

Colonel McAllister, Of Fort Hunter Fame, Great Nimrod

Harrisburg, Nov. 18—Henry W. Shoemaker, chief Pennsylvania Folklorist, today said Colonel Archibald McAllister was the great hunter and sportsman of his time.

"He is said to have killed upwards of 100 bison and the same number of elk," Shoemaker said, "but when he exceeded those totals he said he would not count them anymore."

"A native of McAllisterville, Juniata County, of Scottish Highlander parentage, he was the third and last commander of that important Susquehanna frontier post, Fort Hunter, in Dauphin County north of Harrisburg, named for its first commander Colonel Samuel Hunter, who was succeeded by his relative Colonel Samuel Buyers."

"Colonel McAllister, is said to have served on General Washington's staff during the Revolution, and was appointed to the command of Fort Hunter by the great leader, himself. In 1786 the newly organized American government decided to sell its surplus forts, and the property was purchased by Colonel McAllister. He was among the first to receive title to government lands and that same year erected the handsome stone residence, where he resided, hunting big game, and entertained lavishly until his death in 1814."

"Then came the Pennsylvania German hegira, George Boas, who bought the fort, and his descendants Dick, Myers, Schell, Wister and the latter Hunter George Reilly, who have occupied the patriotic site until the present time. Col. McAllister was a slave holder, and the family burial ground inside a white paling fence across from the mansion on the east side of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks, was surrounded by the graves of the slaves, resting under smaller sized marble slabs."

"Along the sewing house under the eaves on the west side, hung a row of buffalo heads, killed by the Colonel, of which but two remain. There are some iron spikes beside this wild pair where the others

hung, and possibly blown down as there are said to be a half a dozen or more bison heads in the old blacksmith shop piled up in a dark corner. These are probably the only skulls of the Pennsylvania buffaloes, in existence, the last of a noble race in Dauphin County."

Brooks' Annals of Harrisburg tells of a bison killed in River Alley to the rear of the present Governor's Mansion in 1794, driven off the Blue Mountain by dogs where the bison wandered east to Buffalo Springs in Lebanon County where the last in eastern Pennsylvania were destroyed about 1800.

Almost as rare are 12 sets of antlers of the Pennsylvania elk, one, hanging in the sewing room, was measured, each antler being 46 inches in length, horns of huge and heavy formation. A smaller set, the horns measuring 44 and 41 inches, respectively hangs in the old kitchen of the fort. The other 10 elk heads and a large number of massive deer horns are also piled up in the smithy; formerly they hung along the west walls of the fort. Several have horns of five feet in length.

"In cleaning out the attic the hides of wolves were uncovered, but where they are now, those in charge of Fort Hunter do not know. They probably were the only Pennsylvania wolf skins in existence."

Unfortunate Farmer

An unfortunate incident with a serio-humorous twist came to light in a northwestern county not long ago. A man who said a deer was causing him crop damage went out one evening to eliminate the destroyer. The "deer" he shot turned out to be his own cow. Again proving a hunter should be sure of his target before shooting.

In Paraguay there is a firefly called the railway beetle, which flashes a red light at the ends of its body and a green light along the sides.

Building Pond At Loyalville

Rebennack Brothers Have Two Ponds There

Another farm pond is being added to the many that now dot the area. It is being built by Albert Rebennack next door to his home at Loyalville and when completed will cover between seven and eight acres.

Excavating has been underway for the past three weeks and will be completed in approximately two more weeks according to John Hewitt, of Idetown, who has the contract.

The breast of the dam which will be between 250 and 300 feet long

is now being completed. The pond will be almost completely spring fed and have a maximum depth of eleven feet.

The entire surrounding area will be planted and a part of it landscaped.

Another fine pond in the same area was built last year by John Rebennack on the hill above his farm. It was used successfully this year to irrigate the large cultivated blueberry patch operated by Mr. and Mrs. Rebennack.

12 Day Bear Season

Pennsylvania bear seasons, since 1946, have been six days long. The season this fall has been expanded to 12 days. It runs from 7:00 a.m. Monday, November 15, to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, November 27, excepting the Sunday.

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