

Course of Kittanning Path Traced Across N. Cambria

Indians Killed 15 Men Back In 1781 Near What Now Is Coupon

Editor's Note—This is a list of a series of four articles dealing with the important history of the Kittanning Path which passed through this area in the opening of the country to the west. The material was obtained from files of Cambria County Historical Society, of which Harry Good, chairman of Patton R. D. is president.

In 1756, George Woods, Mrs. Innis and her three children, Mrs. John Gray, and a number of other captives, were taken to the Indians from Tuscarora Valley to Kittanning, along the Path. Later they were taken to Fort Duquesne. George Woods was given to an old Indian named John Hutson, Wood negotiated with Hutson for his freedom upon payment of ten pounds of tobacco yearly. This was to be delivered to the Indian at Bedford. Woods was a surveyor and assisted in laying out the City of Pittsburgh. One of the principal streets bears his name. He surveyed many tracts of land in Cambria County. One of his daughters married one Ross, who was once a candidate for Governor of this state.

The contract for the delivery of the tobacco was fulfilled for many years, and terminated because of the following incidents: On the 2nd of June, 1781, a number of Scouts including James Semerville, the Coleman brothers, the two Hollidays, Harry Woods, a son of George Woods, and others, having heard of Indians in the neighborhood, determined to march from Frankstown to the Kittanning Gap to intercept the Indians traveling the Path. Before starting, a report was received that Indians had encamped near Hart's Sleeping Place. Three men and others, called the Bedford Rangers, with five days' provisions, started for the mountain. The Path was narrow and the men walked Indian file. They got to within thirty rods of the mouth of Sugar Run, when a band of savages rose from the bushes, fired a volley, and fifteen Rangers were instantly killed. Three men started over the river and ran up O'Reilly Ridge, one of the hills looking back, saw that the only Indian pursuing them was the son of old Hutson, who had frequently come to the Wood home in Bedford with his father to pressure his ten pounds of tobacco yearly. When the Indian recognized Wood, he shouted, "No hurt, Wood." It is needless to say that John Hutson never called for any more tobacco.

Mrs. John Gray and her daughter were taken to Canada. John Gray, the husband, joined Col. John Armstrong's expedition against Kittanning in September of 1756, in hopes of getting some intelligence of his family. Failing to do this, he returned home, broken in health and spirits, made a will dividing his farm between his wife and daughter, and if the daughter did not return, a sister of one instance was to have one half. Mrs. Gray, managed to escape captivity, but could not bring her daughter with her. In 1794, a treaty with the Indians brought a large number of captive children to Philadelphia, and Mrs. Gray attended in the hopes of finding her child. Unsuccessful in this, she claimed another child about the same age, and placed her in the family as her own, willing the story that she had found her daughter. The heirs of the sister, having received some information as to the identity of the child, brought suit for one half of the farm. The litigation lasted from 1795 to 1824 and was eventually decided in favor of the collateral heirs.

A want ad in this paper is a pretty good guarantee of getting results.

THE KITTANNING PATH

From Walkinshaw, Annals of South Western Pa. Vol. 1.

The historic Indian highway came up the Juniata Valley from Aughwick, through Frankstown, and on to Kittanning Indian Town on the Allegheny River, from which it received its name. It entered southwestern Pennsylvania upon the crest of the Allegheny Mountain, the east line of Cambria County, by way of Kittanning Gap, now crossed by the Horseshoe Bend of the Pennsylvania Railroad. From this Kittanning Gap it passed through the patented lands of John Douglas and Rufus Hannum to a point one mile east of Ashville. (However some authorities think it should be one mile south of Ashville), where it crossed the Clearfield Creek. Thence traversing the patented lands of James Hannum, Benjamin Say and Alexander Stewart, it passed the head spring of Little Chest Creek at Chest Springs, and thence over the lands of William Parker and Alexander McCausland to its crossing of Chest Creek at Eckenrode's Mill. It proceeded thence through the lands of Abth-Taylor, John Hannum, Charles Dilworth, Rhoads Rankin and John Hudson to the lands of John Price, where was located "Hart's Sleeping Place," named for the trader, John Hart, who stopped there as he traveled back and forth over the trail. From this point the path passed over the lands of Adam Brinneman, Charles Dilworth, Henry Funk, and Leonard Leshart, and thence by Flatville on the lands of John Blodde, John Musser, Caleb Carmel, Thomas Grant, Joseph Drinker, Paul Fell and Job Clay to a point one and one-half miles south of Cherry Tree at a place called the Salt Well and thence to a point where it enters Indiana County. In Susquehanna Township, a branch turned to the right leading down to the Susquehanna Valley to Chinkiamouse at Clearfield.

Entering Indiana County there is a point on the trail best described in the survey of Samuel Caldwell, which says that it was "situate on Muddy Run and on the Forks of the Paths leading to Kittanning and Viningo about four miles from the Sleeping Ground in the county of Westmoreland." This warrant bore the date of July 23, 1773, and his part of Indiana county was then part of the recently erected county of Westmoreland. This was in the dividing ridge between the waters of the Atlantic and Mississippi, and the path is well indicated on the surveys east of Indiana. On the Lewis Holliday's worth survey it is designated as being "one and one-half miles east of the forks of the Kittanning and Shenango Trails," and this was the location of Col. John Armstrong's Camp in 1756, as he was on his way to destroy Kittanning Indian Town. The next important point to the westward is on the tract warranted in the name of Moses Harrison, April 27, 1773, and surveyed July 10, 1787, on the Shawnee Bottoms and called "Spruce Camp or the old Shawnee Cabins." This tract was on the south branch of Two Lick Creek, about a mile above the forks. From this point the trail passed near the old village of Diamondville, and through tracts warranted in the names of William Bedford, Thos. Wharton, John Martin and Thos. Conroy, thence across "Pain's Manor of Cherry Hill, in Cherry Hill Township, through William Brown's land near the village of Greenville," where "there were a

number of warriors' marks in the Kittanning Path." Passing thence through tracts of Joshua Moore, James Bigham, James Rannels, Amos Lynex and Andrew Taylor, it passed over the hill 90 rods south of the Samuel Ralston house, and then down the hill three quarters of a mile to "Shaffer's Sleeping Place" on Two Lick Creek on the Enjah Brown warrant.

From Two Lick Creek the trail turned slightly northwest through the warranted lands of Philip Walter, Jeremiah Williamson, David Williamson, and Charles M. Campbell, Perry Moorhead, later Moorhead's Fort, to Watts Hill, across Kerl, of Curry Run, through the lands of Jacob Peeler and Gilpin, to William Armstrong's tract on the Crooked Creek. Armstrong's tract is designated as including the crossings of the Kiskiminetus and Kittanning Paths, to the west of which is the land of Jacob Anthony, and then that of Andrew Wiggins, and then on to the ridge to the right of Shelocta, near the bridge and the residence of James S. Ralston in Armstrong Co. It extended between two large licks on the Hugh Espey land situated on the forks of Blanket Hill in the J. Vanderlin tract, six miles east of Kittanning. The trail then follows a fairly direct course over the higher ground to Kittanning.

The Pennsylvania Historical Society of Philadelphia has published a map of the early days of the province which discloses the Kittanning Path as beginning at Frankstown, below Hollidaysburg, thence through Burgoo's Gap at what is now known as Kittanning Point, to the top of the mountains. There it diverges, one going northwest direct to Cherry Tree and Kittanning, and the other taking a southerly course and follows the Little Conemaugh to Johnstown. The Kittanning Trail was the route over which Colonel John Armstrong conducted his expedition to destroy the French and Indian outpost at Kittanning.

The Kittanning Trail, or Burgoo's Gap Road, was one of the northerly pathways between Bedford and Kittanning, or Lake Erie, at a very early date, at least in 1754. It led from Frankstown to what is now known as Kittanning Point on the Pennsylvania railroad, where they are two gaps. The Kittanning trail was in the northeasterly gap and passed through Clearfield Township (Gallitzin Township), Hart's Sleeping Place, near Carrolltown, thence through Susquehanna Township to Kittanning. This road was not in use in 1816, excepting through the Burgoo's Gap, the southwesterly gap at Kittanning Point, thence passing Cadwalladers, and Elder's Mills, in Gallitzin Township to Lovetto. The Burgoo, or the Dry Gap road to Captain McQuinn's, was used prior to 1789, when the Galbreath road was opened through Blair's Gap to Frankstown.

To Pay Bands Scale

Protesting that charges made by some dance bands for holiday performances are excessive, Cambria County Federation of Fraternal Clubs Sunday voted not to pay above union rates in the future. John F. Crossin of Cambria Fire, Hook & Ladder Company asserted that while the union scale for holiday services is double the regular rate—\$84 for a five-man band—some musical organizations ask \$150.

"It is time that federation members stop paying anything other than regular union scale," Mr. Crossin said. He urged member clubs to cease paying "excessive charges."

A motion to make no payments higher than \$84 for holiday services of a five-man band was adopted unanimously.

Disease Kills One Of 10 Animals On Average Farm

Disease kills one out of every 10 farm animals before they reach maturity. Livestock disorders deprive the nation of more than \$5 billion worth of animal products every year. The recent outbreak of vesicular exanthema (an eruptive blister disease) of hogs has threatened a dangerous drop in food supplies. Farmers lose hundreds of millions of dollars annually because of diseases of animals. Mastitis, an infection of the udder, costs Wisconsin dairymen alone an estimated \$35 million a year. The big problem among farm animals is infection.

As with humans, vaccines and sulfa drugs along with antibiotics have greatly reduced the incidence of infectious diseases. Cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry, however, are still subject to costly infection which has not yet been brought under control.

Bethlehem Rites Feature March To Nativity Cave

CHRISTMAS is observed in Bethlehem on December 25 by the Roman Catholics and Protestants, on January 6, by the Greek Orthodox and affiliated churches, and on January 18 by the Armenians.

All Bethlehem, however, turns out on December 24 for the arrival of the Patriarch of Jerusalem—Cardinal of the Holy Land—who each year brings an ancient effigy of the infant Jesus to Bethlehem which he lays in the manger within the cave where Christ was born.

Dramatically the procession approaches: heralded by a single horseman, his banner streaming aloft. A corps of native police mounted upon fiery Arabian horses follow and then another single horseman upon a prancing black steed carrying the cross on high; the Patriarch in his cardinal and ermine, mitred bishops, clergy in embroidered vestments and white robes scotches—swinging golden censers—precede the jeweled effigy of the Holy Child. Magnificent corteges of government officials, foreign embassies, bands, religious organizations follow, and finally, American made automobiles mingle with native two-wheeled carriages.

The procession enters the Church of the Nativity. The public is not permitted to witness the actual playing of the effigy, as that part of the Church—built above the Cave of the Nativity—is under the jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox Church.

The grotto-like Cave of the Nativity in no way conforms to the modern conception of a "stable"; in biblical times, however, shelters for man and beast were hewn into rocky ledges—thus, the Stable of Bethlehem—thus, the Stable of Bethlehem.

On Christmas Eve, members of all denominations assemble to sing carols above the birthplace of the Holy Child before midnight mass is solemnized in the Church of the Nativity.

242 Game Refuges In Pennsylvania

The State Game Commission has established in the Commonwealth 242 game refuges, covering an area of 82,380 acres. Of these, 185 are located on State game land and 57 on other publicly-owned land, among which is the Pymatuning Waterfowl refuge at Lake Pymatuning, a flood control project on the former site of the great Pymatuning swamp. At Pymatuning, 3,670 acres are set aside as a sanctuary for many species of waterfowl and shore birds.

Besides the more than 80,000 acres of game refuges maintained by the State, there are also numerous game refuges established on privately-owned land by individuals or societies interested in preserving the State's wildlife. One of the most notable of these is the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, located about six miles east of Hamburg, in Berks County. Hawk Mountain is on the route of the Fall migration of American hawks and thousands of people every year visit this sanctuary to observe the annual southward movement of hawks and eagles from the far North toward their winter home.

Memorial Unit Set Up By K.-C. Group

A memorial committee to remember deceased members was established by Ebensburg Council 322, Knights of Columbus on Thursday night last.

Michael Eppolito was named chairman of the group which will have as its main function arranging for recitation of the rosary at the bereavement of members. Knights from Carrolltown, Cresson, Lilly and Gallitzin serve on the committee. Reports were given on a recent Communion breakfast in Colver and a meeting of council officers of Altoona and Greensburg dioceses in Johnstown.

It was noted that Grand Knight Alton McDonald, who also is deputy of District No. 11, was honored at a meeting of Barnesboro Council.

Next meeting will be held on Jan. 15.

—Historic Bucks County is one of the three original counties of Pennsylvania.

On the mountaintop of this refuge, on favorable days from September to November, the sky is dotted with hawk and eagle bound South, and also with gathering flocks of warblers, swallows, wrens, thrushes, song sparrows, and tanagers, some of which winter in the "pines of Central America."

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PATTON VFW

MUSIC BY BARRY COLE

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"THE VFW TRIO"

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

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DANCE CHRISTMAS NITE to BARRY COLE

NOTICE to Our MEMBERS and PATRONS:

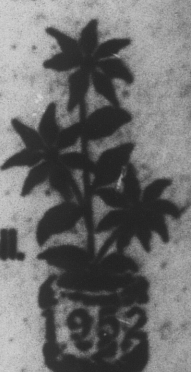
There will be NO DANCE on Wednesday, Christmas Eve. The Club will be closed from Christmas Eve at 10 P. M. to 2 P. M. Christmas Afternoon. There will be a dance on Christmas Nite!

From the Officers and Members of the VFW . . .

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