

## Mount Joy's revolutionary history

[continuation of an anonymous article from an old Mount Joy Bulletin]

The Donegal folks were excited. Drums, colors, rusty halberds and guns were brought forth and fixed up for the coming contest.

At this old Church on a certain Sabbath morning, after the sermon, and before the congregation separated for their respective homes, all old and young, except the Pastor, formed themselves into circle around that tree, joined hands, impelled them to exert themselves to the utmost, to secure freedom to the country, which they solemnly pledged to do, or die in the attempt.

The tree encircled was their witness to the vow. How well was that solemn pledge kept, the men went forth to battle such as could bear arms, the old men, and the women and children labored at home, to support themselves and raise provisions for the army. Coats, shirts, stockings, and everything that they could make, they took pleasure in making for the soldiers.

And now for other incidents connected with this old settlement:

The old Tavern House, on the Lancaster and Middletown Turnpike at the west end of the Bridge, where it crosses the Big Chiques-Salunga creek, and always known as the Big Chiques Tavern, was my grandfathers, and was kept by my grandmother during the whole time of the Revolution for my grandfather, Hugh Peden, was an officer and with the army. This Tavern was on the old Continental Highway over which the mail was then carried on a horse and there semi-monthly did the Post Man stop to deliver letters on his western trip. During the war, he was anxiously looked for and the day on which he was expected to pass made it quite a busy place. Old men, women and children from the country around, far and near would be there to get the news and read their letters to each other, which was generally of a sorrowful kind, for their letters told, who had fallen in battle, who were wounded and who were taken prisoners. Ah! How often were hearts made sad, and bright hopes crushed, for many of the men who went from this neighborhood and never returned.

Their bones lay long, bleaching on many a battle field.

That old Tavern was the headquarters and stopping place for the army officers. After the battle of Brandywine and massacre of Paoli, a part of General

Mayne's army came this way, and encamped very near our town, on the banks of our Little Chiques and on the North side of the road. Rupp in his history, makes the encampment North of Elizabethtown. This I know to be wrong for my grandmother pointed out the place to me, said she was often on the ground to visit the poor suffering soldiers, and assisted in supplying the army with provisions, clothing, and other comforts. The place was selected because there was plenty of water, beautiful springs, little distance from a smith shop, where guns were taken and fixed up for the army. The blacksmith shop was on the Manheim road and about one hundred yards west of the creek.

During the time the army remained here, General Washington visited it, and with a number of the officers, held a meeting in the 'Big Chiques Tavern.' It was a secret one, the minutes were carefully sealed up, placed in my grandmothers hands for safe keeping, and sometime after my grandfathers return from the army, he placed them in a cavity, of the partition of one of the rooms, where it was completely enclosed by the laths and the plastering. The owner of this Tavern when repairing the house some years ago, tore down the partition and found the papers. They were sent to the Masonic Lodge in Lancaster.

In revolutionary times they were very strict in the military companies. To pay such fines as they paid then for being absent would make anyone wince now. I have in my possession a receipt that a member of a company paid for fine and costs for three days, fifty-two pounds ten shillings. This in PA currency at that time was equal to one hundred and forty dollars.

Before closing the sketch of the Times of the Revolution, I must bring to the front something to show what the women of this neighborhood did during the time that tried men souls. Say what you please about 'womens rights', and what they should do; we generally find that they get on the right side, and do right.

Their general character is to do good. They, like our Fathers were aroused to resent what was considered as insults to their rights; they would not tamely submit to the galling yoke the mother country determined to impose, and to prevent it, peacably as they generally are, they argued that it was

right in these terrible times to draw the sword for Liberty and their Country. They held Public meetings, and were as patriotic as the men. Their cry was 'To Arms! To Arms! We will do what we can in the glorious cause. We will remain at home to do the work, and help so far as we can to support those who are suffering in the common cause. They did raise money - furnished clothing and provisions, and all they could to assist in securing our liberty. Yes they scorned to be slaves. They held their 'Tea Parties' but that kind of Tea, that England wanted them to pay tax for, they would not use. These meetings generally wound up with a song composed by one of the women. I feel sorry that I can give only the last two lines. I heard my grandmother, my mother and aunts sing it when I was but a little boy, the lines are.

Fine Dittany our woods adorn

The girls shall cut and dry it.

And now for something about our own Mount Joy. Though not an old place but at the west end of our Borough there stood an old Tavern house, which was burned down some years ago. It was there in Revolutionary times, on the old Continental Highway. It was known as a great place all over the country, and in good 'Auld Ireland' too.

That house from time immemorial was kept as a Public house.

There was always a 'Cross Roads' there and still known by that name. It was the stopping place of the Irish Emigrants on their way to the Donegal settlement. Their usual enquiry on their way, was for the place they called the "Three Crosses", "The Cross Roads", "Cross Keys," & "Cross Land Leddy."

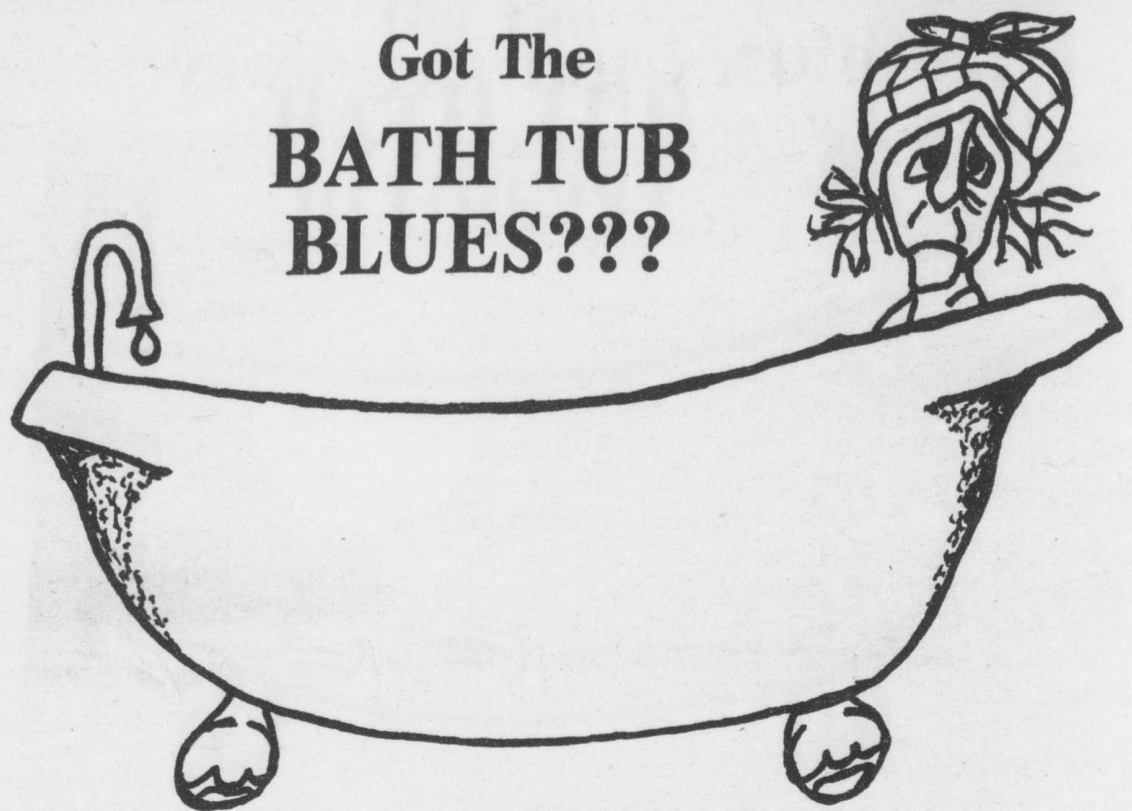
At that place for a very long time, the military trainings were held. At one of these trainings, during the Whiskey rebellion several persons spoke loudly in favor of the insurgents, declaring themselves ready to go to their assistance, and urged all to join them. A few days after, these men were arrested, and taken to Lancaster, but had the matter quieted by pleading that they were on a 'Spree', that had they been sober their conduct would have been different.

In that old house there was many a jolly frolic dance and fight.

The eastern part of the town was laid out in 1812 by Jacob Rohrer, who was

[continued on page 10]

Got The  
**BATH TUB  
BLUES???**



RESURFACE  
WITH LOW COST

*Electroglaz*

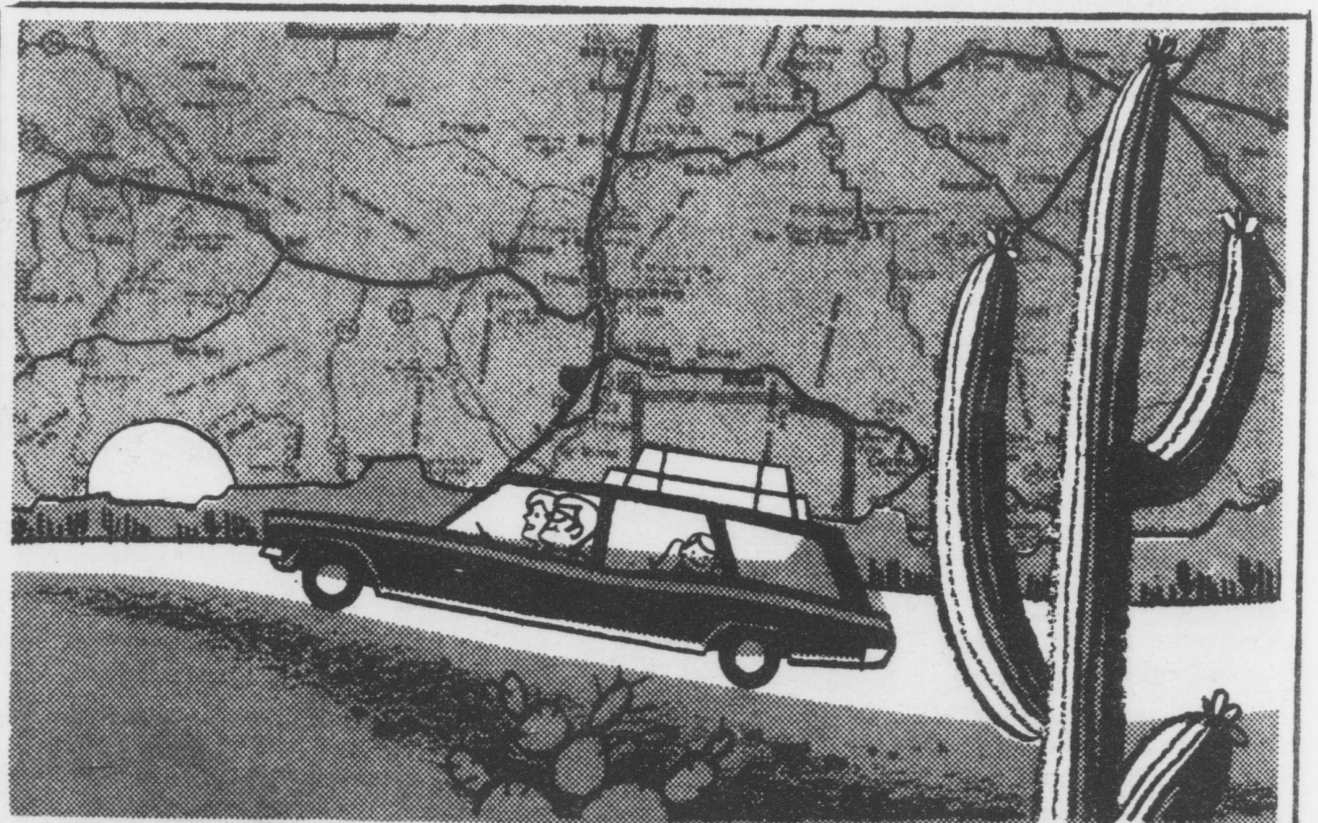
Nothing is harder on one's "composure" than a rough, stained or chipped bathtub. The revolutionary LECTRO-GLAZ process transforms worn and faded tubs into gleaming, like-new fixtures. The LECTROGLAZ finish is more resistant to acids and chemicals than the original porcelain. The price is a small fraction of the cost in replacing the old tub. If your tub is ruined or if you just want to change color, save time & money. All work carries the same guarantee as a new tub. Write for our free color brochures or call for a free estimate.

FREE  
ESTIMATES

CALL  
684-9135

**C & C  
PORCELAIN  
RESURFACING CO.**

314 Cherry Street  
Columbia  
PA. 17512



**Is your car up to the  
summer-travel miles ahead?**

Stop in or phone us for an appointment  
for our quality car care service.

We are now a  
**PENNA. STATE INSPECTION STATION**  
for both cycles and cars  
**HOUSE of WHEELS**

Rt. 230 West, Mount Joy, Pa.