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THOS. A. OWENS, Editor
 FRANK P. CAMMARATA, Business Manager
 THOS. A. OWENS JR., Managing Editor
 FRED J. OWENS, Circulation Manager

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Mr. Gooderham's "Kittanning Path"

Northern Cambria County once was the forest primeval. Through countless years before the coming of the white man it was wilderness but it did bear an important part in the travels of our Indian predecessors, and maybe had a bearing on peoples who might have preceded them. In the journeys of the various Indian tribes from east to west over these Allegheny Mountains, Northern Cambria County particularly, and authentically, was the partial location of the famous "Kittanning Path," and its exact location had been more or less legendary throughout the years. However, through the untiring efforts of Henry M. Gooderham of East Carroll Twp., president of the Cambria County Historical Society, the precise location of the "Path" now definitely has been established.

Beginning this week, and continuing next week, it is our privilege to publish the papers prepared by Mr. Gooderham on this "Path." This material will appear in the Sesqui-Centennial Souvenir Booklet of the Cambria County Historical Society to be published in conjunction with the celebration of a century and a half of the institution of Cambria County. We are certain many hundreds of our readers will find this excellently-written story very interesting, and it will give local historians the correct data on this primeval "traffic lane." In this connection we are herewith publishing a letter written Mr. Gooderham by Paul A. Wallace, editor of "Pennsylvania History," quarterly magazine of the Pennsylvania Historical Association:

"Dear Mr. Gooderham: Thank you for the copies of the Topographic Map (Patton and Barnesboro quadrangles) showing your tracing of the Kittanning Path through Cambria County, and at the same time let me congratulate you on your splendid accomplishment in this work. I know enough of the problems involved to understand what a wealth of patience, determination, acumen, and love you have put into this task—love for the land, the soil of Cambria County, to whose honor you have devoted these researches. It has been a great privilege to have worked with you (though rather as an observer than as a contributor) on this project.

"I admired the skill and persistence with which you collected your data; driving or tramping long distances to meet an informant or follow a lead, and doing it in all weathers, some of the worst of which I experienced with you. I saw how tireless you were in gathering material from all manner of sources and how open-minded you were in evaluating it. Above all, I respected your dispassionate weighing of the evidence, balancing popular tradition against the recorded findings of early surveyors and travelers. You were never tempted to throw up the job when the evidence was conflicting. You were an optimist, sure that the solution was only waiting to be found, but at the same time wisely cautious about committing yourself to the first obvious solution; and you were never afraid to face contrary evidence.

"Your work on this trail should be an inspiration to members of other historical societies who wish not only to enjoy, but also by their own efforts to enrich our store of knowledge of Pennsylvania's history. Yours very sincerely, (signed) Paul A. Wallace."

Mr. Gooderham's treatise is comprised of two parts, the first "Geography and History" of the path and the second part, "Crossing Cambria County from Its Sunrise to Its Sunset." The author identifies every foot of the "Path" on the lands of the present-day owners, and not by the tenants and owners of years past. It can be followed by all folks acquainted with present conditions. The average schoolchild or the oldest resident will be able to follow his detailed tracings with ease. Our good friend has compiled an article well worthy of choosing in the Sesqui-Centennial booklet, and we appreciate the privilege of being the first publisher to print it. After all, the "Path" is a part of Ashville, Chest Springs, Carrolltown, Hastings and Barnesboro communities—the truly Northern portion of Cambria County.

Read the first installment of the "Kittanning Path" in this issue and the second part next week. It may prove valuable for you to clip the installments and save them. Mr. Gooderham has dedicated his work to "My Mother, through whom I am descended from some of Cambria County's earliest pioneers and patriots and from whom I inherited much love for the story of my native country and nation." Quoting Chester: "not to know what happened before you were born is to remain always a child."

Primary Election Next Tuesday

Next Tuesday, May 19, is primary election day in Pennsylvania. Don't take the time or have the interest to go to the polls. Yet the man who eventually becomes your elected official first must be chosen at the primary election. Indications are that next week's balloting isn't interesting to many people, and the political forecasters predict only a light vote. In Cambria County, three assemblymen from the Second Legislative District will be nominated by both parties. Only three Republicans are entered on the ballot. The Democrats have four men aspiring to the three nominations, and in the Second District a Democratic nomination has been tantamount to election.

Three of the Democratic aspirants are our present Assemblymen—Philip Loproni, E. J. Farabaugh and Lester Rovansick. The other entry is Sam Harshberger of Franklin Borough. The Democratic county commissioners and women have endorsed Messrs. Farabaugh, Loproni and Harshberger, as well as Senator Leader for Governor, Robert Shinn, the Democratic candidate for Congressman in this district, in without primary opposition, as also to Rep. John P. Taylor, Republican, on his party's ballot.

On the local level, commissioners and women will be elected by the voters of both parties, and they, in turn, a little later will select the county chairman for their respective parties. There isn't any trouble in this respect in the Democratic ranks, as John R. Torquato, their chairman, seems to have the confidence of his party—a confidence that has been earned through several years of successful management. On the other hand, there is now and has been for many weeks quite a bit of upheaval in the G.O.P. ranks over the election of committee people. There are three announced candidates in the race—J. J. Sheehan of Patton, Paul Wills of Loretto, and Attorney Robert Gleason of Johnstown, who presently is Republican chairman.

We remind the Democratic election this year, and any year, is important. A good citizen recognizes it. We have no intention of telling you how to vote, or whom to vote for, but we do urge you to use the American tradition to exercise your right of franchise—VOTE!

WHY NOT LOOK EVERYWHERE?



"As I See It"

By . . . STATE SENATOR JOHN J. HALUSKA

In last week's issue we pointed out to our readers the possibilities of establishing a cancer clinic here within our own county. While public interest is at a high pitch, a clinic would be worthless unless there is sufficient personnel well trained to administer the Hoxsey treatment to the sufferers of this dreadful disease.

In the event that the medical association ignores our plea entirely and fails to co-operate to the point where none of its members will submit their services pertaining to this treatment, then, of course, it would be useless to make further endeavors to have the clinic come to Cambria County.

However, the work we have put forth in this respect will not have been in vain.

Powerful financial interests in Philadelphia are doing everything but breaking their necks to have Dr. Hoxsey establish the Eastern clinic in that city. So while Cambria County will not receive the benefits of such an institution financially, the people of this district will at least be able to go to Philadelphia for this treatment, which we all agree is less expensive than now, when they are required to make the long trip to Texas.

So we feel satisfied that our crusade in establishing a cancer clinic in the Eastern part of the United States will be a successful one. But throughout the remaining years of our life we shall always regret that the people of our own county, especially the doctors, ignored our plea and cast aside a golden opportunity to not only relieve suffering humanity at home, but throw away the opportunity to create employment for hundreds of people.

However, this is all an assumption on our part, because we are yet hopeful that the Cambria County Medical Assn. will co-operate in establishing this clinic here at home. So in that respect we are herewith reprinting a copy of the letter that we mailed to the Cambria County Medical Society, c/o Dr. Joseph W. Raymond, president, making our final appeal to this group of medicals regarding the cancer clinic.

The letter reads as follows:

Cambria Co. Medical Society
 c/o Dr. Joseph W. Raymond,
 President,
 907 U. S. Bank Building
 Johnstown, Pennsylvania
 My Dear Dr. Raymond:

Despite the fact that the Cambria County Medical Society has gone on record approving my stand in asking for a thorough and impartial investigation pertaining to the Hoxsey Method of treating cancer and since both your association and myself have written to Senator Langer at Washington asking him to have his committee inaugurate such a movement, it is quite apparent that your good association has not received a reply from Senator Langer regarding this request.

Since this issue is on the lips of practically all the people within our own district and not knowing just how your association feels about the Hoxsey Method of treating cancer, I am enclosing herewith a copy of my article that appeared in print in my papers dated Thursday, May 6. I hope that you will read this article carefully and then inform me whether or not the Cambria County Medical Society will be willing to meet with Harry M. Hoxsey, N. D., in person or whether the association would be willing to meet with Mr. Hoxsey along with civic, industrial and religious leaders of all faiths and any other person or persons who are interested in the curing of this most dreadful disease known as cancer.

You will note by my article of last week that Dr. Hoxsey is willing to meet with your profession to discuss the possibilities of setting up a clinic here within the limits of our own county.

I assure you that if your organization is interested enough to meet with Dr. Hoxsey there shall be no embarrassing questions asked of your organization and no one will be humiliated. The purpose of the meeting is not to show anybody up, but to decide whether or not there will be enough interest amongst the

members of the Cambria County Medical Society to set up a clinic of medical men who will go to the Hoxsey Clinic at Texas and learn the procedure of the Hoxsey Method. Learn first handed the proper methods of diagnosing cancer in the early stages. Then come back up to Cambria County and start treating the many thousands of people who are afflicted with the most dreadful disease but who financially and physically are not in position to make the long trip to Texas to receive this treatment.

I am not asking members of your profession to abolish or disregard any treatment that they now have with regards to this disease. I am only asking for the sake of suffering humanity that you add the Hoxsey treatment to the list you now have. I don't think that the A.M.A. can find any fault if any of their members agree to add the Hoxsey medication to their list of treating stricken patients.

If a clinic is set up in Cambria County it will tend to serve the part of the entire Eastern United States, part of Canada along with adjacent states South and West of our own great Commonwealth.

So in closing, I sincerely ask you, as president of the Cambria County Medical Society, to call a meeting of your group and inform me whether or not your membership, including yourself, will be willing to discuss this matter in more detail. I assure you that it is not my purpose to antagonize or embarrass any of your membership because my interest in this matter is only to help make it possible to bring to our people a service that now is practically beyond their reach. In addition to saving the lives of thousands of our own people, we could make Cambria County all businessmen's paradise if a clinic of this nature is once established here.

Hope that I may have the pleasure of receiving an answer from you, remain with my best wishes to your organization. Very sincerely yours,
 JOHN J. HALUSKA (S)

Kentucky Resident Wants Latest Data On Hoxsey Support

310 Gano Avenue
 Georgetown, Kentucky
 May 1, 1964

Editor Union Press-Courier, Patton, Pennsylvania
 Dear Sir:

I have before me a photo-offset reproduction of two letters written by Dr. Joseph W. Raymond, President of Cambria Co. Medical Society, regarding cancer; one being addressed to you and one being a copy of a letter to Sen. Wm. F. Langer. This is the first instance I have so far discovered of a society taking an open-minded attitude toward any of the so-called cancer cures. It is a pleasant surprise indeed. Is this society still in good standing with its parent body? One chapter of the National Cancer Society lost its charter for the investigation of this clinic.

Can you give me any information regarding the article mentioned as being written by Senator John Haluska or the hospital of which he is administrator?

My interest in this matter results from the fact that I have recently lost five members of my family to cancer and that I have several friends now taking the Hoxsey treatment. Any information you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

Do you know of anyone in your state trying to obtain an investigation of these cancer cures besides Mr. Haluska? What is your address? Thank you very much.

Your very truly,
 W. T. Black (S)
 Whipple T. Black.

(Editor's Note—Information regarding articles written in recent months by Sen. Haluska in this newspaper has been forwarded to Mr. Black and answers to his questions in his letter have also been forwarded to him. This letter was then forwarded to Senator Haluska.)

The Kittanning Path

By HENRY M. GOODERHAM, PATTON R. D.

**PART I
 GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY**

The historic Kittanning Path, which crossed Cambria County, Pennsylvania, in an east-west course some twenty-three miles in length, is one of the best examples of the old Indian highways that lace our mountain state in a pattern still followed in considerable part by modern roads. The closer the study, the more excellent those early trails appear. While too steep in some places for speedy modern motor traffic, they provided quick and easy transport for moccasined Indian travelers and for the pack trains of white traders penetrating the Indian country.

To explain the excellent routing of these Indian paths through our difficult mountain terrain, it has been suggested by pioneer settlers and by modern historians that the trails were prospected and first used by wild animals, buffalo, deer and bear, seeking a way across the ranges. If this be so, it must have been by Divine guidance that these large, roving animals were able to lay their courses so as to overcome obstacles with the least possible inconvenience, whether in fording streams, swimming rivers, climbing mountains, or traversing marshes.

Others would explain the excellence of these early highways by presupposing the existence of an enlightened race inhabiting the Western Hemisphere before the people we know as Indians came to these parts. But perhaps it would be closer to the truth to admit that the Indians were themselves superior to what the conquering white man in his pride has chosen to think them.

The first red men to come into eastern North America and to cross our Allegheny Mountains were these enlightened travelers whose descendants were reduced by wars to the condition in which the white man found them. We know virtually nothing of the Indians who first crossed our "Endless Mountains" to descend toward the Atlantic coast. But we do know something of the white adventurers who reversed the movement and explored "toward the setting sun." Bold men had traversed these trails long before the purchase of 1763 at Fort Starbuck, when the lands now comprising Cambria County were purchased from the Indians.

The first survey made along the Kittanning Path within the boundary of what is now Cambria County was made on March 26 and 27, 1769, by Alexander Stewart, consisting of 388 acres and named "Chest."

Cabins were built near some large springs on the tract, and the place was later named Chest Springs. It was incorporated as a borough May 10, 1858, and is the only borough on the Kittanning Path in Cambria County.

The Kittanning Path extended from the waters of the Juniata to the waters of the Allegheny River. No student of the geography of the country could have made any improvement in its location. A straight line from Frankstown on the Juniata to Kittanning on the Allegheny River would have crossed three high mountains, the Allegheny, Laurel Hill, and Chestnut Ridge.

But to the north of this line, in the upper part of Cambria County, Hill and Chestnut Ridge are much leveled off. The Kittanning Path availed itself of this easing of the mountain barrier. It crossed the Allegheny Mountains and then followed a great curve to the northwest, thereby avoiding the ascent of the Laurel Hill and the Chestnut Ridge. Even crossing the Allegheny Mountains near the famous Horseshoe Curve, a fairly easy ascent and descent were found.

Various trails from the east gave access to the Kittanning Path. A trail was used one started west from the Susquehanna at Harris's Ferry (Harrisburg), Lector's Spring (Carlisle) and Standing Stone (Huntington) to Frankstown passing through near Hollidaysburg. The Conoy Path from York Haven joined it at Lector's Spring. Other branches came in from farther up the river, the Charles A. Hanna's "The Wilderness Trail." Volume I, page 248, we find this about one of the approaches to the Kittanning Path:

"Bishop Cameron, who traveled along the east bank of the Susquehanna from Paxtang to Shamokin in the winter of 1748, notes in his 'Journal' that, after crossing the mountains near Wisconsin Creek, near its mouth, on January 12th, he came to a house a short distance beyond. There he halted. Here his host informed him that on the west bank of the Susquehanna, opposite to his house, began the Great Path to the Allegheny country, estimated to be three or four hundred miles distant."

The trail from Harris's Ferry through Lector's Spring and Standing Stone, variously known as the Allegheny, the Frankstown and the Kittanning Path, was a main trail for those traveling westward until 1758, when the Forbes military road was built through Bedford, following the more southerly Raystown Path. A trail was named in those days for the objective which the traveler set himself. What started at Harris's Ferry as the Frankstown Path, became, to those who had once passed Frankstown, the Kittanning Path; and it was thus called by those who traveled over it westward through Cambria County.

During the early eighteenth century, the Kittanning Path was one of the great arteries of commerce in Pennsylvania and one of the chief means for the development of the west. Conrad Weiser, Pennsylvania's first ambassador to the Indians, was on his journey of 1748 to Logstown on the Ohio River—a journey that was the first serious venture, politically, into the Ohio Valley.

They reached Frankstown on the North Branch of the Juniata River on September 2, 1756. Here his little army struck the celebrated Kittanning Path, and since the path was narrow, they marched over it in single file.

Arriving at a spot near Kittanning on the evening of September 7, they disposed their forces for a surprise attack. This they launched at three o'clock the next morning. The town was destroyed. Captain Jacobs was shot and killed. Shingas escaped to make a reputation for himself later as the greatest Delaware warrior of his day.

Colonel Armstrong loaded his wounded soldiers on some Indian horses he had collected and returned over the Kittanning Path, camping with his army one night at the "CLEAR FIELDS," a mile south of Ashville.

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