

# The Centre Democrat.

THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT is published every Thursday morning, at Bellefonte, Centre county, Pa.

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A LIVE PAPER—devoted to the interests of the whole people.  
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BUSINESS NOTICES, in the editorial columns, 15 cents per line, each insertion.

## 1784. 1884. CENTRE COUNTY.

### A Retrospect and Comparison.

BY JOHN BLAIR LINN.

On the 14th day of January, 1784, the Congress of the United States assembled at Annapolis, Maryland, ratified and confirmed by a unanimous vote, the definite articles of peace between the United States and George III., which had been agreed upon at Paris on the 2d of September, 1783. On the same day Thomas Mifflin sent a messenger, carrying the news to President Dickinson at Philadelphia, and on the 22d of January, 1784, the President and Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania issued a proclamation, containing a copy of the treaty, and requiring all Sheriffs to cause the proclamation to be made public in their respective counties.

At that date all the territory embraced within the present boundaries of Centre County was in Northumberland County, with the county-seat at Sunbury, and the proclamation, in the then state of the public roads, though sent by special messenger, would not reach Sheriff Henry Antes for five or six days. The Courts then met on the fourth Tuesdays of February, May, August and November, but in the first week of the opening Spring the glad news would become generally known, through returning jurors and witnesses to the settlers, who had fled from our valleys.

Anticipating invasions by hostile Indians, after Col. Hartley's regiment was withdrawn from the West Branch Valley on July, 1779, General Potter and nearly all the inhabitants of Bald Eagle, Nittany and Penn's Valleys, after cutting their harvest, retired to Buffalo Valley and Middle Creek, and some farther Eastward and Southward. The Winter of 1779-1780, which was exceptionally severe, drove out the resolute few who remained, and our valleys were entirely abandoned until the Spring and Summer of 1784. Having twice abandoning their homes to escape the relentless savage, they were in no humor for returning, until authoritatively assured that a treaty of peace had been absolutely ratified by Congress.

George McCormick, (the ancestor of Wm. K. Allison, Esq.), was among the last to leave. He said, "I fled about the 12th of April, 1780, and the winter of deep snow, and I was away three years and ten months." He was the first to return in February, 1784. He said the settlers returned generally in 1784. Traditional incidents of the return are preserved among the old families. Jacob Stover was also one of the last to leave. Barbara Stover used to relate that they fled in the early Spring, over-turning their sugar-kettles, and leaving them in the woods; when they returned, she carried a small apple tree as a switch, as they came through the narrows from Buffalo Valley. This she planted, and the tree was yet standing a few years since.

In 1784 the only public road was the one from Buffalo Valley, which terminated near the west line of Gregg Township, made in 1775. There was a path through Logan's Gap (Hecla), and "one over by Connelly's," who lived near Pleasant Gap, gave communication with the settlers at Milesburg, and the path from Kishacoquillas beaten into a road or trail came into Penn's Valley a mile or more east of Potter's Mills. The only townships were Potter and Bald Eagle. Potter embraced the territory of the present townships of Haines, Miles, Penn, Gregg, Potter, and a considerable portion of Harris and College townships.

MILES.  
Taking up these townships separately, Miles is easily disposed of. It had in 1784 no settler within its boundaries. The valley proper was taken up by Col. Samuel Miles, and at that time, as far as we know, he had not sold a single acre within the present limits of Miles.

In 1884 the number of taxables in the township is 415; the valuation of real estate, \$573,918; number of horses, &c., over 4 years old, 367; valuation, \$18,861; cows, over 4 years, 434; valuation, \$6,929; money at interest returned for tax, \$9,435; aggregate amount of County tax, \$2,389.85. Its population, according to the census of 1880, 1,512.

HAINES.  
In 1784 the only residents of the territory, as appears by assessment of tax, were Adam Harper, Sr., Adam Harper, Jr., Jacob Hubler, Jacob Stover, Sr., Jacob Stover, Jr., Adam Stover, John Stover, and George Geisweit—only 37 acres are returned as improved in 1778, and there could not have been much more in 1784, as the valley was deserted, as stated above. There was no mill. Jacob Hubler erected his grist and saw mill the following year, and John Motz came in 1786. The inhabitants resorted mainly to Foutz's mill (at Millinburg where the elections were held for Potter township until 1786, when the place was changed to George McCormick's (now Spring Mills), Ludwig Derr's Mill, Louisburg, and Swineford's Mill on Middle Creek. In 1791 the place of election was changed to Aaronsburg, which town was laid out by Aaron Levy, October 4, 1786.

In 1884 the number of taxables in Haines is 470, the valuation of real estate \$567,651, number of horses over 4 years old, 348, valuation \$24,205 cows or cattle over 4 years old 352, valuation \$7656. Money at interest returned for tax \$3900, aggregate amount of county tax \$2400.08. Its population according to the census of 1880 was 1722.

PENN.  
In 1784 the only residents were John Hall, Abraham Piatt, John Watson, John Livingston, Daniel and David Livingston, John Hall lived on the Crum, ridge place between one and two miles west of Millheim. He sold his place to Stephen Crumrine June 7, 1806, when his history is lost. He was a prominent man and during the Revolution represented Potter township on the Committee of Safety. In 1778 he had 25 acres of improved land and two horses and two cows. Abraham Piatt lived on the Judge Kryder place late Amos Alexander as early as 1778 where he had eight acres cleared, he died in 1792. John Watson lived on the Ludwig Sheetz survey as early as 1775 which he that year bought of Reuben Haines. This survey is situated at its north east corner within eight rods the Thomas Richardson survey, owned by John Hall. He had 20 acres cleared in 1778. John Livingston owned a tract of 326 acres the John Schyner survey S. E. of Amos Alexander on Penn's creek. The first grist and saw mills in the township were built by Henry Miller in 1787. In 1884 the number of taxables in Penn is 325, the valuation of real estate \$338,317 number of horses 251 valuation \$16,783; cows and cattle 231 valuation \$4247; money at interest returned \$2100. Population according to the census of 1880, 814 Millheim borough has 235 taxables real estate valued at \$139,727; money at interest \$1200; horses 64 valuation \$3,538, cows 57 valued at \$1298 it pays \$595.23 for county tax and its population in 1880—577.

GREGG.  
The territory of Gregg township had in 1784 the following inhabitants Michael Long, Daniel Long the blacksmith who lived on Esq. Herring's place, George McCormick and John McCormick at Spring Mills, George Woods who lived on Sinking creek and Duncan McVicker who lived at the west end of Brush Valley adjoining the old Richard Miles place. There were only 55 acres returned for taxation as improved.

In 1884 the number of taxables in the township is 475. Valuation on real estate \$718,928; number of horses 477, valuation \$30,325; cows 492, valuation \$11,409; money at interest \$5650, county tax \$3006.79, Population in 1880 1795.

POTTER.  
In 1784 the residents were William King who lived where Lot Kimport now resides along the present western line of the township, James McCashon Adam Reynolds Anthony Robinson, Thomas Thompson, John Wilcox Robert McKim, William Wilson and William Lamb. Lamb had the only mill in the township the Red mill now owned by George M. Horter. General Potter had not yet returned. He was a member of the council of censors sitting in Philadelphia. There were 168 acres in all returned for taxation as improved in 1778.  
In 1884 the members of taxables in

the township is 681, value of real estate, \$883,615; number of horses 578, valuation \$40,112; cows 513, valuation \$9,910; money at interest \$13,000; aggregate amount of county tax, \$3,669.20. Its population according to the census of 1880, 2,375.

HARRIS.  
Harris, in 1784, had one settler returned for taxation, Abraham Standford who resided on a farm of General Potter's on the east line of the present township and adjoining Wm. King. In 1884 its number of taxables is 320, the valuation of real estate, \$374,692; number of horses 249, valuation \$12,995; cows 235, valuation \$4,475; money at interest \$16,735; aggregate amount of county tax \$1,642.16. Its population in 1880, 942.

COLLEGE.  
This township had no settlers within its territory who had returned in 1784, Jacob Houser came in in 1788 and David Whitehill, Esq., in 1789. In 1884 its number of taxables is 345; the valuation of its real estate, \$855,398; horses 264, valuation \$11,020; cows 266, valuation \$3,924; money at interest \$6,160; county tax \$2,398.87. Its population in 1880, 1,417.

PATTON.  
All the other townships in Centre county were one hundred years old, embraced in Bald Eagle township.  
PATTON.  
Patton township had no settlers within its borders. Along Buffalo Run some few surveys had been made in 1770, but the remainder of the township was not even surveyed until November, 1784, and in 1785. In 1884 the number of its taxables is 270, the valuation of its real estate \$312,275; number of horses 186, valuation \$10,660; number of cows 177, their valuation \$3,212; money at interest \$800; amount of county tax \$1,297.91. Its population in 1880, 761.

FERGUSON.  
In 1784, Ferguson township had no inhabitant. A few surveys were made around Pine Grove Mills in 1766 and 1775 but the remainder of the township was not taken up until 1793. Ferguson in 1884 has 470 taxables; its real estate is valued at \$685,908; number of horses 291 valued at \$14,320; cows 401, valued at \$6,804; money at interest \$1,750; county tax \$2,855.65. Its population in 1880 was 1,816.

HALFMOON.  
Had in 1784 but one inhabitant Abraham Elder. In 1884 its taxables number 210; its real estate is valued at \$301,457; number of horses 166, valued at \$7,847; cows 189, valued at \$3,046; money at interest \$1,700; county tax \$1,232.68. Its population in 1880 was 563.

TAYLOR.  
A few surveys were made in this township along Bald Eagle Creek in 1785, the remainder of the township was only taken up in 1793 and 1794. In 1884 its taxable number 170; its real estate is valued at \$73,650; horses enumerated at 82, valued at \$3,095; cows 130, valued at \$2,024; seems to have no money at interest; it pays \$307.06 county tax and its population in 1880 was 718.

WORTH.  
This township had one survey made in it as early as 1770 from Martha Furnace along Bald Eagle Creek, a few surveys were made in 1785, but nearly the whole of its territory was surveyed for Aaron Levy only in 1793. In 1884 it has 215 taxables, its real estate is valued at \$84,189; horses taxed 94 valuation \$4,507; number of cows 165, valued at \$2,259; number of cows 165 valued at \$2,259; money at interest, \$500. It pays \$349.22 county tax and its population in 1880 was 809.

HUSTON.  
A few surveys along Bald Eagle creek and its tributaries were made in 1770 and in 1785; but the largest portion of the territory of Huston is covered by the Gratz surveys made in 1793. Thomas Parsons was the only settler in that territory before the Revolution and in fact in all the territory up Bald Eagle from "the Nest" now Milesburg. Parsons is said to have returned in 1785 and David Kelgore and David Evans to have soon followed him, but their names do not appear on the assessment list until 1786 and 1787.

In 1884 Huston has 250 taxables, real estate valued at \$112,313, 137 horse\* valued \$3382; 174 cows valued \$2090; amount of money taxed \$3300. It pays \$433.97 county tax and its population in 1880 was 892.

RUSH.  
The territory of Rush had no settlers in 1784. Its lands were not surveyed until the year 1793 and 1794. In 1884 its taxables number 610, its real estate is valued at \$196,425 horses 147 valued at \$9978, cows 144 valued at \$2380, none of its people seem to have any money at interest; it pays \$866.17 county tax and its population in 1880 was 1591. Phillipsburg its only borough has 1075 taxables, real estate valued at

\$21,124, money taxed 2104 dollars; 130 horses valued at 1140 dollars; pays 1769.53 county tax and in 1880 had a population of 1779.

BURNSIDE.  
had no residents within its limits in 1784. Its land was taken up and surveyed in 1792. In 1884 its number of taxables is 124; lands valued at 44,057 dollars; has no money taxed, 77 horses valued at 4492; 86 cows at 1216 dollars pays 209 dollars 14 cents county tax and in 1880 had a population of 465.

SNOW SHOE.  
The "Snow Shoe Camp" surveys were made in 1773 but had no inhabitants until about 1818. In 1884 the taxables number 715, its real estate is valued at 180,342 dollars has no money on interest that is taxed, 230 horses valued at 16,325 dollars; 187 cows valued at 2830 dollars. It pays 839 dollars 64 cents county tax, and its population in 1880 was 1410.

UNION.  
Union township has no residents in 1784 unless Thomas Parsons is to be credited to its territory. A few surveys are made along the creek as early as 1284, but the largest portion of its territory was not taken up until 1794. In 1784 Union has 280 taxables; 121,790 dollars real estate taxed; money at interest \$750 dollars pays 568 dollars 43 cents county tax and had in 1880 a population of 1086. Its borough Unionville had in 1884 145 taxables: real estate valued at 70,134 dollars; money at interest taxed 9008 dollars, (four times more than Phillipsburg has, and seven times more than Millheim) horses 15 valued at 10 30 33 cows valued at \$970. 21 pays at 286 58 county tax and had in 1880 a population of 399.

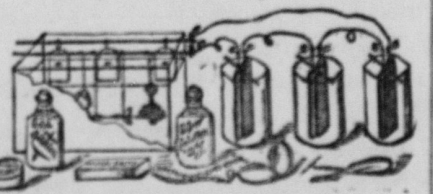
BOGGS.  
The widow Margery Boggs, and Jonas Davis, seem to be the only taxable in the territory of Boggs in 1784 John Holt, Richard Malone, and Francis Malone appear in 1785. Philip Antes built his grist and saw mill in 1787. In 1884 Boggs has 647 taxables; real estate valued at \$301,346, money at interest \$500; 287 horses valued at thirteen thousand five hundred and fifty dollars.

CURTIN.  
This township had no residents within its territory until about 1800. Its lands were taken up and surveyed in 1793 and 1794. In 1884 its taxables number 170, its real estate is valued at \$54,497, roturas \$1,220 money at interest; horses 114 valued at 5,595; cows 124, valued at 2,478 dollars; pays 248 dollars and 38 cents county tax and its population in 1880 was 624.

Continued on 5th page.

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