

Wyoming Valley's first 200 years



By D. A. WATERS

Not all Connecticut claimants settled in Pennsylvania were in Wyoming Valley or even on the Susquehanna, but all were later included in the Connecticut Town and County of Westmoreland subsequently established.

Under three purchases by representatives of two Delaware Companies in 1754-55, from local Delaware Indians, several hundred individuals listed as grantees claimed lands east and west of the Delaware north of 41 degrees, westward approximately to the lands of the Susquehanna Company. None of the deeds mentioned the names of the Companies or Connecticut Colony.

Pennsylvania Historical Commission has erected a marker north of Milanville reading, "CUSHETUNK The first Connecticut settlement on the upper Delaware was made here in 1755, under lead of Moses Thomas and Daniel Skinner, on lands called Cushtunk by the Indians."

From Pennsylvania Archives, First Series, Vol. 4, page 83-84: "Information of John Williamson who was employed by John Jennings to go to Cushtunk and report (1762)-16 families are settled on the river in four settlements, the whole extending 7 miles . . . in all 40 men. Told him they held their lands from New England and would throw in the river anyone sent to molest them. Have laid out a town west of them along a branch running into Lackawaxen. They live in pretty good log houses covered with white pine shingles or boards."

Other settlements were made at Blooming Grove and Shonola. A separate settlement on the Wallenpaupack was not under Delaware Company claims. A map in the land office at Harrisburg shows, "Manor of Wallenpaupack, warrant issued Nov. 25, 1748, surveyed Oct. 1751, returned Jan. 22, 1752, 12150 acres for the use of "The Honorable The Proprietaries, at Lehighwaxett, Bucks Co. from the New Purchase." A family named Carter was wiped out by Indians there in 1759.

In his "History of Wayne Co. (1880)," P. G. Goodrich says, "The first emigrants from Connecticut were enroute to Wyoming (1773) but found good land and timber and decided to settle here. They built a palisaded fort enclosing about an acre and a good spring. Included was a blockhouse with a bullet-proof sentry box on top. They laid off two townships (Bozrah and Lackaway). They worked in the woods and fields in gangs with their guns slung on their backs. When Indian troubles were expected, all

spent the night in the fort."

Forty-five lots were surveyed in May 1773 by Deacon John Hurlburt, who then continued on to Wyoming. The settlers had no title from anyone. He wrote, "There is in this town five houses, about thirty men and lads and five women."

The Penn heirs sold the entire Manor of Wallenpaupack to James Wilson of Philadelphia, later recovered it through the Sheriff at Easton on a mortgage, which was unpaid. A new Pennsylvania survey of lots was made by George Palmer in 1805, with contracts and deeds to the terra tenants about 1808. Settlers had fled across the Delaware at the time of the Wyoming Massacre and later returned.

For personal reasons, this column represents more personal research than many others. One of my ancestors was listed in the report on the Delaware in 1762. His family history goes back to John Winthrop's ship in 1630, and Ship Elizabeth in 1634, with marriage connections into at least eight old New England families.

Another ancestor owned the lot on the Wallenpaupack where the fort was built. His wife was descended from a man who came with Gov. Endicott in 1628, and also other old families.

The family still owns the land where the log cabin stood in which their granddaughter, my great-grandmother, was married. After the wedding, the couple piled all their worldly goods, including live pigs and chickens, in a big bob sled and took off overland for the Northmoreland area.

Rotaracts

The bi-monthly meeting of the Back Mountain Rotaract Club was held recently at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church.

A report was given by one of the officers telling about their experiences at the Rotary Conference which they attended. The Rotary Clubs throughout the area were very impressed with the progress and the work that the local club has done since it was founded.

Our next meeting will be held on April 30, 7:30 at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church.



Anthony Broody, Dallas, a member of Plymouth Rotary Club, is shown here being congratulated by fellow Rotarians after being named District Governor Nominee for the year 1969-70, District 741, Northeastern Pennsylvania. Mr. Broody was presented as nominee by District Attorney Blythe H. Evans Jr., at the Rotary Spring Conference, Pocono Manor Inn. Left to right are: District Governor William J. Law, Montrose; Dr. George Lopatofsky, Troy, 1970-71 nominee; Blythe Evans, president of the Plymouth club; Mr. Broody. Mr. and Mrs. Broody make their home in Dallas.

Evans Jr., at the Rotary Spring Conference, Pocono Manor Inn. Left to right are: District Governor William J. Law, Montrose; Dr. George Lopatofsky, Troy, 1970-71 nominee; Blythe Evans, president of the Plymouth club; Mr. Broody. Mr. and Mrs. Broody make their home in Dallas.

BOOK WORM

to honor retiring teachers

By CAROLYN KOLLS

Ingredients for love stories often seem to be pretty standard stuff: A young, pretty girl and an interesting, if not handsome, man, who meet under intriguing circumstances and prove their feelings for one another in romantic and dramatic ways.

Could there be any place less likely for romance to begin than in the rehabilitation ward of a hospital for seemingly hopeless cases? Could there be less likely candidates for Love (with a capital "L") than one man with spinal damage, a second man wasting away from an unknown nerve disease and a no longer young woman whose face has been permanently destroyed by acid?

But Love it is in *Tell Me That You Love Me Junie Moon* by Marjorie Kellogg. When these three people decide to move together to a small cottage to set up housekeeping, everyone around them considers their attempt doomed from the start. The gloomy little house offers few signs of hope, and the struggles within the three characters tend to divide rather than unite their efforts.

As one reads, one becomes painfully aware that too much of what we expect of love depends on smooth faces and smoothly running situations. Torn-up lives and raw nerve endings blind us to the human need for affection that confronts us. Perhaps, too, it is easier to be blind; love requires conscious participation, not automatic response.

Love finds many expressions in this book. Some are good, some are bad, others are familiar, and a few are strange. But Love it is.

in Armed Forces

Trucksville, has had a career of 26 years, the first four of which were spent in Larksville Borough.

She is a graduate of Bloomsburg State College and received her degree from College Misericordia. Mrs. McGuire is a resident of Trucksville.

Miss Fleming, who now lives in Kingston, has also served 44 years in the teaching profession, beginning her career in Yatesville and the remainder of the time at Dallas-Franklin and Dallas School District in 3rd and 4th grades. She graduated from Maryland College.

Mrs. Robert Vail, president of Trucksville P-TA, has appointed Mrs. George Gaylord as general chairman of the affair. Mrs. Vail, who is also ticket chairman, requests that all interested in attending contact her for tickets at 696-2068. Reservations deadline is May 19.

anthracilicosis forum Sunday

The Anthracilicosis League of Luzerne County will hold a meeting at the Dallas American Legion Post Sunday, April 27, at 2 p.m.

The meeting is being called by Joseph Rusinko, Back Mountain League member. The speaker will be Mr. Barnes, president of the Anthracilicosis League, who will inform members of league activities in Harrisburg.

'Moods of Music' concert theme

"Many Moods of Music" is the theme for the spring concert of the Dallas Junior High School Bands. The event will take place on Friday evening, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the senior high auditorium. Approximately one hundred student musicians will participate. The concert theme suggests a wide spectrum of musical forms and styles represented on the program. This includes selections by the active Brass and Woodwind Quartets and several other ensembles. The concert is to conclude with two selections by combined bands.

Among selections to be programmed are "Symphony For Band," a transcription from the Napoleonic era for band; three New York City portraits depicted in "Manhattan Vignettes," a wide variety of folk favorites gathered in a "Spiritual Festival," a medley of

authentic "Songs of Colonial America," and selections from the hit show "Music Man."

Representative of original band music in pop dance forms are "Cha Cha For Band" and "S'Cool Room Dixie." Among marches are the famous "Colonel Bogey" and "Wings Of Victory," plus an original contemporary entitled "March Juno."

An unusual concert opening will find the band providing musical background for a reading of the famous address of General Douglas MacArthur at West Point entitled "Duty, Honor, Country." David Grandall will narrate.

Tickets are now available for the concert from all band members and majorettes and will be on sale at the door. Reese E. Pelton is instructor of instrumental music and bands.

fifty blood donors at Noxen collection

The Red Cross Bloodmobile visit to the United Methodist Church on April 7 netted 50 productive donors.

The visit was sponsored by the Bowmans Creek Lions Club, with Mrs. Earl Crispell, Noxen Area chairman and Mrs. Robert Belles co-chairman of Beaumont and other areas. Drs. Beck and Davenport, Tunkhannock covered the visit.

Registered nurses were Mrs. John Morgan, chairman of the Wyoming County blood program; Mrs. Elston Robinson and Mrs. Frederick Case. Typist was Mrs. Ralph Lutes. Assisting in registration, canteen, loading, etc were Mrs.

Elvin Bean, Mrs. Osmond Casterline, Mrs. Stanley Cook, Mrs. John Jones, Mrs. George Macialek, Mrs. Gerald Evelan, Mrs. Robert May, Mrs. Earl Johnson, Mrs. Wheeler Hess, Mrs. Raymond Kelley, Mrs. Francis Schenck, Mrs. Warren Montross, Ronald Hopper, Robert Bellas, Earl Crispell and Gregg Montross. Baby-sitters were Candy Jones and Judy Lee.

A two-gallon pin was awarded to Franklin J. Patton. Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Bellas and Mrs. Crispell wishes to express their appreciation to the church board for allowing use of the church facilities.

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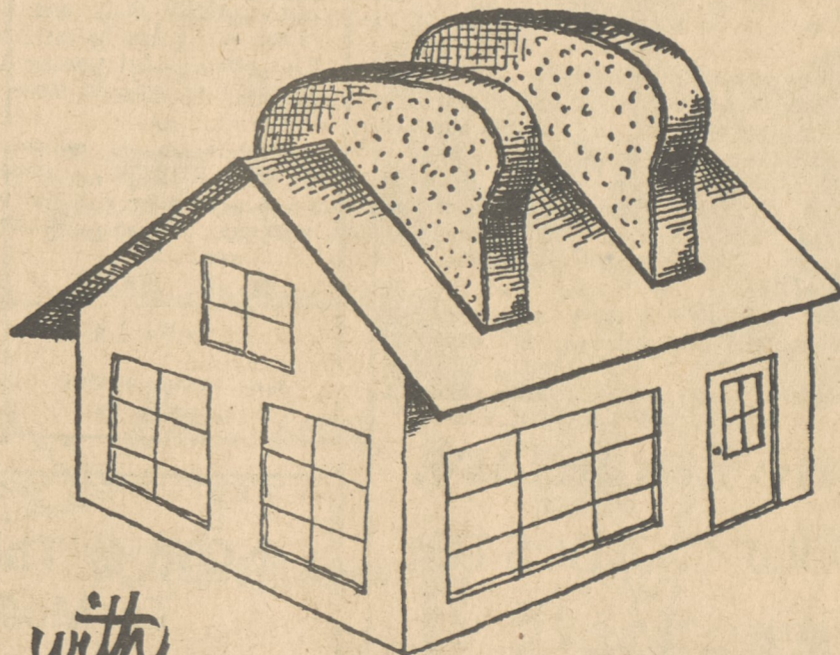
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