

# The Erection of Centre County and the Townships Thereof.

A Paper Read by Miss Mary H. Linn Before the Woman's Club of Bellefonte. Facts that Every Centre Countian Should Have at Hand.

In preparing this paper for the Bellefonte Woman's Club, I have done no research work. I have merely "excerpted" the history of Centre County written by my father, John Blair Linn, and published by Col. Everts almost fifty years ago, hoping that some of you who have not time to go through the bulky volume may be interested in some of the facts of Centre County's pre-natal history.

Centre County, named from its geographical position in the State, was erected February 13th, 1800. In the last forty years there has been a strong tendency to change the correct spelling, CENTRE, to Center. The Century Dictionary, the eleventh edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, and even the latest edition of the latter, use the incorrect form. The State Geographical Board has lately given its authorization to the correct spelling, "Centre," quoting from the act passed for the erecting of the county. See Bloren's Laws of Pennsylvania 1789-1802, Vol. 6, p. 85. Every resident in Centre County is asked to help in the complete restoration of the correct spelling, CENTRE.

Cumberland County had been erected in 1750. Its jurisdiction extended over all lands lying west of the Susquehanna and northward and westward of York County, so from 1750 to 1771 all of Penn's Valley and the western end of Nittany Valley were in Cumberland County. (See Scull's map of 1770 and the genealogical map of the counties by John H. Campbell, published 1911, and revised, 1923.) Bedford County was erected in 1771. Ferguson township, part of Harris, the whole of Benner and Spring, and part of Walker were in Bedford. The territory eastward remained in Cumberland County until 1772, when Northumberland County was erected and all of Centre County was in it excepting the small portion of Harris township covered by the Bear Meadows and the Seven Mountains. An act passed the same day, defining the boundaries of Bedford County, was contradictory so there was passed six months later an act which brought the larger part of the present territory of Ferguson township, the southern part of Halfmoon, portions of Taylor and the lower end of Rush within Bedford County. In 1787 Huntingdon County was erected. Moshannon Creek was made the division line between Northumberland and Huntingdon thus placing those parts of Ferguson and Halfmoon townships above described in Huntingdon. 1789, Mifflin was erected out of Cumberland and Northumberland and the territory of the following townships was in Mifflin from September, 1789 to February, 1800, when Centre was erected: Liberty, Curtin, Burnside, western portions of Marion, Walker, Gregg, and all the county west of that except parts of Ferguson, Etc., mentioned above. The eastern portion of Gregg, all of Penn, Haines and Miles were in Northumberland. In 1795 Lycoming County was erected and a small portion of Marion and a large portion of Walker townships were in that county. We cannot go into the formation of the organized townships which composed Centre County's territory at the time of its erection; it suffices to say that Bald Eagle and Potter first emerged from the chaos shortly after the erection of Northumberland County, and these with Spring, Haines, Patton, Miles and Halfmoon, enjoyed a well-earned state of rest in Centre County until 1839, when Clinton was formed from Centre and Lycoming and a portion was taken from the north-eastern section of Centre.

The date 1800 marks the emergence of Centre County as an entity, but for its real beginning we must go back much further, to 1769, when the first permanent settler, Andrew Boggs, built his cabin on the Joseph Poultney tract, surveyed the same year, situated on the north bank of Bald Eagle Creek, just east of the road where it turns northerly, about 100 rods below the mouth of Spring Creek. But behind the settler are the tracks of the scout and the discoverer and still further back we go to 1757. It was the very severe winter after the building of Fort Augusta. The river was frozen over and the path along it so blocked with snow that the Indians dispatched to Chinklacamoose (Clearfield) for information by Major Burd, then in command at the fort, were forced to return. Early in April Major Burd sent out on the same errand Capt. William Paterson with ten men. They succeeded in getting as far as Chinklacamoose and returned to Fort Augusta on rafts April 25th, having seen neither French nor Indian on the march.

In 1758 Frederick Post, starting on a perilous mission from the proprietary government to the Delawares of Ohio, took the path along the east or left bank of the West Branch, crossed it at Great Island, the next day forded Beech Creek and came to the forks of the Indian path; one branch lead southwest along the Bald Eagle, past the "Nest," (Milesburg), through our own gap, up Buffalo Run, through Matternville to Frankstown; the other lead due west to Chinklacamoose, crossing the Moshannon. Post took the latter path. From Post's journal we find that in 1758 the paths through Centre and Clin-

ton Counties were only war paths for incursions of hostile Delawares and Shawanese. In 1759, or possibly a little later, Capt. James Potter and Capt. William Thompson came up the West Branch and the Bald Eagle, took, at Beech Creek, the south-western branch of the path which they left on entering Nittany Valley, striking across the valley and reaching the top of Nittany Mountain. There Capt. Potter cried out, "By Heavens, Thompson, I have discovered an empire!" They came to the spring at the Old Fort, had a distressing time for want of food, finally struck John Penn's Creek and got back to Fort Augusta. Job Chiloway, a friendly Indian, was at the fort on their arrival, and, feeling that the valley was lost to the Indians, decided he would profit by it, so he sells Col. Hunter the right of discovery. Col. Hunter hurries to Philadelphia and sells his right to Reuben Haines. In the meantime Capt. Potter speeds to the same place to make application and procure warrants. Later Haines and Potter compromised, Haines taking the eastern end of the valley as far as Spring Mills and Potter the other end.

Still further we have to go, for back of the scout and the discoverer were the Indian occupants. The Shawanese were the earliest Indians of whom we have any reliable information. The Muncy tribe of the Delaware nation had preceded them, but as early as 1728 had removed to the headwaters of the Allegheny, leaving their name to Muncy mountain. The Shawanese had been expelled from Florida by the Spaniards in 1698, and sixty families of them had come to Pennsylvania. Though the Delawares and Shawanese had their own kings, both nations were tributary to the Iroquois, or Six Nations, who had their council house at Onondago (now Syracuse, N. Y.). In 1728 Shikellimy was appointed by the council to reside among the Shawanese and he came to an old Muncy village between Lewisburg and West Milton. He was succeeded in 1748 by his son, John Shikellimy.

In July, 1754, the proprietaries of Pennsylvania bought from the Six Nations, whom they always recognized as the owners, land in which was embraced the greater part of Centre County. The Indians and Conrad Weiser who, in 1732, by special request of the deputies of Six Nations, had been appointed by Governor Gordon interpreter, thinking the waters of the Juniata, which were intended to be included in the purchase, ran much northward of the mouth of Penn's Creek, soon found this would include the waters of the West Branch and were very much dissatisfied. You will remember this was the time of the breaking out of the French and Indian war and this dissatisfaction of the Indians was likely to have serious consequences for British interests. Braddock's defeat emboldened the Indians, the Penn's Creek massacre occurred just above the present Selingsgrove and Forts Littleton, Shirley, Granville and Augusta were built. The government applied to the proprietaries to limit the bounds of the purchase. A commission was sent from England, and after great exertion, the difficulty was broken at Easton in 1758. The boundary instead of running north-west to Lake Erie, stopped at Buffalo Creek, thence ran almost directly west to the junction of Spring Creek with Bald Eagle, now Milesburg; then southwest, finally terminating at the Maryland line, between the boundaries of Bedford and Somerset counties. See the copy of Reading Howell's map, 1792, in Linn's Annals of Buffalo Valley. This also was the time of the encroachments of the Connecticut people, the southern limit of their claim running through Centre County a few miles north of Bellefonte.

Bald Eagle and Logan are the two Indian chiefs whose names have come down with peculiar interest to the people of this county. Bald Eagle was a Delaware chief and spoke English very well. He has left his name among our valleys, streams and ridges and the "Nest" spoken of before was where he lived when in Centre County. Logan was the best known son of the first Shikellimy, an Oneida, therefore belonging to the Six Nations, the rulers of the Delawares. Shikellimy named his son for his friend, James Logan William Penn's secretary for the province. He was a faithful friend to the whites and lived in many parts of central Pennsylvania. If Mifflin County has its story of Logan's kindness to his white brother, Centre County has its counterpart in a kind act of Logan's wife. They were living at Logan's gap (Hecla) and she had taken a sack of corn to the mill on the Juniata. She had it ground and on the way home, thinking that Mrs. Boggs might be out of meal, instead of going home around by the end of the mountain, (Lemont) crossed into Bald Eagle valley down to the Boggs'. Not finding Mrs. Boggs' at home she told her little girl to get something to put some meal in, and thereupon emptied out about one-half of the meal, threw the sack on her pony and recrossed the mountain to her home. This was the woman who was so cruelly murdered in West Virginia in 1774. Heckewelder says that Logan took to drinking and was murdered between Detroit and his home at Miami. Bald Eagle also was murdered on the Monongahela. The Indians were not always so gentle with their

white brothers. We have the story of an Indian trying to decoy Mrs. Boggs' son into an ambush by imitating a wild turkey, but Robert was wary and shot the Indian. Peter Grove, living near Eagleville, heard that an Indian was inquiring as to his whereabouts. Toward evening he made a dummy, placed it as though he were still at work. The Indian stealthily approached and fired at the dummy, but Grove's musket settled him.

Although Penn's valley was within the purchase line of 1758, it was not until after Col. Henry Bouquet in 1764 on the banks of the Mus-kungum in Ohio, had compelled the Indians to give up their white captives and sue for peace, that settlements were resumed west of the Susquehanna. The first legal survey in Penn's Valley was made under the deputy secretary, William Maclay, in 1766. What was called the "Officers' Survey" was made along Bald Eagle creek in 1769. The officers under Col. Bouquet, on their return to Bedford in December, 1764, made an agreement among themselves to apply to the proprietaries for "a tract of land sufficient to erect a compact and defensible town, and to accommodate them with reasonable commodious plantations, the same to be divided according to their several ranks." In their application they propose to embody themselves into a compact settlement, some distance from the inhabited part of the province, where by industry they might procure a comfortable subsistence for themselves and by their arms, union and increase become a powerful barrier for the province. Their officers Lieut. Thomas Askey (or Erskine as he wrote it himself) and Lieut. James Hays were the only ones who complied with the original stipulation of the grant: settlement on the land to protect the frontier. Lieut. Askey (later Capt.) was in Howard township. Lieut. Hays lived at Beech Creek which has been outside the limits of Centre County since 1839. There were other surveys in Bald Eagle valley and many in that same year of 1769 in Nittany valley. The Boggs settlement, Milesburg, the Griffith Gibbon tract on which the greater part of Bellefonte now stands, also the George Gabriel, the first on Buffalo Run.

In 1772 the Moravian Indians in Bradford County received an invitation from the Delawares of Ohio to settle among them, and in their journey took the Indian path leading west from Beech Creek. It was an exceedingly hard experience, the migration of a village means the transportation of people of every age, the cripple, ten or eleven years of age was carried by his mother in a basket on her back. When they reached the mountains of northern Centre County, the difficulties of crossing, the rattlesnakes and the "punks" (gnats) almost finished them. Some died, among them the cripple, and one of them was buried at Moravian run, where the Indian path crosses, one mile west of the Big Moshannon, just beyond the limits of Centre County.

In 1775 Rev. Philip V. Fithian, a graduate of the class of 1772, Princeton College, was sent out as a supply by Donegal Presbytery. His very full journal gives delightful glimpses of the country as well as pleasant reminiscences of the early settlers of southern and middle Pennsylvania. The whole journal is interesting and well worth reading. I wish I could give you the description of his sojourn in the territory of Centre County in its entirety. It can be found in Linn's History of Centre County, from which I wish to quote a few lines of this paper. He spends a night at the home of Andrew Boggs, on the Bald Eagle, and says there were no families to the westward of that place and but one higher up on the creek. That must have been Thomas Parsons, on the border of Union and Huston townships. The next morning, August 1st, at ten o'clock, he took his leave and this is his description of Nittany valley: "Crossed a gap of Muncy ridge, and rode eighteen miles through wild, barren woods without any trace of habitation or road other than the blind, unrequited path which I tracked at times with much difficulty. Two or three forsaken Indian camps, indeed, I saw on the creek bank, and a little before sunset I arrived at Capt. James Potter's, at the head of Penn's Valley. This ride I found very uncomfortable; my horse lame with but one shoe, a stony road, I lost my way in the gap of the mountains, more than ten miles horse without water. I let him feed, however, in the woods, where there is plenty of good wild grass. I fed myself on huckleberries. In these woods are very beautiful flowers, and a great quantity, especially a large orange-colored lily, spotted with black spots. I saw here the first sloe; it grows on a small bush like the hazel, ripens in winter, and is now like a heart cherry. In these woods are a great plenty of wild cherries growing on low spray bushes, which are just now ripening." The next morning he writes of "an elegant supper, a neat house, all expressions of welcome, not a flea nor a chinch, as I know of within eighteen miles," so he rises "in part restored from the ruins of many days' distress." He misses the "shady, pleasant banks of the Susquehanna," noting the absence of streams in the vicinity of the Old Fort where Capt. Potter then lived.

Haines Township, surveyed 1766, erected 1790. John Motz, 1766, built a mill on the site of Woodward. Aaronsburg was laid out by Aaron Levy in 1786. In 1789 he deeded to Jacob Stover a lot for a Lutheran Church. We find the names, Wolf, Schneider, Weaver, Bauer, Hess, Stein, Schreffler, Musser, Bollinger, Bright, Frank, Orndorff, McBeth. James Duncan was the first storekeeper in Aaronsburg, his first postmaster in 1798 and the first sheriff of the county. A school

Miss Potter, the captain's sister, and there likes the country much better. August 7th, he crosses the Seven Mountains, and if you will read his description of that experience you will be reminded of every time you do the same thing every time you do the same thing in a motor car. Though Mr. Fithian then passed beyond the bounds of Centre County it may be interesting to you to know that he joined the army as chaplain of a New Jersey battalion and died of dysentery at Fort Washington the next year.

In 1776, certain inhabitants of Potter township applied for arms and ammunition for themselves, and for powder and lead for the Indians "to enable them to get a living, so they would not have to go to the enemy for a supply." July 15th to September 28th, the convention which framed the first constitution of Pennsylvania met in Philadelphia and James Potter was one of the Northumberland County members. In 1777 there were Indian alarms and in the spring of 1778 Capt. Bell was stationed on the Bald Eagle. It was the terrible winter of Valley Forge. General Potter was there. In May Simon Vaughn, one of Capt. Bell's men, was killed by Indians at "Jonas Davis," near Milesburg. An express, Richard Moore, who carried the news to Arthur Buchanan, where Lewistown now is, stopped at Jacob Stanfords, three miles east of the fort, and found the family murdered. After the massacre at Wyoming, on July 3rd, occurred the stampede which is called the "Great Runaway." All of the inhabitants of this region joined the rest of Central Pennsylvania, (in the best way they could by water or land) in their dash down the Susquehanna to the more settled region of Cumberland County. On July 12th, Col. Brodhead's regiment, on its way to Fort Pitt, was ordered to the West Branch; part of Col. Hartley's regiment was on its way to Sunbury, the militia were ordered up from Lancaster and Berks, and the people came back to reap their crops. July 24th a captain and twenty-four men were sent into Penn's Valley to protect the reapers in that region of the county. Potter writes from Penn's Valley: "The inhabitants of the valley are returned and are cutting their grain. We left Sunbury last Sunday afternoon and the people were returning to all parts of the county (Northumberland). Yesterday two men of Capt. Finley's company went out from this place on the plains, a little below my fields, and met a party of Indians, five in number, whom they engaged. One of the soldiers, Thomas Van Doran was shot dead, the other, Jacob Shedare, ran about 400 yards and was pursued by one of the Indians. They attacked each other with their knives, and our excellent soldier killed his antagonist. His fate was hard for another Indian came up and shot him. He and the Indian lay within a perch of each other." James Alexander, who in after years farmed the Old Fort farms, casually picked up a hunting knife so rusted as to indicate that it might have belonged either to the Indian or the soldier. (Two stones were put up to mark the spot one mile east of the Old Fort and were still there in 1832.) The soldiers were called off to join Gen. Sullivan's expedition and the settlements were abandoned in July, 1779. Armagh township, then in Cumberland now in Mifflin County, became the frontier. The history of the county is a blank until 1784. Then the old settlers and a crowd of others came in very rapidly.

I shall now give a short account of each township in the order of its erection, giving incidents and names of only the settlers who were in the territory by 1800. I have found it necessary to limit the scope of this paper to 1800. Most of the townships were erected after that date but it is convenient to describe them in the order of their erection. Potter, first surveyed in 1766; erected, 1774. John Wilcot was the first settler in 1772, at what was later Earleystown; Robert McKim, 1777; William King, 1778. After the return of the settlers we find names of William Kerr, Christopher Henney, the Sankeys, the Van Hornes, John McLean, Keasley, John McLean, William Pastorius, William Monks (father of the murderer), the Hunters, the Loves, the Rankins, the Greggs, the Reams, the Rhones, the McEwens, the Mayes, the Crosthwaites, the Benners, the Watts. In this township, as in all others, many prominent families, the Gillilands, the Kellers, the Irvins, for instance, came in later. Captain Potter had built a cabin at the Fort in 1773 and the first house at Potter's Mills in 1788. Earleystown was settled in 1795 or 1796.

Spring with the name, Upper Bald Eagle, was erected in 1786, the name changed to Bald Eagle in 1789 and back to Spring after the erection of the county. The old Mann house was partly built by a Mr. Kinneer, spoken of as "the old gentleman who delighted in wearing knee breeches and silver-buckled shoes." He was a devout Methodist moreover, and whenever he could get a circuit preacher, would have meetings at his house, to which he would personally invite his neighbors. The James Williams farm, bought by Allender in 1783, is probably one of the oldest settled places on Logan's Branch. Pleasant Gap, not laid out until 1845, of course will not be described now.

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two miles east of Aaronsburg was one of the first in the county.

Patton Township, erected as early as 1794. The Grays and Hartsocks settled in 1788, also the Gearharts and Runks. The Shively settlement was made in 1792. In 1790 Peter Gray arranged for the coming of Methodist Episcopal circuit riders to hold services occasionally at his house. Isaac Hicks came in just before 1800.

Miles Township, surveyed, 1772, erected 1794. Anthony Bierly settled in 1791. We have the names: Hetzler, Shenkle, Gast, Buchtel, Fryburger, Straub, Apple, Brown, Barger, Frank, Garman, Hoerrner, Kuchler, Kreamer, Robinson, Strawbridge, Schaeffer, Schenck, Pickle, Spangler, Gramley, Hazel, Schott, Meyer, Albright, Berry, Kryder, Phillips, Wagner, Woolman, Scheury, Kreiger, Dorn, Kolvey, Waltsmith. The towns were not laid out until after 1800. There was an Indian path across Brush Valley but the settlers suffered no violence from the Indians.

Halfmoon Township, erected 1801. Abraham Elder was the first to come in 1784, then John Thompson, George Wilson, the first of the Friends in 1792 and the Ways, the Moores, John Spencer and Thomas Downing followed closely. There is a long list of Quaker members of meeting in Halfmoon between 1804 and 1820 the Kirks, the Dewees, the Underwoods, but I do not know how many of them came in within our limit of time and I know some of them were residents of other townships. There was Presbyterian worship at Abraham Elder's not long after he built his cabin and Methodist worship at some of the houses at a very early date.

Ferguson, surveyed, 1766; erected 1801. There we find Thomas Ferguson, the Meeks, the McWilliams, the Barons, John Patton, the Glens, the Baileys. Near Gatesburg were the Gates, the Riders and the Rumbergers.

Howard, erected 1810. David DeLong was the first settler. Robert Ritchie, Derrick Gunsaulus, Benedict Lucas, Thomas Erskine, Crossman, Baker, Gardner, Marsden, Helmer, Deathers, Packer, Schenck, are names before 1800. The first house in Howard was built by William Tipton in 1800.

Walker, erected 1810. The very early settlers were Henry McEwen, William McKee, at Logan's Gap, John Harbison, Jacob Miller, John Snyder, William Pettit and William McKean.

Rush, erected 1814. A large tract was owned by two Englishmen, Phillips and Baker, who had it surveyed about 1794 by Behe and Trevelyan. They selected a spot on the eastern bank of the creek and called it Moshannon town. To induce settlers to emigrate they offered a town lot and four acres to each of the first twelve. The required twelve came not one a native American. They found a howling wilderness, the only highway leading there was a footpath from Bellefonte. The state road was opened in 1796. The first house was built by John Henry Simler, a benchman, in 1797. That year James and Henry Phillips, arrived, bringing a number of workmen and they built a house of hewn logs.

Boggs, erected 1814. Besides the first settler, Andrew Boggs, we find the names, Bathurst, Antes, Malone, Miles, Barnhart, Hoyt, Walker, Fisher, Williams, Lipton, Leathers, Curtin, Shirk, Kreamer, Fleming, Hines and Fetzer. Milesburg Ironworks in 1796. The first post office in the county was at Milesburg. Before that the nearest post office was at Northumberland. Roland Curtin came from Phillipsburg in 1799. Philip Antes began to build "Antes Mill" in 1787. It was a preaching place for the circuit riders of Northumberland circuit after its formation in 1791.

Gregg, erected 1826. George McCormick, James Cooke, Sebastian Musser, John Shook, Peter Heckman, George Woods, John Kuntsman, Christian Miller, William Long, Adam Sonday and Archibald Allison were very old settlers. Heckman's graveyard is a very old one, and near Penn Hall is the burial place with only one grave distinguishable, that of Rev. James Martin, the pioneer Presbyterian minister who died in 1795, the year that Huntingdon Presbytery was organized in the church that then stood on the spot.

Harris, erected in 1835. Here we find the Jacks, the Watsons, the Galbraiths, the Dales, the Larimers, the Barrs, Rev. Wm. Stuart, Ferguson, Potter, the Boals, Barney Riley, the Chambers and the Irvins given as the oldest settlers. David Huston, erected 1838. David Kilgour not long after 1784 was the first permanent settler. Jeremiah Merritt was a very early one. The Williams' and Turners came in very shortly after 1800.

Snow Shoe, surveyed 1773, erected 1840. There were no permanent settlements until 1818, but it was a famous ground for hunters and the Indian path to Chinklacamoose ran through it.

Marion, erected 1840. The McEwen brothers near Jacksonville were the first settlers, were driven out by Indians. Thomas Wilson was the first permanent settler. Thomas McCalmont came in 1787 and settled on the land of the McEwen brothers. His son James was the first person buried at Lick Run. The McKibbens, the Swanzeys, David Lamb, James Hutchinson, the Mitchells the Allison, the Hoys and the McKineys were early settlers.

Hugh McClelland, 1795, built the first grist mill in the county. The Presbyterian church at Lick Run was organized in 1798.

Liberty, surveyed, 1769. Here we find the names of Magee, Marsden, Brown, Ashbridge, Grove, Bechdel, Gardner. Gen. DeHaas, though he had an officer's grant, never came to Centre County and his son, John Phillip, did not come until 1806.

Penn, erected 1844. Samuel Hoy came before 1776, also John Hall and John Livingston. After the Revolution came the Millers, the Kreamers, the Everts, the Neeses, the Swartzs, the Krapes, the Kryders and the Hublers. Millheim was founded in 1797.

Worth, surveyed 1769, erected 1848. Cyrus Cartwright made first improvement about 1765. The Cornplanters came through and many Indian implements have been found. There was little settling before 1800. Early roads were made by cutting off the trees as close to the ground as possible, stumps and rocks were not removed.

Union organized 1850. Thomas Parsons was the first settler in 1770. The Fishers and Iddings came in 1800.

Taylor, organized, 1847. It was settled by hunters, Billy Birge or Bird was one of the earliest, also Peter Jackson and Thomas Vaughn and Elijah Merryman came in much before 1800.

Benner, organized 1853. Logan's camp was about one mile west from Pleasant Gap. The old Indian path from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh passed through it. On the Shugert farm Daniel Dunlop built a hotel in 1784. Connelly's was at the Blue Spring. Philip Benner built the Rock Iron works in 1793, bringing with him from Chester county Waddle, Reamy, Jones and Williams, altogether a company of ninety people. At Roopsburg Turner's Ironworks, also called Spring Creek forge, were built in 1795. John Boggs lived up Buffalo Run on the Henderson farm and was the first man buried in Bellefonte on the lot where Samuel Shallcross now lives.

Burnside township had no settlements before 1800.

Curtin township's first settlers were the Lucas brothers who came from Baltimore about 1800. On the territory of College township Robert Moore was the earliest settler. Jacob Houser came in 1788 and found two squatters on his land, Lewis and Connelly (Tradition says these were the kin of the famous robbers) David Whitehill settled where Lemont now is, and Christian Dale was one of the earliest permanent settlers. At Centre Furnace in 1791-2 Col. Miles and Col. Patton built the first blast furnace in the county. James Newell was the manager.

Bellefonte was laid out by Col. Dunlop and James Harris in 1795, on the Griffith Gibbon tract surveyed in 1769. William Lamb had built a saw mill, (where the Gamble mill now stands) some years before. The first lot owners besides the proprietors were William Petrikin (the site of the Decker garage), Adam McKee, (Dr. Dale's lot), Alexander Diven (Tate plumbing shop) John Hall (the Foreman lot), Hugh Gallagher (the Markland). The first house built was Col. Dunlop's (N. E. corner of High and Spring). The second was James Harris' at Willowbank. Third, William Petrikin's and the fourth was Adam McKee's tavern. John Dunlop built Bellefonte Forge in 1797. In 1800 James Smith built a grist mill where Gamble's mill now is. The miller was Daniel Weaver. Roland Curtin opened a store where Hazel & Co. now are. The residents in 1801 where William Alexander (batter and hotel keeper), Col. Dunlop, Hugh Gallagher (tavern keeper), John Hall, Conrad Kyler, (weaver), John McCord, Adam McKee, Geo. McKee, Samuel Patterson, William Petrikin, Esq., William Riddle (mason), Geo. Williams (carpenter), Dr. William Harris, David Irvine (lawyer), Abraham Lee, Isaac Lee, John G. Lowery, (where the Cohen house now is), John McKee, (shoemaker), Jeshur Miles (cabinetmaker where Mrs. Showers' boarding house stands.) John Miles (lawyer), Robert Stewart (lawyer).

Before that reserved for the Academy, the Presbyterian church and the Court House. When the county was erected there was great competition between Milesburg and Bellefonte for the county seat. Milesburg was at the head of navigation so had much the advantage. The tradition is that some Bellefonte men attached a team to a flatboat, loaded it with borrowed second hand furniture and dragged the boat up Spring Creek to Bellefonte, then sent to Lancaster a messenger with affidavit that the first boat of the season had arrived in Bellefonte.

MARY HUNTER LINN  
April 28th, 1930.

## PLEASE DON'T RUN DOWN HARMLESS BRE' RABBIT.

"The rabbit playing in the road in front of your house is enjoying the age old thrill of a spring time night. Only a coward kills needlessly. Give it a chance."

That was the appeal made today by John J. Slaughterbeck, executive secretary of the Game Commission, to autoists who would rather kill a rabbit than slacken speed.

Slaughterbeck pointed out that improved roads, especially on moonlight nights, have a great attraction for rabbits. The needless slaughter of rabbits by autoists is making it almost impossible for the Game Commission to keep sections adjacent to good roads stocked with the harmless little animals.

The number of other animals killed needlessly by speeding cars is not so large but they also pay a needless toll, commission officials believe.

Skunks, while not so plentiful as rabbits, also are slow to yield the right of way to an oncoming car. When an autoist, not well up on his wood lore, mistakes one of them for a rabbit, game officials say nature helps to even the score for the rabbits that have no means of defense.

He (at 11 p. m.)—"Did you know I could imitate any bird you can name?"

She—"No, I didn't. Can you imitate a homing pigeon?"—Capper's Weekly.