

NOTES ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF NORTHERN CAMBRIA COUNTY, (Carried Over from the Preceding Page)

Hart's Second Trading Post.

John Hart returned to Pennsylvania in the summer of 1755 from Canada, whither he had fled from Cumberland county to avoid arrest for killing a man. He found his trading post ruined, no Indians there, so he crossed the mountains and established his new trading post at Hart's Sleeping Place. He is accredited in the Colonial Records, Vol. VII, pages 124 and 135, as being the Provincial Interpreter of the Cherokee Indians at Winchester, Virginia, in June, 1758.

For years people were under the impression that there was only one (Johnstown) Indian town in Cambria county. No one thought that when John Hart, in 1755, established a trading store at Hart's Sleeping Place on this plain that he did so in the vicinity of many Indian villages or towns.

Coming here today we passed thru the Cross Roads, the old buzzard town, below which place there was formerly a Seneca Indian town of the Cordgens. North of that was a Delaware Indian town, now replaced by Patton. Here in West Carroll, we have east of the St. Joseph Church spring a giant hick tree that gave shelter to more Indians; an Indian cemetery of 8 graves in the old chestnut grove on the Boyle estate near the Joseph Shero farm; three Indian graves near the residence of the late James Kirkpatrick; another Indian cemetery near the Brawley mine; another on the old Peter Campbell farm. Each cemetery represents an Indian town. In fact if we go all over the townships we find that Allegheny had 3 towns: Barr, 2; Cambria, 4; Clearfield, 4; East Carroll, 7; Elletts, 4; Reade, 4; Susquehanna, 4; White, 4. In all there were about 41 permanent Indian towns.

A Pillaging Excursion.

It is stated upon one occasion, when Hart was an old man, some Indians came into his settlement on a pillaging excursion. They knew Hart, and went to his cabin, but he happened to be away from home. On his log they left a tomahawk, painted red, and a small piece of slate upon which rude hieroglyphics were drawn, one resembling an Indian with a bundle upon his back, over whose head were seven strokes and whose belt was filled with scalps. In front of this drawing was the rising sun, and behind them a picture of the moon.

On Hart's return, he found the Indians had been about. The meaning of the articles left he could easily decipher. The red hatchet upon the log signified that the Indians were about, but to him they lay down the hatchet. The picture of the rising sun signified that they were going east. The strokes indicated the number of warriors and the bundles and scalps intimated that they would both plunder and murder. The moon signified that they would return at night.

Hart, although he felt safe under such assurance, had no desire to encounter the Indians, so he scratched on the reverse of the slate the outlines of a heart, and laid it by the side of the pipe, which, interpreted, meant: "Hart smokes with you the pipe of peace," and left.

On his return next day he found the Indians had returned and spent the night at his log where they had left a quantity of pewter platters, mugs, etc. It afterwards appeared that they had been at several houses, but the inmates fled. From one they stole a

quantity of silverware and at the house of a Dunkard they stole the pewter-ware. At the log they attempted to run the metal into bullets, but finding it a failure, they probably left the heavy lead in disgust. (Jones' History of the Juniata Valley.)

John Hart at Pittsburgh.

On July 22, 1760, a census of all civilian inhabitants of Pittsburgh was ordered to be taken up by Col. Boquet; John Hart's name is not on the list. The census of April 14, 1761, gives the names of the house owners, with the number of men, women and children in each house. John Hart is given as a property owner.

Life of John Hart.

There is no history written on the life of John Hart. In the Pennsylvania Magazine of History, Vol. III, the Journal of James Kenny, 1761 to 1763, is given. Kenny, a Quaker, was in charge of a trading store established by the Commissioners of Indian Affairs. The following is given verbatim:

"January 13, 1762, I was informed some time ago by some pack horse men that the Indians spoke very well of me (to them) and some young Delawares that were here signified that (it) was reported amongst the Indians that all the Traders here would cheat them but me and John Hart.

"January 14th. I think our store recovers some of the favour it lost last year amongst the Indians as I think we are on a par or excels the rest here except John Hart and he seems to hold for us, having the languages.

"April 16th, 1762. John Hart's rum, was carried into the King's Magazine by the Col's order. George Croghan, Deputy Indian agent, having complained that he sold rum to the Indians. (My note: Contrary to the advice of Johnson, the British agent for the Indian Affairs, General Amhearst, in 1762, forbade any trade in rum and limited the sale of ammunition to such extent that much suffering resulted among the Indians.)

"May 11th, 1762. John Hart says that there is fifteen hundred Mingoes to come this way in a few days to go against the Cherokees.

April 24th, 1763. John Hart, a trader, was ordered to take eleven bundles of Skins that ye sd Indians brot (when ye first Party came in ye winter & some this last party brot) to deliver them with ye Prisoners that was to come this Spring. These Skins were deposited in ye Fort until ye Prisoners were delivered. So Hart took ye Peltry and delivered them Presents to ye value as he liked. I suppose it was talked ye Indians were not very well satisfied but they had no reason to blame any one unless THEM that invited them on this idle Errand."

George Croghan left us a list of all traders killed in the Pontiac was as well as those living in 1763. John Hart was given as alive and living at Pittsburgh in 1763. This list may be seen among Boquet's papers left at Fort Pitt, now preserved by the British museum.

There is no data at hand of Hart's death—except the unconfirmed traditional story of Americ and John Bender of Carrolltown, who stated that Hart was killed at the foot of the Allegheny Mountain, west of Frankstown by the A. D. 1765 "Black Boys" who tried to prevent any goods from reaching the Indians on the Ohio.

The Black Boys.

Captain Smith, born in Chester county, November 26, 1737, at Conococheague, was one of the first captives of the French and Indian War in 1755, in what is now Franklin county. He was a captive for five years and experienced a varied and severe ordeal. He effected his escape and returned home in 1760. At once he organized a company of Indian fighters, who wore Indian clothes and were trained in Indian methods. This company soon became known as the "Black Boys," because they painted their faces in the Indian color, red and black. Smith was the captain.

It so happened that one day he overheard an interview in the Great Cove which revealed the intention of the traders and the conduct of those at the seat of Government. He took matters into his own hands in 1765 and determined food, clothing, and other goods should not be sent to the Western Indians, if he could prevent it. They painted their faces in the Indian fashion and waylaid a pack train at Sidling Hill. The engagement was brief and decisive. The horses fell one after another until the drivers were compelled to surrender. The goods were assembled on one side, and the drivers led off some distance under guard. The "Black Boys" examined the contents of the packs, and as they suspected, found them to consist of blankets, shirts, vermilion, lead, wampum, tomahawks, scalping knives, etc. The whole was burned. Patrolling the road after this, the result was that very few pack trains passed through that valley carrying goods to the Indians along Ohio.

An Encampment.

Jones, in his History of the Juniata Valley, relates what was probably the first encampment at Hart's Sleeping Place. "The seventeenth Cumberland County Militia, under strict military discipline, were first sent to Standing Stone (Huntingdon), and afterwards to Frankstown, early in the spring of 1781. They were under command of Colonel Albright and Captain Young, and were sent with a view of waylay the gaps of the Allegheny Mountains and prevent the Indians coming into the valley.

Notwithstanding the presence of this large body of men stationed as it were at the mouth of the gap through which the Indians entered the valley, the depredations of the Indians were almost of daily occurrence. The inefficiency of the Cumberland militia could not or would not check the marauders; at length this exasperated the settlers to such an extent that they resolved to form themselves into a scouting party, and range through the county for two months.

The project was favored by Colonel Ashmead, and he agreed to furnish a company of rangers to join them. The enrollment of volunteers by Captain Moore of Scotch Valley, assisted by his Lieutenant, a Mr. Smith, from the vicinity of Frankstown; and on the 2nd of June, 1781, these men met at Holliday's Fort, then abandoned for want of provisions. There they were joined by the rangers, under command of Captain Boyd, and Lieutenant Harry Wood, of Bedford, but instead of there being a company, as the volunteers were led to expect, there were but eight men and the two officers above mentioned.

From Holliday's Fort they marched to Fetter's, where they contemplated spending the Sabbath. It was their intention to march through Kittanning gap to an old state road (long since abandoned) thence to Pittsburgh, and home by way of Bedford.

While debating the matter and making the necessary preparations two spies came in and reported that they came upon an Indian encampment near Hart's Sleeping Place, which had apparently been abandoned, as the fire was still burning; that from the number of huts, the Indians must have numbered twenty-five or thirty.

This raised quite a stir in the camp, as the scouts evidently were for the fray. The officers, who were regular woodsmen, and knew that the Indians would not venture into the settlement until the day following, were confident of meeting them near the mouth of the gap and giving them battle. They at once, tendered Colonel Albright the command of the expedition, but he refused to accept it. Then they importuned him to let a portion of his men, who were both anxious and willing to accompany them, but this, too, he refused.

Not daunted, the rangers and the volunteers arose by daybreak on Sunday morning, put their rifles in condition, ate their breakfast and with 5 days' provision in their knapsacks, started for the mountain. The path led along the river and the men marched in Indian file as the path was narrow. When they reached the flat where Temperance Mill now stands, and within thirty rods of Sugar Run, the loud war whoop rang upon the stillness of the Sabbath morning; a band of Indians rose from the bushes from the left side of the road, firing a volley at the same time, by which fifteen of the brave scouts were stretched in the path. The remainder fled, in consternation, in every direction, some over the river in the direction of Frankstown, others toward Fetter's Fort. In all 17 were killed, 5 wounded and the others escaped.

Immediately after the news of the massacre was spread, the people from Standing Stone (Huntingdon) gathered at Potter's; and on Tuesday a party of nearly one hundred men started in pursuit of the Indians. Colonel Albright was solicited to accompany this force with his command and march until they overtook the enemy; but he refused. The men went as far as Hart's Sleeping Place, but they might just as well remained at home; for the Indians, with the scalps of the scouts dangling from their belts, were then far on their way to Detroit. This was the last formidable and war-like incursion in the Juniata Valley.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

In the Estate of Onuter Sciranko, late of Elder Township, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, deceased. Notice is hereby given that Letters of administration in the estate of the said decedent have been granted to the undersigned. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment and those having claims or demands against the same will make

them known without delay to RAYMOND D. BUCK, Administrator, Patton, Pa. Reuel Somerville, Attorney, Patton, Pa.

Executor's Notice. In the Estate of Isaac Strayer, late of Patton Borough, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, deceased. Notice is hereby given that Letters

Testamentary in the Estate of the said decedent have been granted to the undersigned. All persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make payment and those having claims or demands against the same will make them known without delay to: Harry J. Nehrigh, Executor, Patton, Pa. Reuel Somerville, Attorney, Patton, Pa.



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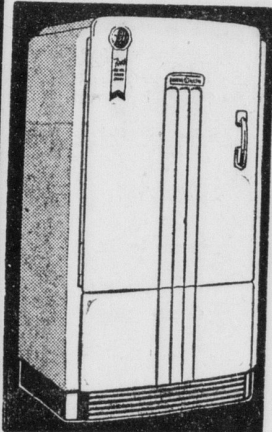
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