency meeting had been called upon the receipt of the news that the British Parliament had passed the Boston Port Act which effectively closed the port of Boston as of June 1, 1774, in retaliation for the Boston tea party of December 1773.

The meeting was chaired by John Montgomery, a church elder and respected community leader. Following a brief discussion of what action they might take in support of their oppressed friends in Massachusetts, a number of resolutions were passed that condemned the closing of the port of Boston and asked that "every vigorous and prudent measure ought speedily and unanimously to be adopted by these colonies for obtaining redress of the grievances under which the inhabitants of Boston are now laboring."[20] The citizens also appointed a committee of thirteen that was to correspond and cooperate with other committees within and outside the province of Pennsylvania. Ephraim Blaine was selected as a member of the committee. James Wilson, Robert Magaw, and William Irvine were also selected by the citizens to serve as delegates to attend the Provincial Convention that was scheduled for 23 January 1775 at Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia.[21]

Blaine barn razed in 1979. It lay in North Middleton Township near the crossing of the Lambs Gap Road over the Conodoguinet Creek. From the author's collection.

Ephraim Blaine had been out of office as Sheriff for only a few months before taking on a new assignment at Fort Pitt as a special Commissioner of Indian Affairs. His appointment by the Continental Congress directed him to negotiate and draft a treaty with the "Western Indians."[22] The time Blaine had to devote before successfully completing a treaty is unknown. The record shows that his claim for reimbursement of expenses was approved by Congress in March 1776.

Thus, when the first recorded stirrings of serious difficulty with Great Britain were being felt in Cumberland County, Ephraim Blaine, in his thirty-fifth year was living with his young family working the land and operating mills along the Conodoguinet Creek.

Safe behind the Susquehanna River, near both iron-making centers and productive farms, and astride the best military road to the West, Carlisle quickly became a supply center.[23] Blaine's grist mills presumably were his entree to war production, but his agile mind soon turned to related matters, as evidenced in his letter of November 1776 to John Hancock, President of Congress:

> I have purchased three hundred head of cattle to lay in a winter stock...Have used every endeavor to procure salt to preserve the Beef, but can't obtain one bushel. The man whom I sent to Baltimore Town on Purpose is just returned.
>
> Beg's your Honor's application to the Honorable Congress for 230 bushels if to be had; should it not be obtained am Distressed to know how to Act. It's impossible to feed cattle over Winter to keep them fit for Slaughtering without being at very great expense. They are Daily losing beef.[24]

Its attention called to the advantages of Carlisle, Congress established the village as a Quartermaster and Commissary magazine. On 27 December 1776

the central government resolved that a contract be'for the erection at Carlisle of a magazine sufficient for 10,000 stand of arms and 200 tons of gun power and also for erecting a laboratory [manufacturing plant] adjacent to the magazine."[25]

Blaine, during the War of the Revolution, performed service for both the state and national governments. By 20 March 1776 Congress noted its obligation to pay Ephraim Blaine 178 Pounds or $6,076 for "necessaries furnished Rifle Company." The expenditure may have been part of the battalion that the Committee of Correspondence for Cumberland County reported in December 1775 it expected to raise with Ephraim Blaine as lieutenant colonel.[26] The unit became "First Battalion, Cumberland County Militia with Blaine its Colonel as of 1 January 1777.[27]

The success with recruiting and outfitting the battalion seems to have come to the attention of Congress, which on 17 October 1776 appointed him as Special Purchasing Agent. A year later, designating Blaine as "Esquire," it appointed Blaine as "Commissary" for supplying with supplies "the troops now in the County of Cumberland, in Pennsylvania, and such as may hereafter march through that county, as well as the officers and troops who shall be employed in the Magazine and Laboratory to be erected at Carlisle."[28]

In this position he appears to have been responsible for one important innovation, at least. The usual practice had been to keep beef cattle on the hoof, following the army until the moment when they were slaughtered. This procedure led to the major problem of amassing sufficient forage. Underfed on the trail, the animals frequently were too thin to be dressed into satisfactory cuts of beef. Blaine instituted the plan of doing all of the slaughtering in Carlisle where the carcasses were salted and sent to the army by waggon.[29]

A number of profitable spinoffs occurred that benefited the economy of the region. Butchers were in demand; coopers had to be hired; hides had to be tanned and became raw materials for a burgeoning horse equipment manufactory at Shippensburg and for a shoe factory at Lancaster.

Satisfied with his performance in Cumberland County, Congress on 6 August 1777 promoted Blaine to be Deputy Commissary General of Purchases and on 2 December 1779 Commissary General of Purchases, succeeding Jeremiah Wadsworth. His work took him whereever the Continental Army marched in attempts to unravel the knots in the supply system.[30]

John Ewing Blaine quotes letters that afford glimpses into what Ephraim actually faced in his commissary work. His account speaks of feeding fourteen brigades (twenty-eight regiments?) that were hourly being augmented by recruits. They were consuming one hundred barrels of flour each day and sixty-five head of cattle. He needed 150,000 barrels of flour and hundreds of hogsheads of rum. It was his job, as well, to dragoon reluctant farmers to hire out their teams and waggons to transport supplies. He was using his own money and credit, as well as that of his friends, to pay for purchases while Congress delayed its payments.[31]

Blaine's family suffered from his attention to business affairs and increasing absence from home, as wistfully explained in a letter of November 1777 from

eleven-year-old James:

> ...Mamy has not one single grain of tea Coffy is 20 shillings a pound brown sugar is 15 shillings. Leaf sugar 30 shillings. Mr. Postwait has sent your chest two weeks ago Dear Dady dont forget your promise of coming home in two weeks from your date. Mamy best compliments to Dady. Boby joins me in our love to you...[32]

Even though Ephraim Blaine's military career appeared to be soaring in 1777, there were serious political pitfalls just over the horizon that could jeopardize a career politically or militarily. Within Pennsylvania in 1777 the most divisive issue was the new State Constitution of 1776. Blaine declined the job of County Lieutenant proffered him by the State Executive Council, giving as his reason "the difference of sentiment which prevails in Cumberland County about the Constitution..."

Blaine placed himself finally on the left wing of the debate led by two powerful County politicians: Robert Whitehill as the floor leader of the Convention that adopted the Constitution and George Stevenson and James Wilson, violently opposed. He sided with Whitehill. John Thompson claimed that Blaine's decision was based on the latter's belief that two-thirds of the population supported the damned Constitution of 1776" and that "it would be enforced by fixed bayonets."

While the army was encamped at Valley Forge in early 1778, George Washington persuaded General Nathanael Green to accept the newly created position of Quartermaster General, a command that Greene was reluctant to take. In a letter to the Secretary of War, Henry Knox, he wrote: "His Excellency presses it upon me exceedingly. I hate the place, but hardly know what to do." To Washington, Greene complained, "nobody ever heard of a Quartermaster in History." The appointment of Greene proved to be a good one. The new Quartermaster Department under his direction had three thousand quartermasters, auditors, clerks, forage and wagon masters. Greene, in working directly with Wadsworth and Blaine, was able to make some immediate improvements in supply, one being the improvement in the efficiency of the network of assistant purchasers in each state.

With each succeeding year of the war the value of the continental dollar slipped further. By March 1777 the dollar was at slightly below par; two years later it took $1,000 worth of Continentals to buy $100 in specie. As of April 1781, the Continental war worthless. As Deputy, then Commissary General, Ephraim Blaine was forced to deal with the problems that inflation created in supplying the Army. The warrants that he received from Congress in early 1780 show what was happening to the Continental: On January 10, Blaine was issued $3,704,000 for use in his department for supply, but within three months, on April 11, he received a second warrant for $5,840,666.60. The soaring costs of supply, due to inflation, had become so great by May 1780 that troop rations had to be cut back to one-eighth of what they had been six weeks earlier. To make matters worse, the troops had not been paid for five months. A mutiny by two Connecticut regiments had to be suppressed by using Pennsylvania units.

Even with the improvements that appeared to have been made in 1779 and

Datestone showed 1779 to be the year Blaine built the Middleton Township barn.

1780 the supply problems were still over-whelming. Ephraim Blaine's letters to Congress and to his friends revealed a growing sense of frustration and pessimism. In a letter to Congress in October 1780, Blaine attempted to convey to his superiors the gravity of the supply situation, while pleading for more changes in order to improve the system:

> Permit me thro your Excellency to remind Congress about the supplies of our army which gives me much real concern & uneasiness. They are now fed from day to day and scarcely a week has passed this three months, that they have not been one or two days wanting either bread or beef. Your magazines are now destitute of flour, bread, beef, pork, fish, salt, rum and none upon the continent, to my knowledge, can furnish one days supply...
>
> ...Penna. as yet have delivered very little flour, no salt, nor do I Know of their buying any cattle...All the garrisons & posts in the Middle Department are destitute of provisions, & no means in my power of relieving them. The situation is now advanced...I am distressed to think how the army is to be kept together thro the winter...All the persons receivers of cattle & butchers who are in my employ with the army have received no pay since my entering upon the business of the department...The people are very importunate for their money & give me great troubles. What can I do with them under present circumstances? The want of rum in the army causes great uneasiness among the soldiery more particularly when there is the least scarcity of provisions...
>
> The present mode of procuring supplies from the states has left no method pointed out for any government, or direction in fixing the pay of any deputies & such other persons may be occasionally employed in the department. I wish Congress to point out a regular line for my future conduct and fix the pay of the persons I have engaged...[33]

Congress responded in November 1780 to Blaine's request when it established new guidelines for the operation of the Commissary Department.

The financial resources of Congress deteriorated as the war continued, the year 1781 possibly was the darkest, but, on February 20, Congress took two decisive steps to reverse the downward spiral of its finances: It created a Department of Finance and appointed as Superintendent of Finance Robert Morris, the Philadelphia merchant and recognized financial genius. Congress also chose to give him the powers necessary to become a financial dictator at a time when such a bold step was essential in order to save the revolutionary cause from total financial collapse.

Robert Morris, the "financier of the American Revolution," worked miracles almost immediately. None was more important than his success in persuading France to loan Congress $200,000 in gold and having it delivered to the colonies by the French navy. Upon receipt of the gold, Morris founded the Bank of North America, a note-issuing bank, that by the end of the war, had the new nation on a hard-money basis. In a move that Ephraim Blaine had argued for earlier, Morris persuaded Congress to supply the army by contract rather than the inefficient requisition system through the states.

The surrender of a British army by Lord Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia on 19 October 1781 formally ended the hostilities between England and her colonial upstarts. Formal treaty negotiations began at Paris, France, in April 1782, and on 30 November, the preliminary treaty was signed, although it would take another three months for the news to reach America. By late spring the Continental treasury was so empty that the furloughed soldiers had to be sent home without pay, only chits signed by Robert Morris for their last three months of service. They were permitted to keep their muskets as gifts.

Ephraim Blaine returned to private life, briefly, following his resignation in July 1782 as Commissary General of Purchases. While attending to his business interests, Blaine was forced to devote a major portion of his time trying to persuade Congress to settle his wartime accounts, including reimbursement due for wartime expense and back pay.

In a letter to Robert Magaw, a Carlisle attorney, on 27 December 1784, Blaine wrote: The necessity I am under for want of money obliges me to call upon you to use every exertion to procure me what you possibly can between this and the April court...[34]

As early as 13 December 1781, Ephraim Blaine made it clear in a letter to Samuel Huntington, president of Congress, that the continual drain on his personal finances and other circumstances could soon lead to his resignation as Commissary General of Purchases:

> I have been in thee employ since June 1776 and have never been anxious about my salary but I find this mode of conduct will not do and that I cannot support my wife and family without great injury to my private interest...
>
> As to my duty and office it is the most perplexed & disagreeable of any in your service. I am accused by many who suppose from my

appointment I am making a fortune and on the other hand the delays daily committed by the state agents in forwarding supplies causes scarcity of provisions and altho. I have taken every precaution and given the most pointed instructions I am condemned without inquiry by three-fourths of the army as being the cause. Those circumstances make this business very disagreeable.

I am exposed to a very great expense in entertaining those people who come after me upon business and who cannot be supplied elsewhere and indeed they are justly entitled to it...Have therefore to inform your Excellency that unless Congress make good my salary in specie or other money equivalent (for last year and this) and allows all reasonable traveling expenses when on public duty, with a daily allowance of six rations & forage for four horses a number necessary to execute the duty I cannot continue in the service without injury to myself...[35]

Within a year of his resignation as Commissary General Ephraim Blaine entered into a partnership with William Bell, a Philadelphia merchant, for the purpose of buying large tracts of land in Kentucky. Between 1783 and 1788 Blaine made several trips to the area. In his biography of the Blaine family, John Ewing Blaine wrote that the colonel "remained in Kentucky the greaterpart of the year 1784...."

One of the great moments in Carlisle's long and colorful history occurred in 1794 when President George Washington used the town as his headquarters during the height of the Whiskey Rebellion. During the eight days from 4 to 12 October Ephraim Blaine was privileged to serve as host to the President.

In a letter to Ephraim Blaine in late September, Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of Treasury, wrote:

> The President whom I have the honor to accompany leaves this place (Philadelphia) tomorrow for Carlisle where he will probably remain three or four days. He wishes you to provide for him some convenient rooms (say three) during his stay. It will be most agreeable for them to be at a private house on the express condition that they are to be paid for; for the President will not by any means be accommodated on any other terms. If they cannot be had on these terms at a private house let the bill then possible be done at a tavern.[36]

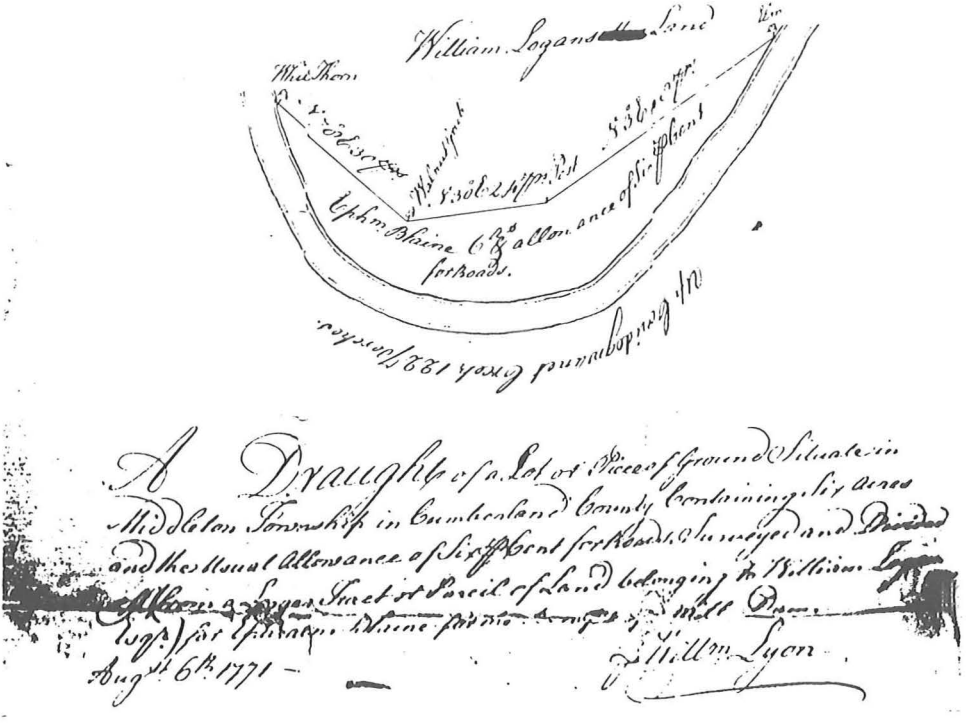
In response to Hamilton's instructions, Blaine chose to provide quarters for the President in a house that he had been renting from the estate of Robert Magaw.[37] The house was ideally located since it was on the southeast corner of the square and almost directly across from a tavern-rooming house, later known as the "Franklin House," where the President's staff and other members of the official party could be boarded.

Susan, the wife of his son Robert, served as hostess because her mother-in-law was too ill to assume the duties. Both sons were needed to assist their father, especially since he had received the contract to provide the supply for the 6,300 infantry and one thousand horses of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey militia.

James, a captain in the Pennsylvania militia, and his father accompanied the troops when they left Carlisle for Bedford.

Knowing that his wife's condition was worsening, Ephraim Blaine's stay in Bedford with the army must have been agonizing for him. Robert's letter to him was not reassuring:

> The great fatigue I suffered when the army lay here & being almost daily confined to the writing desk since brought on the old pain in my breast which pesters me very much but shall try to disipate it by throwing aside the pain for a few days and taking moderate exercise...My love to James whenever you see him.
>
> I doubt your house (the Middlesex farm) will not be plastered this fall. Brown informed me he cannot get workmen...The rest of the family are in usual health except my poor mother who appears to decline every day...[38]



Survey of Blaine's land in Middleton Township north of the Conodoguinet Creek. From a copy in Special Collection of the Dickinson College archives.

Rebecca Blaine's death in 1795 after thirty years of marriage was so difficult for Ephraim Blaine to accept that he became ill emotionally and physically for a period of time. During his recovery, possibly acting upon the advice of his attorney or his sons, Blaine had a will drawn up and, in his own handwriting, he completed a fourteen page accounting of all the land that he owned.[39]

Ephraim Blaine's name appears thirty-seven times in the *West Side Application* book, Pennsylvania Bureau of Land Records, and that of his first wife, Rebecca, seven times. Even though no Blaine appears in the *East Side Application* book, Ephraim's name is on seven separate deed transactions relating to Philadelphia city or county properties. Furthermore, the State land records show three transactions in Washington County, one in Allegheny County, six in Bedford County, and twenty-one in Westmoreland County. Blaine's own accounting shows him owning nine lots in Pittsburgh.

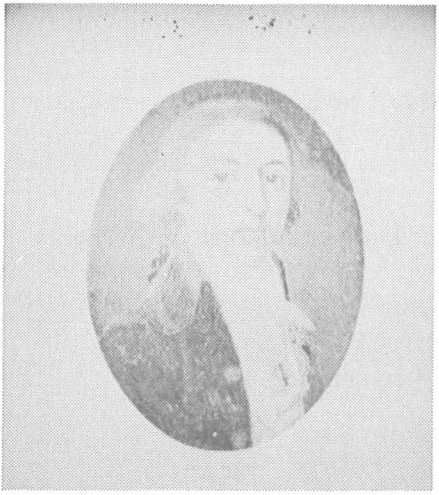
Cumberland County's tax records reveal considerable about Ephraim Blaine's activities locally.[40] In 1766 he was assessed in Carlisle for a lot, one servant, a horse, and cow, but by 1769 he had moved his family to a farm in East Pennsborough Township, so he was taxed there on two hundred acres of patented land while still being taxed for the one lot in Carlisle. The following year, he bought two hundred acres in Derry Township, Cumberland County, while being taxed in East Pennsborough as before, but in 1770, the tax included two grist mills and a saw mill. His two land purchases in Middleton Township in 1771 and 1772, which included what later would be known as the "Cave" farm, do not appear in the tax record in their entirely until 1776, at which time Blaine no longer was carried on the tax roll of East Pennsborough.

In 1778 Blaine was taxed on 1,430 acres in Middleton Township, but even though the land contained a working saw and grist mill they did not appear on the tax roll until 1787. Even with the sale of his Louther Street lot in 1778, Blaine was taxed in Carlisle in 1781 on four lots, but six years later on only two, both shown as disputed. The 1783 taxes show him as owning an additional eleven hundred acres southwest of Carlisle.

By 1786 Ephraim Blaine had moved his family back to Carlisle rather than remain on the "Cave" farm, his wife's failing health perhaps being the reason for the move. In 1786 he was taxed in Carlisle for two lots, two Negroes, one servant, twenty-five ounces of plate, three horses, a cow, and a phaeton.

Blaine's 1793 taxes show two important additions: the ownership of the Middlesex farm at the mouth of the LeTort Creek and two lots north of the square on Hanover Street.

The Middlesex farm had been purchased by Ephraim Blaine at a sheriff sale on 12 October, 1791 which had become necessary in order to satisfy debts against the Robert Callender, Sr., estate. His high bid included six hundred acres, the corn water mills, saw mill, fulling mill, houses, and barns. The two lots north of the square were purchased by Blaine in May 1792; the two brick houses that he built on the sites were intended to be homes for his sons. James and his family



James Blaine (1766-1832) son of Ephraim. Original photograph in possession of E. Blaine Hays of Carlisle.

Robert Blaine (1769-1826) son of Ephraim. Original owned by E. Blaine Hays.

did live in the house closest to the square that is locally known as the "Hartzell" house today and contains law offices.

The 1799 county taxes reflect the deed transfer, in September 1797, of his Middleton Township "Cave" farm and the brick house on North Hanover Street to his son Robert for five shillings. Ephraim Blaine's re-marriage in that year and the occupancy of the Middlesex farm may have led to the transfer of properties. Ironically, in 1799 Blaine appeared on the tax roll for the first and only time as "senior," because of the birth of Ephraim, Jr., subsequent to his marriage to Sarah Elizabeth Postlethwaite Duncan in 1797.

The name, Ephraim Blaine, appeared on the county tax rolls for the last time in 1802: in each year that followed, the name "Sarah Blaine, widow," appeared.

On Wednesday, 22 February 1804, the *Carlisle Herald* ran a grim announcement:

> Died at his seat near Carlisle on Thursday, the 16th. Colonel Ephraim Blaine in the 53rd year of his age. He was an active and useful agent in securing American independence.

The burial site of Ephraim Blaine is unknown.

Sarah Blaine continued to live on the Middlesex farm until 1818 at which time she sold the farm to Ephraim M. Blaine, a nephew, and moved to Philadelphia where she resided until her death in 1850.[41]

Taking into account factors such as Ephraim Blaine's landholdings which may have been in excess of eleven thousand acres at the time of his death, personal notes he may have been holding, the value of his uncollected back pay and expenses, personal property such as household furnishings and farm equipment, and other assets, Ephraim Blaine was probably worth about fifty thousand dollars in 1804.[42] If one were to estimate inflation at a conservative three percent over a

span of 182 years, Ephraim Blaine should rank as one of Cumberland County's wealthiest men.

If the grave of Ephraim Blaine could ever be found, a final tribute to the great man would be the epitaph on his headstone:

> Colonel Ephraim M. Blaine 1741-1804
> Sheriff, Commissionary General of Purchases during the War for Independence
>
> He Knew Them Well:
> SERVICE SACRIFICE DEVOTION
> missed by a thankful nation, family, community

ENDNOTES

[1] John Ewing Blaine, *The Blaine Family* (Cincinnati: 1920).

[2] Genealogical information is to be found in Anna A. Hays, *Colonel Ephraim Blaine: Commissary General of the Revolutionary Army* (Carlisle: *1935). Miss Hays's paper consists essentially of excerpts from The Blaine Family* written by a great-grandson of Ephraim Blaine and of an undated paper "A Brief Sketch on Colonel Ephraim Blaine" by her father John Hays, born 1837, also a great-grandson.

[3] Louis M. Waddell, et al, editors, *The Papers of Henry Bouquet* (Harrisburg: 1984), 5:311.

[4]Ibid., 5: 407.

[5] Ibid., 5:479.

[6] Thomas Barnsley to Col. Henry Bouquet 11 November 1764, S.K. Stevens and Donald H. Kent, editors, *The Papers of Col. Henry Bouquet Series 21651* (Harrisburg: 1943), 43. Both *The Blaine Family* and occasionally the indexers of the mimeographed edition in the 1940s of *The Bouquet Papers* fail to distinguish between Ephraim Blaine, civilian, and Archibald *Blaine* or Blane), military officer who served simultaneously in the Fort Pitt-Fort Ligonier area. The mis-identification adds credits to Ephraim's career which properly belong to Archibald, who may have been his brother.

[7] Cumberland County Historical Society. Tax records, 1771.

[8] Gail Hamilton, *Biography of James G. Blaine* (Henry Hill Publishing Co.: 1895), 17.

[9] Ephraim Blaine to Col. Joseph Hugg, 16 Jan 1778, Papers of Ephraim Blaine, Library of Congress.

[10] Ephraim Blaine to Boynton, Wharton, Morgan, 16 August 1766, Historical Society of Pa., Folio A 15, Case 19, Box 14.

[11] Cumberland County Tax Records, Cumberland County Historical Society, 1793.

[12] Hamilton, *Blaine,* 37.

[13] George L. Reed, ed., *Alumni Record of Dickinson College* (Carlisle: 1905), 64.

[14] Hamilton, "Certificate of Agreement for the Maintenance of a Bastard," manuscript 16-9, signed by Robert Blaine, April 17, 1790. In sowing his wild oats Robert sired a child as a result of a union with Elizabeth Irvine. He was required to pay her "fifteen shilling & thirty weight of flower (flour) per month." Her mark was affixed and the date in which Robert paid the security deposit to the Overseer of the Poor.

[15] Charles C. Sellers, *Dickinson College: A History* (Wesleyan Press, 1973), 484-485.

[16] Sarah Blaine to Ephraim Blaine, 8 March 1799, Papers of Ephraim Blaine, Library of Congress M.F. 2604.

[17] *Records of the Provincial Council, 1682-1776, Pennsylvania State Archives,* 9: 779.

[18] The receipt book was donated to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania by James G. Blaine, Jr., in 1922.

[19] John Penn to Ephraim Blaine, June 27, 1774, Hamilton, Manuscript 38-10.

[20] Roland M. Baumann, *George Stevenson (1718-1783) Conservative As Revolutionary* (Cumberland County Historical Society: 1978), X-1, 24.

[21] Ibid., 25.

[22] Payment of claims due Ephraim Blaine incurred by the treaty with the Western Indians, December 23, 1775, *Journals of the Continental Congress: 1774-1789* (Government Printing Office, 1905), III, 452.

[23] Thomas G. Tousey, *Military History of Carlisle and Carlisle Barracks* (Richmond: 1939), 74.

[24] As printed in Ibid., 74, Ephraim Blaine to John Hancock, Nov. 1776.

[25] Ibid., 78.

[26] *Journal of Congress,* as quoted in Hays, *Blaine,* 8.

[27] Ibid., 9.

[28] Ibid., 9.

[29] Tousey, 113.

[30] *Journals of the Continental Congress: 1774-1789,* 2 December 1779, 15: 1343.

[31] Hays, *Blaine,* 10.

[32] James Blaine to Ephraim Blaine, 12 Nov. 1777, Papers of Ephraim Blaine, Library of Congress M.F. 2 Letter Book.

[33] Ephraim Blaine to Samuel Huntington, 10 October 1780, Papers of Ephraim Blaine, M.F. 1.

[34] Ephraim Blaine to Robert Magaw, 27 December 1784, Papers of James Hamilton, Historical Society of Pa., Folder 33.

[35] Ephraim Blaine to Samuel Huntingdon, 13 December 1781, *Journals of Congress,* M.D. 3674.

[36] Alexander Hamilton to Ephraim Blaine, 29 September 1794, M.F. 2426.

[37] Cumberland County Historical Society. Tax records, 1793.

[38] Robert Blaine to Ephraim Blaine, 25 October 1794, Papers of Ephraim Blaine, M.F. 2.

[39] Special Collection, Dickinson College Library, Ephraim Blaine file, "Memorandum of Lands & Lotts in State of Pa."

[40] All references to the Cumberland County taxes have been taken from the tax research records compiled by the staff of the Cumberland County Historical Society.

[41] The Philadelphia City Directory, 1823, carried the citation: "Blane, Sarah E widow 220 Arch".

[42] The author arrived at Ephraim Blaine'snet worth by estimating that seven shilling 6 pence = $1.00 in Pa. Currency at thetime of his death (twenty shillings in a £). Estimating Blaine's net worth at £ 20,000 x 20 = 400,000 shillings divided by 7.5 (shillings) = $53,000 approximately.

The United Methodist Home For Children at Shiremanstown

Martha L. Detweiler

The early years of the twentieth century were marked by a tremendous shift in population from the farm and small community to the city. Extreme hardships befell many families trying to obtain work and establish new roots. Social work was in its infancy and was provided primarily by charitable institutions and private foundations. Consequently, the plight of the orphan or the destitute child became the focus of many church programs.

The Methodist Episcopal Church in the early 1900s was taking an active role in providing for the religious instruction and social needs of the poor in their communities. With this philosophy in mind:

> In 1914 at the suggestion of Miss Grace Weiser Davis, a popular and successful evangelist in the central Pennsylvania area, the Reverend Morris E. Swartz, Sr., presented the need for a children's home to the annual conference then meeting in Grace Church, Harrisburg, and a commission was appointed to study the proposal and report to the next session of the Conference.[1]

The commission consisted of H. L. Jacobs, A. L. Miller, G. S. Womer, M. E. Swartz, Sr., and W. P. Shriner.

For the next two years the commission met and presented their recommendations to the conference. They stated that there was a need for a children's home in the central Pennsylvania area and that it would be wise to locate it in an area where the Methodist Church was thriving.[2] Before a charter could be secured in order to establish the home, a specific location had to be chosen and a name selected. The first name suggested for the future home was "The Christ Home," but, because it was not well received by church members, the name was changed to "The Methodist Home for Children."[3]

From the beginning the commission intended to locate the Home in a farm setting, which was considered to be the ideal environment for orphans and disadvantaged children. Until funds could be raised to purchase land, it was decided to establish a temporary Home.

In April, 1919 a large Victorian house at 318 W. Main Street in Mechanicsburg was bought for $7,500, and another $10,000 was invested in expansion, furnishings and restoration. Two new bathrooms, a heating plant, two stoves, new electric wiring, and a fire escape were installed. All of the rooms were wallpapered, and the floors were refinished throughout.[4]

"The Home was opened for inspection Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1919, when about eight hundred persons came and went during the afternoon and evening."[5] Miss Lura Bulick was selected as Head Matron and assumed her duties in December, 1919. The first three children were admitted January 2, 1920, and by the end of that year, there were eighteen children living at the Home.

The philosophy of the Home was religious in nature and attempted to instill in the children strong moral values and good work habits. In her report to the Annual Conference in 1923, Miss Bulick described the children's daily schedule.

> Half past six is time for rising. They make their beds (boys make their own beds), put bedrooms in order, clean bathrooms, etc. This keeps them busy until breakfast time 7:45. Immediately after breakfast we have family worship, the children often reading the scriptures at this time....It is necessary for the older children to leave for school at 8:30 A.M. [6]

After school there were set times for play, chores, and study. She added that, "the younger children are in bed at 7 o'clock and the others at nine." [7]

The trustees and staff attempted to maintain the concept of family living in their Home. In a speech presented before a Methodist congregation in 1925 one young girl gave her own account of life at "The Methodist Home for Children:"

> I have been asked to tell you something about our home in Mechanicsburg. It is more than four years since I came to the Home, and I am glad to say publicly that through the guidance we have, I have been wonderfully helped physically, mentally, morally and spiritually: and what is true of me I believe to be true of all the girls and boys.[8]

Written accounts indicate that the children were happy at the Home and enjoyed the opportunity to attend the public schools and to make friends in the community.

Though successful in creating a good home environment for these children, the church was aware that many more children needed care. The trustees persisted in their appeals to the Methodist congregations. "Some necessary money was raised to pay for the farm by the imaginery sale of single acres of land for twenty dollars to Sunday School classes, to churches and other groups, and to individuals who wished to support the project."[9]

"By 1921 the conference had bought the George S. Rupp farm of 158 acres, more or less, adjoining the village of Shiremanstown and about four miles east of Mechanicsburg."[10] The purchase price was $31,000. In 1952 an additional twenty one acres were purchased from the Pennsylvania Railroad. This land was desirable because "these acres front on the highway and trolley for a quarter of a mile while a road extends along the entire side of it.[11]

With the land purchase complete, the trustees were able to turn their attention to the planning of the Home. In 1922 engineer Ritchie Lawrie and architect Clayton Lappley of Harrisburg, were hired to design the first unit. Over

The first and temporary home at 318 North Main Street, Mechanicsburg. The original photograph and others used to illustrate the article are at the United Methodist Home for Children, Mechanicsburg.

the next two years there were many alterations made to the original plans. The combined efforts of the architects, the Board of Managers of the Home, Professor Crowell of State College and advisors from the state were instrumental in the decision to build a number of limestone cottages rather than one large building.[12]

During these years of preparation, the farm was stocked with a dairy herd, and a graduate of Pennsylvania State College was hired to operate the farm. Unfortunately, a few years later one of the assistant farmers was killed by a bull. The very next day the barn caught fire and was destroyed, but it was replaced with a modern dairy barn. Nevertheless, the farm proved to be profitable and helped to support the Home.

Fundraising for the Home continued, and when the necessary monies were accumulated, ground was broken on March 17, 1925. The builder, John C. Snyder of Selinsgrove, used native limestone from a quarry near Plainfield. Four cottages, one of which would serve as the Administration Building, a recreation hall and a laundry were constructed at a cost of $160,000. Each cottage could house nineteen children, the house mother and a helper. On September 1, 1926, seventeen children from the temporary home were transferred to the permanent home down on the farm. "The Methodist Home for Children" was said to be the first all-cottage home for children in Pennsylvania and served as a model for those to follow.[13]

Due to the projected increase in enrollment and the additional responsibilities of farm management, "the trustees felt that the time had come for the election of a superintendent to look after the manifold interests of the home. At a meeting held March 5, 1926 at Grace Methodist Church, Harrisburg, the Reverend Otho C. Miller was unanimously elected to fill the important office."[14]

Miller, a graduate of Drew Theological Seminary, had served nineteen years in various churches throughout the central Pennsylvania area prior to his appointment as superintendent. He and his wife, Loretta, shared the duties of this new position. She assumed much of the supervision of the children's cottages, while he was the overall administrator of the Home and the farm operation.[15]

During the administration of Otho Miller the philosophy of maintaining a family atmosphere prevailed. The boys worked on the farm helping with the milking, plowing, planting, and harvesting. The older boys would often work two hours before breakfast, go to school and, upon returning home, work two more hours at their chores. The girls did all the cleaning, and the senior high school girls did the ironing for the whole cottage. One woman who was a resident at the Home for seven years said that she did not think the work load was too strenuous. She recalled that the boys seemed to enjoy the farm life, and that the girls always worked in groups and had fun while they performed their jobs.[16] Live-in house mothers continued to provide the children with guidance and love. The Home was usually filled to its capacity of fifty-seven children, although, "it was always the policy to return a child to his family home if conditions improved."[17]

Dedicated church members supported the Home with their visits and fundraising activities. No changes were planned for the physical facilities during Mr. Miller's tenure, but in 1937 a fire destroyed a garage on the premises. The farm operation continued to be successful, and that same year $2,500 from farm profits were turned over to the trustees.

Through the years numerous bequests and memorial gifts were made to establish an educational fund to provide advanced schooling for children who graduated from high school while living at the Home. The original benefactor was James H. Morgan, a President of Dickinson College, who gave $500 in memory of his wife. That was followed by a $900 donation from W. P. Tritt, and the fund has increased steadily over the years. In addition, Dickinson College and Lycoming College have provided free tuition to students from the Home. These benefits have enabled many young adults to continue their education.

Otho Miller served as superintendent for sixteen years, and during this time 143 children lived on the farm. Many of the children completed high school, eight attended college, and two graduated from nursing school.[18]

In 1942 after Miller retired, the Reverend Victor Hann, also a Methodist clergyman, became superintendent. Hann, a graduate of Dickinson College, had served five churches in the Central Pennsylvania Conference before coming to Mechanicsburg from Lewistown. In addition to his ministerial duties, he had been a Scout leader and director of a children's camp.

Victor Hann and his wife, Muriel, took an active part in the daily life of the many children aged six to eighteen years of age who were entrusted to their

care. They used to take the children on numerous shopping trips so that they could select their own clothing and shoes.

Through the generosity of many people, the Hanns were occasionally able to take a group of the children out to Sunday dinner or to a concert. Many nights the superintendent drove the boys to and from their dates. The children were able to invite their friends over, and, in turn, visit their friends. Because every effort was made to let the boys and girls know that this was their home, they often referred to the whole group as their family. The strong bonds formed between the Hanns and their "children" can be measured by the continued correspondence and visits from the former residents of the Home.

Dr. Hann proudly related their achievements, During his administration two students were valedictorians of Mechanicsburg High School. Many of the young men and women went on to college, to nursing school and to the armed services, "One former resident is now one of six women school superintendents in the state of Pennsylvania. Another young man has become an assistant District Attorney for the Bronx."[19]

Although the Hanns were personally involved with all of the children, the day-to-day care of the children in the cottages continued to be the responsibility of house mothers or house parents. One woman, Miss Edna Coon, retired in 1969 after serving as a house parent for thirty-four years. Periodically, students of Behavioral Science from Messiah and Dickinson Colleges would come to the Home to work and study. These students assisted the house parents and often relieved them on their days off.

There were many improvements and changes made to the property during Hann's administration. A gateway was built at the entrance of the lane; more lawn was planted and the roads were resurfaced. Between 1942 and 1952, seven hundred trees were planted around the cottages. A tennis court was installed, and in 1955, construction was begun on the Superintendent's house. The last addition was a new administration building which was completed in 1964.

By 1960 the farm business which had been in operation since the early 'twenties was not providing an adequate return on the investment. Also, at this time, some child welfare specialists were questioning the practice of requiring children to do farm work while living in a children's home. Consequently, in 1960 the trustees decided to terminate this operation and sell tracts of land which were not needed. Over eighty acres were sold to different parties, and today one can view the Weis Market, Bethany Village Retirement Center, Wesley Park Apartments, Vernon Wass Playground, Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church, and other buildings erected on the land which was once part of the Home. It was hoped that land sold to Lower Allen Township might be the future site of an elementary school so that the children could walk to school. Unfortunately, another location was chosen. The Home retained title to approximately eighty acres and rented the fields to local farmers.

In 1970 after twenty-nine years of service, the Hanns retired, and the Reverend Kenneth Arthur took over as the new administrator. Arthur, a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary, had fourteen years experience among several churches. He and his wife, Margaret, moved to Mechanicsburg from Watsontown, where

Interior view of the 318 North Main Street property.

he had developed a Kindergarten program at the church, started a Senior Citizens program and worked in Radio Ministry.

One of Arthur's first tasks was to oversee a major renovation at the Home. It had been forty-five years since the Home had been built, and the physical facilities were in need of improvement. In 1972 "$1,000,000 was spent on remodeling, rewiring, installing new plumbing, and installation of lighting on the grounds."[20]

Not only was the Home remodeled, but it was given a new name. Because of the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the name of the Home was changed to The United Methodist Home for Children. A few years later the Quincy Orphanage, which had been operated by the Evangelical United Brethren Church, closed and the last four orphans residing there were sent to The United Methodist Home for Children.

There are no longer any orphans placed for long term care at the Home. Instead there are homes where an orphan is temporarily housed, but every attempt is made quickly to place the child in a foster or adoptive home. During the late 1960s and early 1970s fewer orphans and homeless children were placed in institutions, and the administration began to accept children with behavioral problems. The philosophy and goals of the Home had been slowly evolving to meet the changing needs of our society. According to Arthur, "in 1970 we were providing custodial care for children. Today those same kids would go to foster care."[21] Currently, the children accepted at the Home are considered emotionally disturbed; they range from ten to eighteen years of age.

In order to give these children the proper treatment the Home has developed a comprehensive program.

> Basically, the purpose and program is threefold: 1. To provide residential treatment for children and youth, while working with their families; 2. To provide Family Counseling services to area families who are in need of guidance to improve their family atmosphere; and 3. To provide seminars on child care and family counseling for members of the clergy and those in the helping professions...[22]

To provide the special treatment needed by those children in the residential program, it was necessary to hire more staff and reduce the number of children living in each building. Eight children, grouped according to their age and sex, are housed in each of the four cottages. Presently, there are four full-time social workers and three visiting psychologists who are in frequent consultation with the children. In addition, each cottage has individual child care workers who are specifically trained to deal with troubled children. All of the staff take part in the total treatment of the child.

In the past ministers and school superintendents would recommend children for admission to the Home, but, today, although a minister may make a referral, all youth sent to The United Methodist Home for Children are placed there by court order. The placement must be through the court system, because the Home does not assume guardianship of the child. Upon arrival the child meets with the staff to discuss the treatment program, and the child is an integral part of this planning. Usually a time period of twelve to eighteen months is proposed for the length of treatment and regular counseling sessions help the child and staff measure his progress.

Sometimes the length of stay is determined by how much the county is willing to pay. It costs $105 a day to house a child at the Home. The state pays thirty-five percent, the United Methodist Church pays seventeen percent, and the remainder is provided by the endowment fund and money raised by the Home. Occasionally a county will not pay for treatment, and in that case the administration may decide to cover all the costs. The total budget for all three programs for 1986 is approximately $1,000,000.

When questioned about the large amount of money being spent, Arthur replied,

> It costs money to run a good program with a well qualified staff. If we can treat these children properly now, we are going to enable society to save hundreds of thousands of dollars in prison costs or state psychiatric costs. So isn't it better to work with these children now, and help them to turn their lives around?[23]

Once a child is accepted into the program and becomes a resident, he or she attends the Mechanicsburg Public Schools or one operated by the Capitol Area Intermediate Unit. Church attendance is encouraged but not required. All of the children are assigned daily chores on a rotating schedule. There are rules and regulations regarding behavior, and if a child becomes unmanageable he is placed in the "time-out room," which is a bare room with Plexiglass windows. In this room the child is able to vent his anger and frustrations without harming himself or others. There are no bars on the windows at The United Methodist Home for Children, and frequently children do run away. The reasons vary, but it is often because of their inability to cope with pressure or disappointment.

Usually the children return voluntarily to continue their treatment.

Kenneth Arthur is proud of the high success rate the facility has with its program. The walls of his office are filled with pictures of former residents. Reading the inscriptions on the photographs and listening to Arthur describe the many achievements of the children is an affirmation of the accomplishments of the staff at the Home. Arthur has performed marriage ceremonies and baptized the babies of many former residents. They keep coming back to renew their ties.

The United Methodist Home for Children has had a long and varied history. Over the past sixty-six years the focus has changed drastically. The original concept of providing a Christian home down on the farm for disadvantaged and orphan children became unnecessary with the advancement of foster care and adoption programs. The philosophy of the Home has really not been altered if one considers the original intent of the founders. They wanted to help those children that society had forgotten.

Today, The United Methodist Home for Children is giving these young boys and girls a chance for a better life. The Home is using the most modern psychological resources available in combination with their Christian dedication and hard work to provide a facility for troubled children. The original church leaders might be surprised to see how the Home has changed over the years, but they would be proud of their Home and its continued commitment to the children of central Pennsylvania.

ENDNOTES

[1] Frederick E. Master, *Methodism in Central Pennsylvania* (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Co., 1971), p. 268.

[2] Central Pennsylvania Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, *Report of The Methodist Home for Children,* 47th Session, 1915, p. 108.

[3] Interview with Reverend Victor B. Hann, Past Superintendent of The Methodist Home for Children, Mechanicsburg, PA., Oct. 21, 1986.

[4] Central Pennsylvania Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, *Report of The Methodist Home for Children,* 52nd Session, 1920, p. 106.

[5] Ibid., 106.

[6] Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *The Methodist Home for Children,* 54th Session, 1922, p. 92.

[7] Ibid., 92.

[8] Central Pennsylvania Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, *The Methodist Home for Children,* 57th Session, 1925, p. 112.

[9] Maser, *Methodism in Central Pennsylvania,* p. 270.

[10] Central Pennsylvania Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, *Report of The Methodist Home for Children,* 53rd Session, 1921, p. 102.

[11] Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *The Methodist Home for Children,* 54th Session, 1922, p. 93.

[12] Central Pennsylvania Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, *Report of The Methodist Home for Children,* 56th Session, 1924, p. 103.

[13] Interview with Reverend Victor B. Hann, April 1, 1986.

[14] Central Pennsylvania Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, *Report of The Methodist Home for Children,* 58th Session, 1926, p. 302.

[15] Interview with the Reverend Victor B. Hann, April 1, 1986.

[16] Interview with former resident of The Methodist Home for Children, Mechanicsburg, PA., April, 1986.

[17] Interview with Victor B. Hann, April 1, 1986.

[18] Maser, *Methodism in Central Pennsylvania,* p. 271.

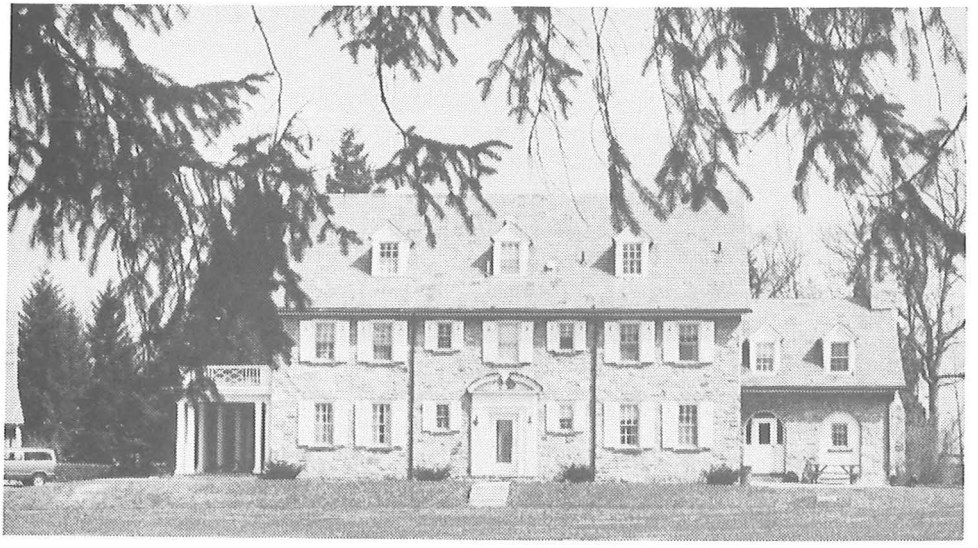
[19] Interview with Victor B. Hann, April 1, 1986.

[20] Interview with the Reverend Kenneth Arthur, Executive Director of The United Methodist Home for Children, April, 1986.

[21] Ibid.

[22] "United Methodist Home for Children," *West Shore Shopper,* August 19, 1977.

[23] Interview with Kenneth Arthur, April, 1986.



A cottage at the present home near Shiremanstown.

The Cumberland County Aerial Photographs of Samuel W. Kuhnert

Linda A. Ries

Samuel William Kuhnert (1890-1978) took some of the first aerial photographs of central Pennsylvania, many of them in Cumberland County. Dating between 1919-1940, they are today a valuable visual record of how the area appeared between the two world wars. Kuhnert also photographed the airplanes of the era and the pilots who flew them. After his death his children donated his collection to the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg. A select number of his Cumberland County views from that collection are reproduced here.

Kuhnert was born in Steelton and reared on a farm in Powell's Valley near Halifax in upper Dauphin County. After serving an apprenticeship in 1911 to Luther G. Harpel, a Lebanon County photographer, he moved to Harrisburg to establish his own business. In 1924 he and his family moved to 3120 Harvard Avenue in Camp Hill where they lived until about 1940. Kuhnert had an interest in aviation and often spent spare time at local air fields. His brother Walter, who shared this interest, became a hot air balloonist. Sam frequently assisted him at airshows, fairs and the like, often photographing the festivities.

Kuhnert managed to earn enough money from his commercial business to attend classes in the aeronautics division of Beckley College in Harrisburg. Planes used by the college were kept at the nearby Lemonye Air Field, on the south side of Market Street, between 10th and 14th Streets where the West Shore Plaza is today. Kuhnert also purchased a World War I army surplus 4x5 aerial camera. Also a tinkerer, in succeeding years he built at least two other cameras which took larger format negatives. He began photographing from the air, usually by encouraging or hiring a pilot friend to take him up. Kuhnert developed this into a business, offering in his advertisements "Something New: Souvenir Aerial Views." Often a company or a real estate developer would hire him to photograph his properties from the air. These would almost always be oblique views.

Operating a specialized camera from an open cockpit biplane demanded a different technique as well as a lot of nerve. The simple scenes Kuhnert obtained belied the danger in their shooting. He would have to lean out of the plane as far

Kuhnert in a Beckley College flight suit holding his WWI army surplus aerial camera. He wears the leather harness he crafted to give him a modicum of safety while working from an open cockpit.

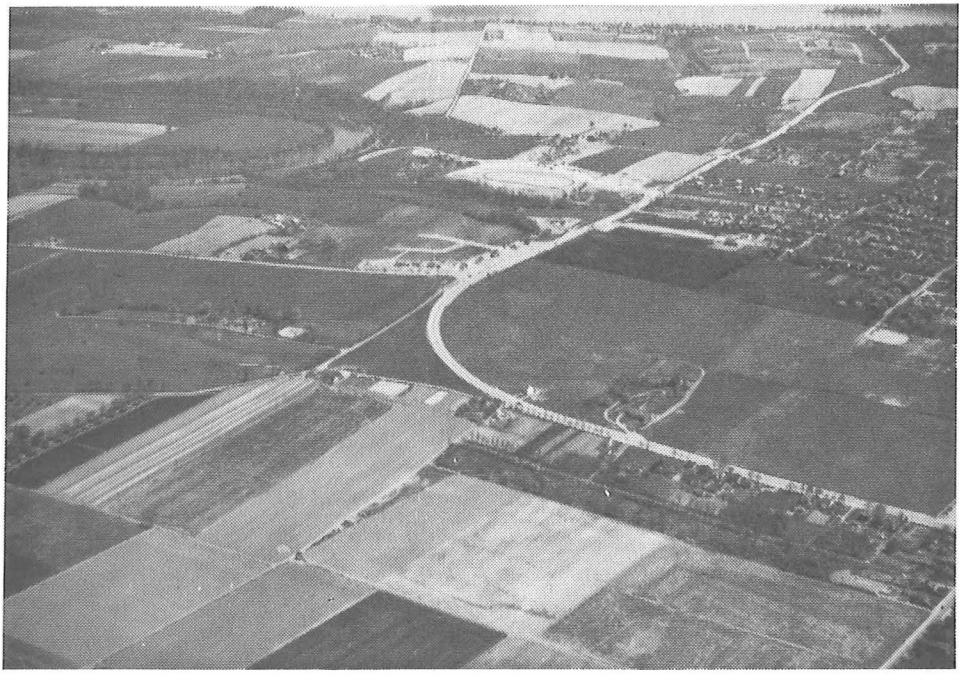
Kuhnert often took photographs from airplanes such as this Kreider-Resigner by stepping out on the wing with his camera. This is a 1931 view from the Lemoyne Airfield.

as he dared or ask the pilot to 'tip the wing' in order to not get any of the fusilage, wing, or struts in the picture. Fliers in open cockpit planes used a seatbelt with a double shoulder harness. Kuhnert found this too restrictive for his purposes and constructed a leather harness/belt mechanism which he attached to himself, his camera, and his plane. It gave him the freedom of movement he needed without fear of falling out of the plane or losing his equipment. He would often step out on the wing wearing this contraption. Sherman Lutz of State College, a pilot who took Sam on some of his flights, reports there were times when he even found this too restricting and removed it, preferring to wrap his legs around the struts, leaving his upper body and hands free to lean over the wing and take the picture. This understandably upset many pilots for the extra weight on the wing would offset the balance of the plane, putting passenger and pilot in serious danger. Kuhnert's daughter Trudy Shuey of Harrisburg recalls the anguish of one pilot who took Sam up just once and upon landing declared, "I'm not taking that bastard up again, he's crazy!."

By 1940 the escalating costs of operating a private plane and gas rationing curtailed Kuhnert's flying adventures. The gimmick of an aerial view of one's home town or business also began to wear off. As people became accustomed to aviation and aerial photography, there was less money to be made on the novelty. Kuhnert shifted his energies to his studio business on Third Street in Harrisburg. Anytime a pilot dropped by the shop to reminisce about the old days; however, Sam was known to put a "closed" sign in the window so they would not be disturbed.

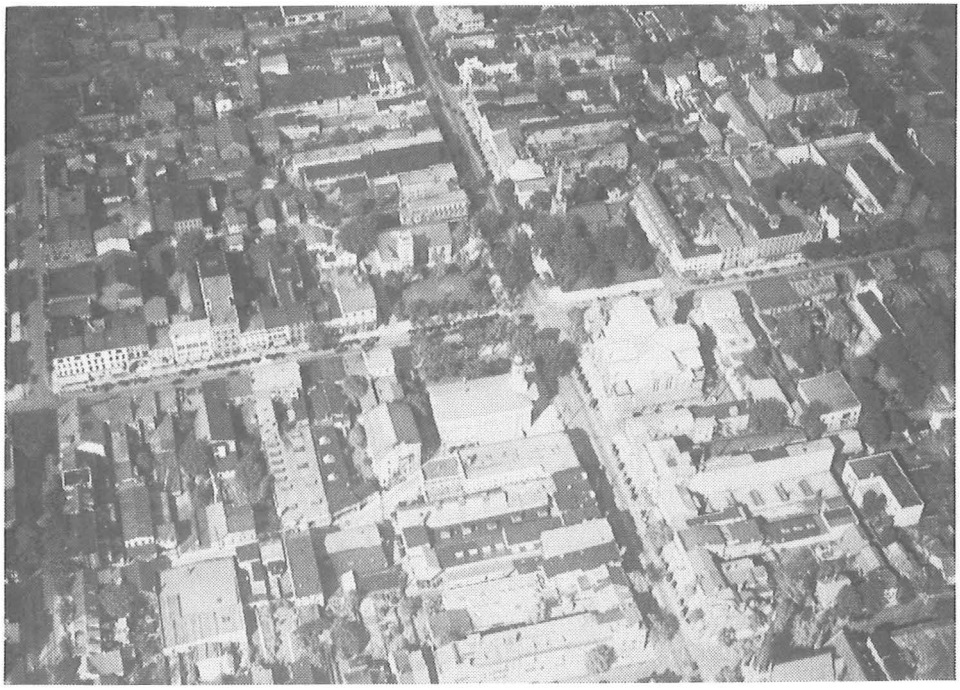
Today his aerial views are a treasure for historians, town and regional planners, or the just plain curious.

Boiling Springs. Circa 1935.

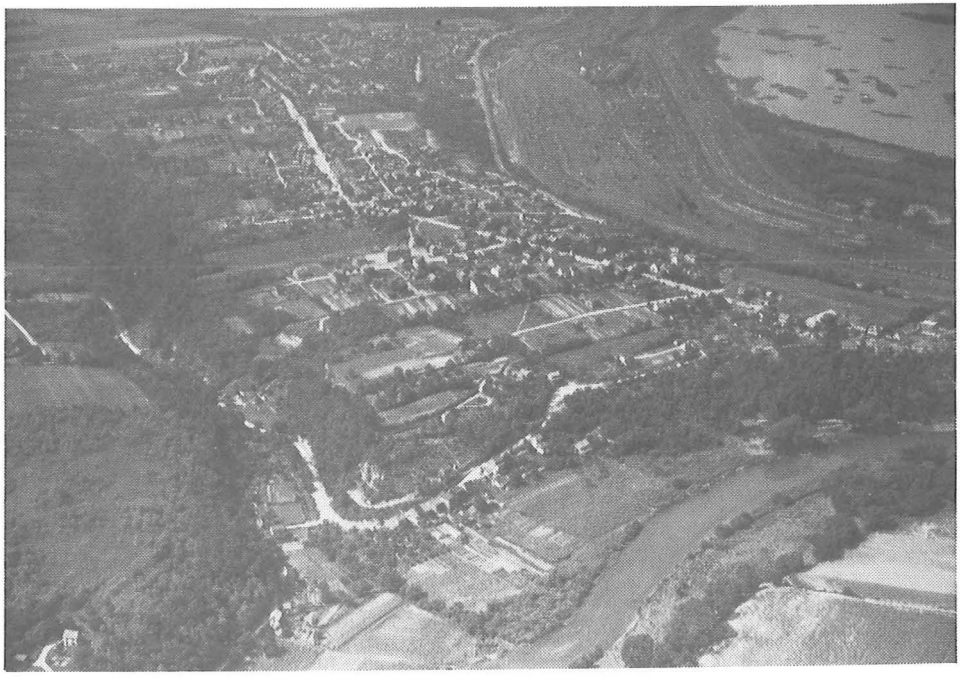


The arc is the Camp Hill By-pass curving south into 32nd Street. The vacant land to the left and outside the arc in 1928 became the West Shore Country Club.

C. H. Masland & Sons engaged Kuhnert in 1934 to photograph its Carlisle plant.



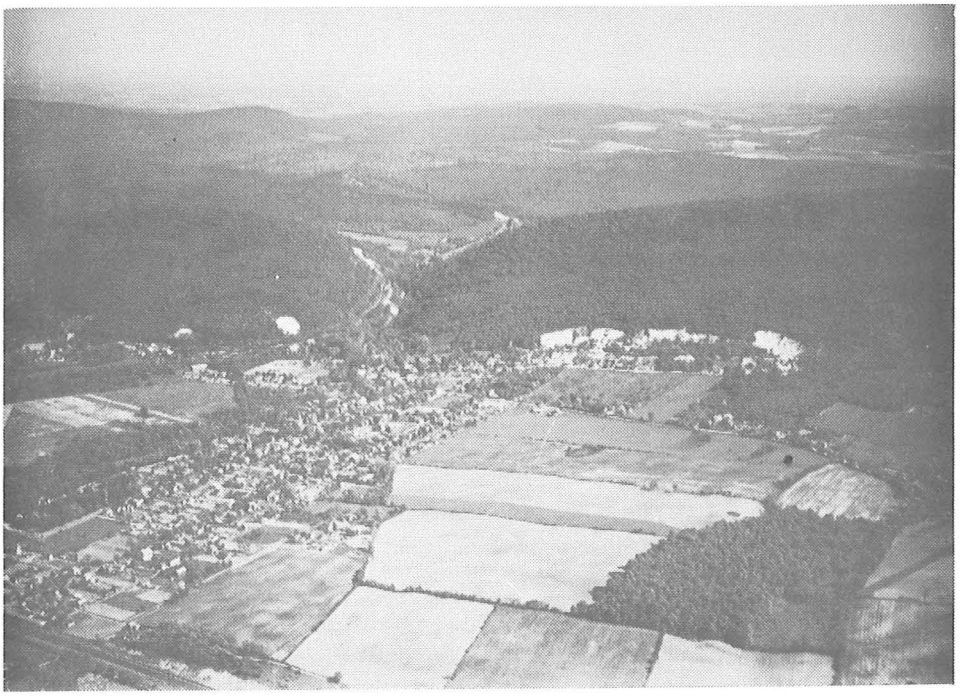
The Square, Carlisle, circa 1931.



Enola, circa 1930.

Here the Yellow Breeches Creek is flooding New Cumberland, probably in March 1936. Note the wing struts right and left.

The Racetrack at William's Grove in 1939.

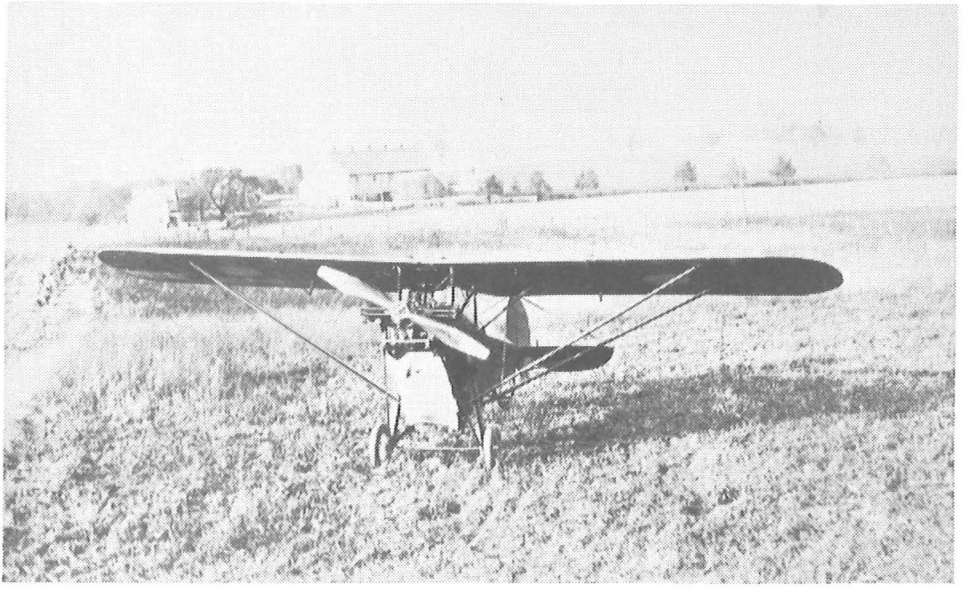


An undated aerial view of Mount Holly Springs.

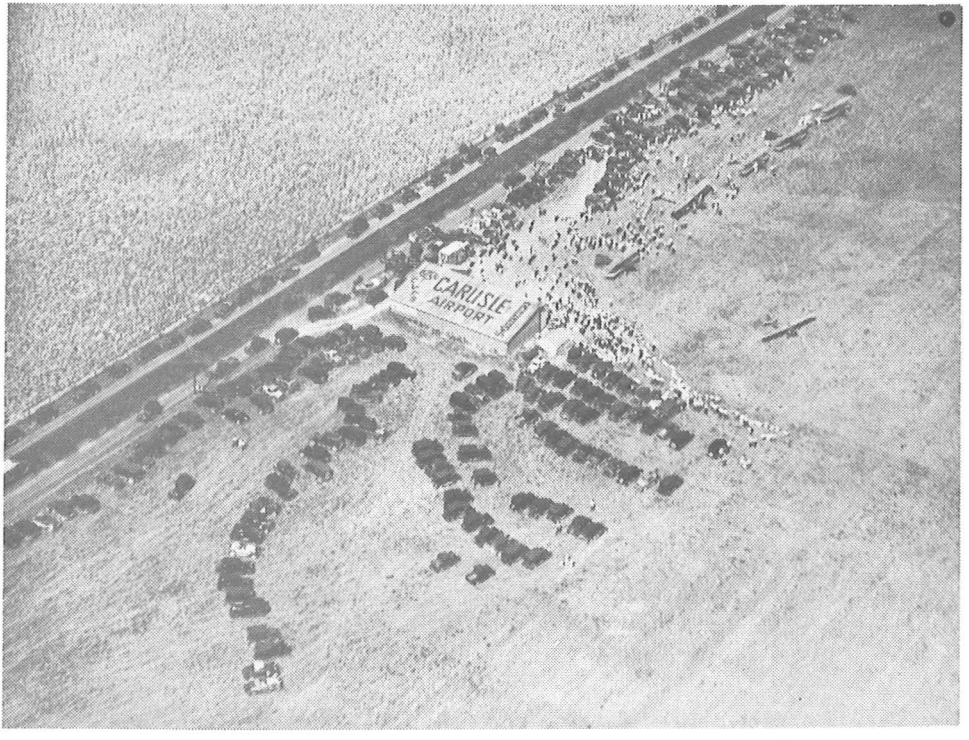
Shippensburg from the air circa 1930.

From above Samuel Kuhnert circa 1935 photographed the balloon of his brother Walter at Willow Mill Park on the Conodoguinet Creek north of Hogestown.

In 1929 the Vigilant *visited the Lemoyne Airfield. The camera shoots north and west. Camp Hill is in the left background.*



Kuhnert built and flew his own "photo plane," as he called it, seen here in a field in Camp Hill. A flimsy contraption of canvas, wood, and tricycle wheels, it never could gain and maintain altitude. Sam's son Robert Kuhnert says: "It never flew; it just hopped."



Automobiles here are parked along the berm of the Carlisle Pike and on the Cumberland Valley Flying Service airfield at New Kingstown during an air meet in 1932.

Carlisle Architecture

Nancy Van Dolsen

This paper developed from the research done before, during, and after the Cumberland County Historic Resource Survey completed its study of Carlisle architecture.[1] A desire to present this research in a more permanent form prompted this paper; it is meant to complement Dr. Milton Flower's *Carpenter's Companies and Carlisle Architecture.*[2] It is not a comprehensive study of Carlisle architecture. Because the survey project is directed by the National Park Service to focus its energies on discovering what structures are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, our study of Carlisle architecture centered on the areas outside of the large National Register District in the downtown areas of the borough; as a result most examples presented in this paper can be found standing in the more residential parts of town.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY CARLISLE

Thomas Cookson as the chief surveyor for John and Thomas Penn laid out the borough of Carlisle in 1751. The Proprietors of Pennsylvania placed a *caveat* on the lots first sold; a purchaser of land within the borough was required to:

> Build thereon a house of at Least twenty feet Square of Stone Brick or Frame Work with a Stone or Brick Chimney within one year from this present Date and transfer not the same before such Building be Erected.[3]

If a building was not erected within the time allowed, the land reverted to the Proprietors.

As early as 1760, the carpenters of Carlisle banded together to prepare a list of "Prices of Work in Carlisle."[4] Work included in the price list varied from making shutters to framing a roof and covering it with oak shingles to putting a doorcase or window frames into a log house.

A 1769 price list for carpentry work survives which listed many of the same types of work found on the 1760 list and also presented prices for more elaborate carpentry work such as a mentel shelf with a double cornice and scalloped shelves for closets.[5] Unlike the procedure followed in preparing the 1760 list, seven carpenters signed their names: "Robt. Guthrie, Sen.; Abrm. Woods, Jas. Ramsey; Wm. Denny; John Pollock; Robt. Guthrie, Jun.; and Michael Flint."

The Hugh McCormick house, "discovered" during the survey of Carlisle, dates from this era.[6] This two story log house at 146 East North Street first appears in written records in a 1774 deed from Hugh McCormick to Michael Washington. McCormick was first taxed in 1762; unfortunately the tax records at this time do

not specify if any buildings existed on the owner's properties. McCormick may have erected the house within his first year of owning the lot, if so then the house would be dated 1763. It can be determined that the house stood in 1798 when Patrick Leggitt owned the lot.

One can be fairly certain that the Hugh McCormick house predates 1798 because of the Federal tax of 1798, also known as the "Direct tax" or the "Glass tax." In 1798, the Federal government placed a tax on buildings, land value, and number of slaves. For each property the tax list (usually divided into a List A, List B, and List 1) gives the house dimensions, number of stories, number of windows and lights (panes of glass), materials, outbuildings, and owners' and occupants' names. The detail cited for each town or township depended upon the conscientiousness of the assessor; luckily for the town he was very thorough. In the case of the Hugh McCormick House, the description of the house in the 1798 Direct tax matches the current structure.

The Direct tax not only allows one to determine if a structure stood in 1798 but it also presents an unrivaled image of late eighteenth century Carlisle. From the Direct tax, one knows that Carlisle had a total of 718 buildings standing on 263 lots. The majority of the structures were dwelling houses; over half of the 151 houses were supplemented by kitchens in separate structures. Two-thirds of the houses had two stories, and most measured approximately 22' x 26'. Shops existed in forty-two buildings: ten blacksmiths, four hatters, two carpenters, two weavers, two potters, two wheelwrights, one copper, and one saddler shop.

Hugh McCormick House, pre-1774, North Street, Carlisle. Photograph from CCHS files.

Also of interest was the one brick kiln listed confirming that bricks were made in Carlisle in the eighteenth century.

Over sixty percent of the buildings in Carlisle in 1798 were log; twenty-six percent were constructed of stone. Fifty-two brick buildings stood at that time; only two of these are known today: the Ephraim Blaine House, 2 North Hanover Street, and the Peter Gilmore House, 170-172 East North Street.[7] James Hamilton built his house, the only three story building in town, of brick; the brick walls of the house may remain under the modern brick building on the site today at the northeast corner of Pitt and High Streets.

From these statistics a picture emerges of late eighteenth century Carlisle as a small town with a majority of two-story houses, many log, some stone, and most only about 22' x 26'. The town supported a number of artisans but had no large industries. It does not give the impression of a frontier town full of one-story log cabins.

NINETEENTH CENTURY CARLISLE

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the town council felt it desirable to enact "An Ordinance Respecting party walls, and the foundation of Buildings."[8] By 1815 foundations had to be over seven feet below the surface of the street, with foundations for stone structures up to the first floor two feet thick, and from the first floor, stone walls were required to be eighteen inches thick.[9] Many of these stone walls were actually two stone walls with an insulating air space between. These walls were often not bound together; in 1908 the *Evening Sentinel* reported that the wall of an early stone house had separated and that half had crashed into the neighbor's yard.[10]

In the 1815 ordinance, brick structures were required to have stone foundations twenty inches in thickness and brick walls fourteen inches in thickness "at least."[11] A fear of fire caused the town council to include the following:

> That no person or persons shall hereafter build, construct, or erect any house or building of log or frame nearer to the line of the adjoining lot or ground owned by any other person or persons than nine inches...[12]

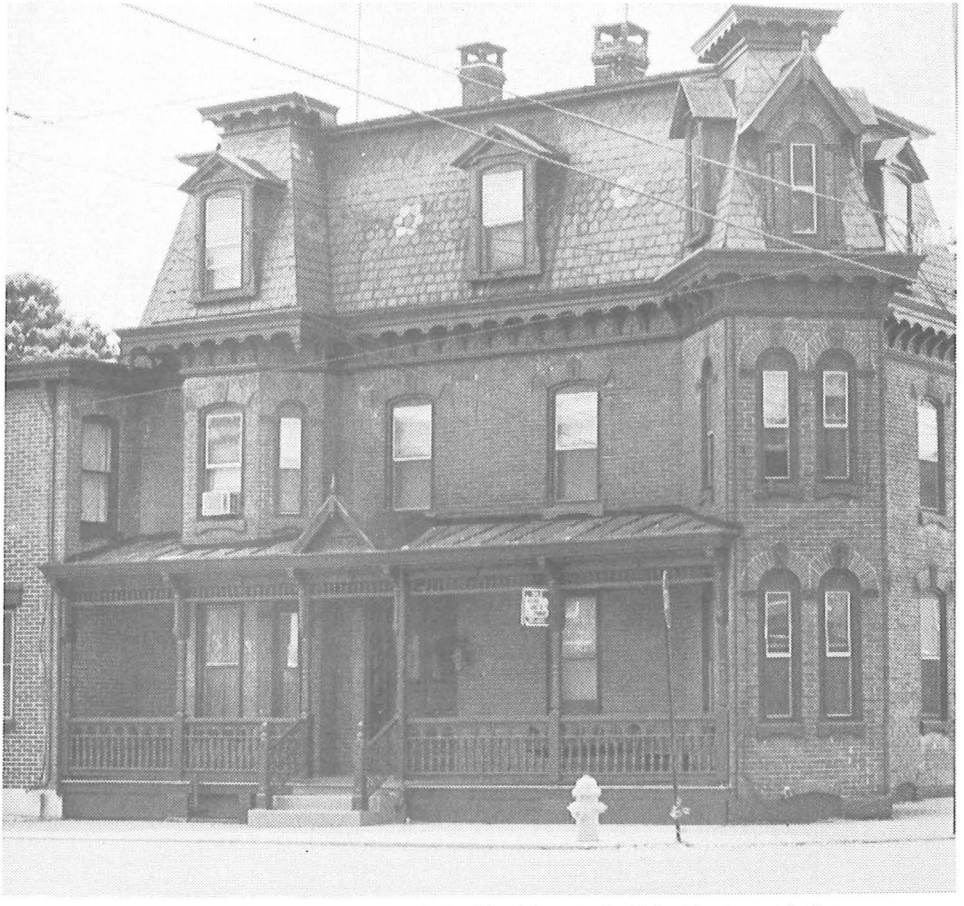
By the 1840s the population of Carlisle had climbed to approximately 4,000.[13] The town retained, however, a residential atmosphere, a visitor to Carlisle in 1844 wrote:

> Carlisle is a very pretty town. The streets are broad and there are many pleasant looking cottages standing in enclosures well planted with trees and shrubs and an abundance of flowers... Carlisle is no doubt a pleasant town for the residents...[14]

From the tax assessment records of the 1840s and 1850s one can discover much about Carlisle architecture but not as much as one learns from the 1798 Direct tax. During the first half of the nineteenth century many brick houses were erected, although most houses were still of log construction. Stone construction became less popular. Robert Corman built the first four story structure, now known as "The Wellington," in Carlisle during the late 1850s.[15]

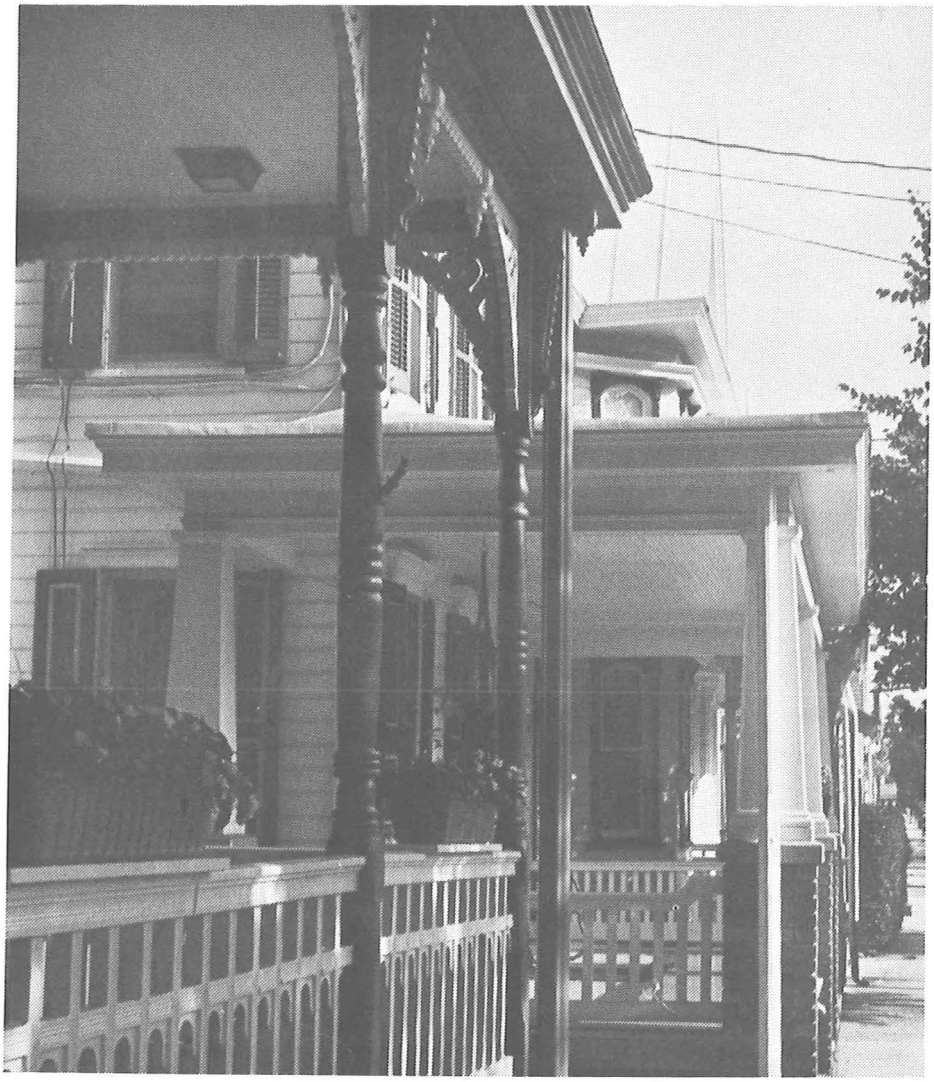
Also during the 1850s one extremely unusual house was built in Carlisle on Locust Alley, the George Deitz House which is the only known "mud brick" house in the area. The mud-brick construction became known when the current owner began to restore the house; the method of construction was discovered from a reading of Charles Leeds's reminiscences of his boyhood in Carlisle. Leeds remembered "a well-known German named Deitz...[who] built himself a mud brick house...He molded the mud brick in a store box, not burning them..."[16] Ironically, Deitz's mud brick house stood behind the house of Carlisle's most prosperous brick manufacturer, Peter Spahr. Although unusual in construction technique, the plan of Dietz's house resembled many Cumberland County and Carlisle residences: it is one room deep, with two front doors and contains the kitchen/work area in the basement.

Deitz was also very unusual in constructing his own house; the vast majority of buildings were erected by contractor/architects. During the nineteenth century contractors also acted as architects. Many of these contractor/architects apprenticed as carpenters. John R. Turner (1815-1886) and James Porter (1857-?) were two nineteenth century contractor/architects whose names kept appearing during the survey research for Carlisle.



James Porter House, 1889, North Bedford Street, Carlisle. Photograph from CCHS files.

John R. Turner, born in western Cumberland County, apprenticed under Jacob Spangler (member of Carlisle's Carpenters Company) and constructed buildings not only in Cumberland County but also in Clarion, Centre, Adams, and Franklin counties.[17] In Carlisle Turner designed the Trout building on West High Street (1854), his own residence on West Louther Street (1872-1875), a commercial building on North Hanover Street (1882-1885), and his most important local structure, the now-demolished Market House (1878). Features common to all of Turner's Carlisle buildings is the use of brick, a heavily bracketed cornice, and a slight arch to the window lintels. These characteristics are far from unique; these were popular architectural treatments during the years Turner designed buildings.



Late nineteenth century frame houses, South Pitt Street, Carlisle. Photograph from CCHS files.

A contractor/architect of the next generation, Porter erected a number of structures in Carlisle during the 1880s, 1890s, and just after the turn of the century.[18] Porter built the Penn School Building (1899) on North Bedford Street, the First Lutheran Church of Carlisle (1905) on the corner of West and Louther Streets, and laid out Lindner Park on West Louther Street. Porter designed his own house on the corner of North Bedford and Penn Streets and built it in 1889.[19] The house is an excellent example of the Second Empire style which was extremely popular in Carlisle during the 1890s.

At the year's end, the *Evening Sentinel* proclaimed " '91 the Greatest Building Year in History/Almost 150 Buildings of All Kinds Constructed - The Boom has been a Healthy One."[20] In 1891 Carlisle businessmen formed the "Carlisle Land and Improvement Company," which actively sought outside investments. During 1891 eight new industries arrived in Carlisle to settle in the north end of town where "Factory Street" had been laid out. Nine industrial buildings were erected, a church, a railroad station, and one hundred and twenty-seven houses. Ten of the buildings erected were three stories in height. Ninety-seven of these buildings were frame unlike the structures erected before the Civil War. *The Sentinel* noted:

> There has ben a noticeable increase in the number of frame houses erected...but as they were architecturally of a substantial and modern style, they add to the appearance of the town.[21]

EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY CARLISLE

Although the *Sentinel* found the frame houses attractive, by 1904 the Borough Council felt it necessary to regulate frame construction. Frame buildings had to be covered with fire proof roofing and were forbidden "within the space enclosed by East Street, South Street, West Street and North Street."[21] Contractors also were now required to apply for a building permit and file a copy of the plans and specifications for new structures or additions.[23]

During the first few decades of the century, the Carlisle Land and Improvement Company continued its pursuit of industries. Factories were erected not only in the northwest area of town but also on the east end of the borough. E. C. Beetem Industries moved its factory from Bedford Street to East Louther Street in 1902 and in 1914 erected the Raglin Rug Mills.[24] Inside the mill hand-crafted rugs were woven; to emphasize the craftsmanship occurring within, the Beetems chose handmade tiles depicting weaving and spinning in Egypt, Assyria, and colonial America to adorn the exterior.

While the Beetems were depicting colonial crafts on the exterior of their rug mill, other Carlisle entrepreneurs developed residential areas in which only colonial style buildings could be erected; "Mooreland" on the southwest side of town was the first of these "colonial villages."[25] Charles Gilbert Beetem created his own residential community, "Briercliff," south of Mooreland. In Beetem's community only "Elizabethan," "Modernized Colonial," "Tudor," or the "English Farm House Type" residences were permitted.[26] Beetem's community was not as successful as Mooreland.

Not all twentieth century structures in Carlisle resembled buildings of a previous era. The most "modern" structure built in Carlisle before 1940 is

Millicent Line Kitzmiller's apartment building on the corner of Parker and South Streets, designed by the Camp Hill architect, James W. Minick (1898-1949).[27] Kitzmiller rescued the stone from the 1890 Cumberland Valley Railroad Station at North Pitt and West High Streets when it was demolished in 1938 and wanted a "modern" apartment building erected. The result is a mixture of the International style with a hint of Frank Lloyd Wright.

PRESENT CARLISLE

Almost all of the architecture discussed above stands outside of Carlisle's National Register district and as a result is completely unprotected. Although a National Register can not always prevent structures from being demolished (witness the removal of two buildings in the Historic District last year), it can act as a deterrent. The citizens and governmental officials of Carlisle should consider expanding the National Register District to include such treasures as the Hugh McCormick House, the James Porter House, and the Raglin Rug Mills.

Detail of handmade tiles, Raglin Rug Mills, 1914, East Louther Street, Carlisle. Photograph from CCHS files.

ENDNOTES

[1] The Cumberland County Historic Resource Survey, hereinafter CCHRS, is a four year project sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society and the Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation to survey all pre-1940 sites in Cumberland County. CCHRS worked on the borough of Carlisle during Spring 1985.

[2] Milton E. Flower, *Carpenter's Companies and Carlisle* (Carlisle: 1955). Dr. Flower's monograph is an excellent study of Carlisle architecture and should be read by anyone interested in the historic buildings of Carlisle.

[3] Deed found in the Collection of the Cumberland County Historical Society (hereinafter CCHS) for Lot No. 88, signed by John Armstrong (Surveyor), 1760.

[4] "Prices of Work in Carlisle," March 1760, CCHS. A copy of the price list can be found in Dr. Flower's monograph mentioned above.

[5] "A list of the Prices of Carpenter Work," 28 January 1769, CCHS. A copy of this list can also be found in Dr. Flower's monograph.

[6] CCHRS 02-21-318A. The CCHRS number is the reference number for the structure in the files of the CCHRS found at the CCHS. Unless otherwise mentioned, the structures in the article were researched by CCHRS staff members. The name given to the structure is the historic name; i.e. the name of the original owner of the house.

[7] The Ephraim Blaine House has long been known as an eighteenth century house; the Peter Gilmore House (CCHRS 02-21-318B) was "found" through the survey.

[8] "Charter, Laws and Ordinances of the Corporation of the Borough of Carlisle to which is prefixed a Statistical Account of the County and Borough" (Carlisle: 1824), 20-23, CCHS.

[9] "Chartier, Laws, ...", 21.

[10] *Carlisle Evening Sentinel,* 1 August 1908.

[11] "Charter, Laws, ...", 22.

[12] "Charter, Laws, ...", 22.

[13] Conway P. Wing, *History of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: 1879), 124.

[14] William James Morgan, David B. Tyler, Joye L. Leonhart, *Autobiography of Rear Admiral Charles Wilkes, U.S. Navy 1798-1877,* Mary F. Laughlin, ed., (Washington: 1978), 554.

[15] *Biographical Annals of Cumberland County* (Harrisburg, PA: 1905), 603; verified by checking the Cumberland County Tax Assessment Records.

[16] Charles Leeds, *Old Home Week Letters* (Carlisle: 1909), letter #3.

[17] F. W. Beers, *A History of Cumberland and Adams Counties* (Philadelphia: 1886), 398.

[18] *Biographical Annals,* 283.

[19] CCHRS, 02-20-1800.

[20] *Carlisle Evening Sentinel,* 12 December 1891.

[21] *Sentinel,* 12 December 1891.

[22] *Laws Incorporating and Regulating and Ordinances of the Borough of Carlisle* (Carlisle: 1906) 254, CCHS.

[23] *Laws...,* 255.

[24] CCHRS 02-21-318C; research by Christina Jackson.

[25] William H. Boyd, *Cumberland-Dauphin-Lebanon County Directory* (1910-11-12), 52, for an advertisement promoting "Mooreland."

[26] "Announcement of the Opening of Briercliff Manor," ca. 1925, CCHS.

[27] CCHRS, 02-21-322.

Miniatures of Mechanicsburg

By Robert L. Brunhouse
(Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Mechanicsburg Museum Association, 1986.) Pp. 150. 10 illus. $19.95 hardcover.

The appearance of a facsimile edition of Robert L. Brunhouse's *Miniatures of Mechanicsburg* is a welcome addition to the shelf of local history. This book was originally published in 1928 by J. A. Bushman & Company, publisher of *The Daily Local News* of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. *Miniatures of Mechanicsburg* again appears, courtesy of the Mechanicsburg Museum Association.

The author, himself a Mechanicsburg native, wrote the contents of the book originally as a column in *The Daily Local News* while attending the Mechanicsburg high school. During his junior year at Dickinson College, those essays became this book. Brunhouse continued to distinguish himself as an historian, earning his Master's degree and Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. His Ph.D. dissertation, *The Counter-Revolution in Pennsylvania, 1776-1790,* was published in 1942, and it is perhaps his best-known work.

This facsimile, issued in conjunction with the completion of the two-year renovation of Mechanicsburg's main street, is as much a statement of civic pride as it is a tribute to an eminent native-son. Whereas Dr. Brunhouse was before known almost exclusively in professional circles, his name will now become familiar to a more popular, if not more numerous, audience, that of his home-town. *Miniatures of Mechanicsburg* serves as a reminder to adults not to underestimate the youth too quickly. To the youth it stands as an example of what the diligent and talented among them can accomplish. One recalls another Mechanicsburger and Dickinsonian, Boyd Lee Spahr (1880-1970), whose first book, likewise of a local nature, also appeared in his twentieth year.

Stylistically, *Miniatures of Mechanicsburg* is a delight. It is clearly of an age when historians were still unafraid to be graceful with their pens. Such a sentence as "Just as the seas are the vital medium to England for successfully governing her colonies, so is the railroad the fine net which holds together the United States as a large and progressive country" (p. 17) probably could not be written today without seeming affected. Still, Brunhouse writes clearly, quoting well and often "from so-called source-material." (p. i). He seems ever careful to present fair accounts and reasonable conclusions. Dutifully he relates an old ghost story (p. 5), but he closes the tale saying, "This is an example of the superstitious nature of people in the early nineteenth century and how such stories can be passed on from that day to this." Sensitive readers could take offense at such statements as arrogant or ethnocentric, but one should simply enjoy this book as a fine example of early twentieth-century thought. It is sobering to consider how the best historiography of 1986 will fare under critics some sixty years hence.

In terms of content, *Miniatures of Mechanicsburg* treats the town in vignettes ranging roughly from 1790 to 1865. In the best tradition of local history, it deftly covers various social developments in a small (once frontier) town while relating them to the broader picture of America as an emerging nation. Thus, the book ties Mechanicsburg's settlement and the Whiskey Rebellion ("Cabins and Underbrush"), proceeds to recount the adventures of Samuel Hauck, Mechanicsburger turned California prospector ("The Nugget-Seekers of '49"), and closes with chapters on the borough's role in the Civil War. In between are chapters dealing with the Cumberland Valley Railroad, Irving College, churches, banks, and the overall physical and political development of Mechanicsburg.

The book's only obvious defect is its inordinate number of typographical errors. One is uncertain whether to blame the author or either of his two publishers for this disappointing technical flaw. Nevertheless, such a fault is of no real consequence. For the reader, whether interested native or critical scholar, will, either from love of subject or from desire of material, find reason enough charitably to overlook it.

Daniel J. Heisey

EDITOR'S MUSING

Since World War II and the renaissance of the Hamilton Library a series of old givens has received challenge. "Fort Lowther," of which a latter-day painting was rendered, turns out never to have existed under that name but to have been merely "the Provincial Fort," as William Hunter has noted. "Captain Jack," the French and Indian War hunter, for whom a school was named, Hunter shows to have existed only as the invention three generations later of Redmond Conyngham, who in Carlisle manufactured "historical documents" for a living. Lo*u*ther Street, on testimony of Viscount Lo*w*ther for whose family it was named, is misspelled in the County seat because that is the way a judge misread the handwriting on an ancient document, although Lemoyne got it right when it picked up the name for a street at its southern end. Dickinson was established in 1773, not in 1783, as carved into stone over the south door of Old West, and perhaps as early as the late 1750s according to Charles Seller's research. William Swaim has told his fellow Presbyterians that all ten of their churches are mistaken in their readings of the date of their foundings. In the process he asserts that Carlisle in 1751 was the second name for a settlement near the Letort and that old records show the first name to be "New Town."

What is to be said about all this iconoclasm? First, how encouraging it is that local history continues to attract competent and serious writers. Second, how thankful writers can be that archivists and librarians have given system to the raw materials of history so that there is access to the "new" evidence that continues to emerge. Third, what very great credit must go to the historians of an earlier generation, who often had only sketchy evidence and no shoulders to stand upon. Fourth, how grateful all of the above people should be to the great band of readers and patrons who provide the inspiration to the writers and the funds to the Society to continue the work of gathering, processing, reading and writing.

What's in a Name? New Cumberland

Christine Raudensky and Michael Ulsh

New Cumberland has an ancient and vivid history. It has developed from an Indian settlement into the trading post of a French-Indian half-breed and later into the dream of a wealthy iron maker. Through each of these stages the name of the area coincided with its inhabitants.

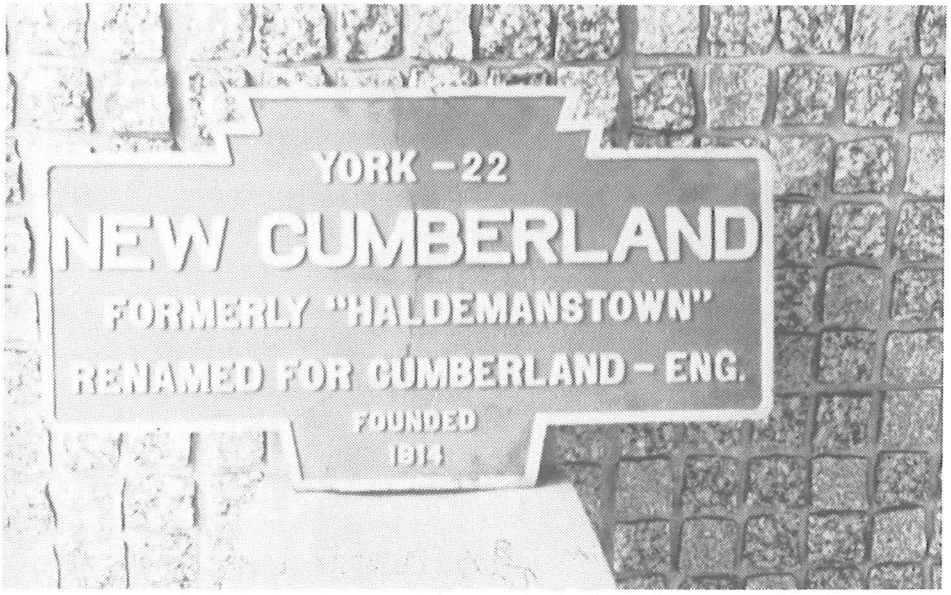
As early as 1689 nomadic Shawnee Indians migrated to the west bank of the Susquehanna River by the mouth of the Yellow Breeches Creek.[1] This area soon came to be known as Shawneetown to trappers and traders who frequently passed through the area.[2]

About 1725, Peter Chartier, the son of a Frenchman and a Shawnee maiden, settled a mile north of the Yellow Breeches and started trading in competition with John Harris and his trading post across the Susquehanna. Seven years earlier, this tract of land had been given to Chartier's father, Martin, as a reward from the Penn family for "carrying on a good correspondence with the Indians" of the area. Chartier's Place, Chartier's Trading Post, and Chartier's Landing were all names given to this ideally located settlement.[3]

By the early 1800's Chartier's land had been broken up and was owned by a number of private landowners. On August 23, 1802, the Douglasses sold their sawmill and land to John Bucher. The 1802 tax list called Bucher a forge master, and credits the land with having a forge as well as a sawmill. On September 16, 1805, Bucher sold the land and the Cumberland Forge to John Haldeman, a miller of Donegal Township, Lancaster County, for $12,000.[4] In 1806, Jacob Haldeman, John's son, bought the water rights at the mouth of the Yellow Breeches Creek along with the dam and the forge.[5]

In 1807, Jacob acquired two tracts of land formerly owned by Benjamin and Christian Garber. The land was located south of the Simpson Ferry Road, and comprised 101 acres from Benjamin Garber and another 68½ acres from Christian Garber. On August 5, 1811, Haldeman purchased 44¼ acres from Benjamin Kurtz, and on October 23, 1814 he bought 26½ acres from John Crist. These two tracts of land were adjacent to each other and fell between the Simpson Ferry Road and the Susquehanna River [6].

It was on these new tracts that Jacob Haldeman laid out most of the 221 lots of his town. These lots were described in a document called "Condition of Lots in the Town of Cumberland," recorded on November 26, 1815. The town was named after the Cumberland Forge located on the land purchased from his father.[7]



Fast disappearing are the iron signs erected during the 1920s by the Pennsylvania Department of Highways. This one, although no longer on its pole at the edge of town, is preserved by the Borough.

Thomas Penn, son of William the Founder, in 1750 applied the name "Cumberland" to the county he decreed be erected west of the Susquehanna River. As with four of the five older counties, the name was borrowed from an English county of the same name. In England the County of Cumberland borders Scotland and the Irish Sea.

Celts who settled northern England called the area Kimbriland, an alternate spelling of cumber.[8] Cumber itself as a word is of murky origin. It may be derived from the Middle French word *combre* or barrier in a river to catch fish. Other etymologists prefer an Anglo-Saxon root for the word and state that "cumb" meant low place or valley. Thus, Cumberland might be termed the land of valleys.[9]

By the 1820s the growth of the village demanded the establishment of a post office. In 1827, during the administration of John Quincy Adams, a post office was opened as "Cumberland," but in August of the same year, the name of the town was changed to "New Cumberland" to avoid a postal mixup with mail intended for Cumberland, Maryland.

ENDNOTES:

[1] **Conway P. Wing,** *History of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania* (Reprint Edition, Salem, W. Va.: 1982), p. 203.

[2] Gilbert W. Neckley, *New Cumberland Frontier* (New Cumberland: 1973). p. 7.

[3] Ibid.

[4] William A. Hunter, *Peter Chartier: Knave of the Wild Frontier* (New Cumberland: 1973), p. 17.

[5] Beckley, p. 38.

[6] Hunter, pp. 17-18.

[7] Ibid., p. 18.

[8] From a statement by I. D. Rupp quoted in William H. Egle, *An Illustrated History of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg: 1876).

[9] Samuel P. Bates and P. O. Durant, *History of Cumberland and Adams Counties, Pennsylvania* (Chicago: 1886), p. 66.

THE HISTORIAN

Your head, inside the diving bell
of 18th century paths and log cabins,
dives fathoms into memories far more real
than this book-lined room, these desks and tables.
Even when I wave my arms
before your face and shout,
they do not penetrate the sea of time.
You take notes with a modern ball-point pen
on perforated computer paper,
draw graphs and diagrams.
Absorbed by Blunston licenses,
details of deeds and land grants,
only the bubbles rising to the surface,
the moving oxygen lines
still tell me you are tethered,
albeit tentatively,
to the air-breathing mundane world of now.

Alice Mackenzie Swaim

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