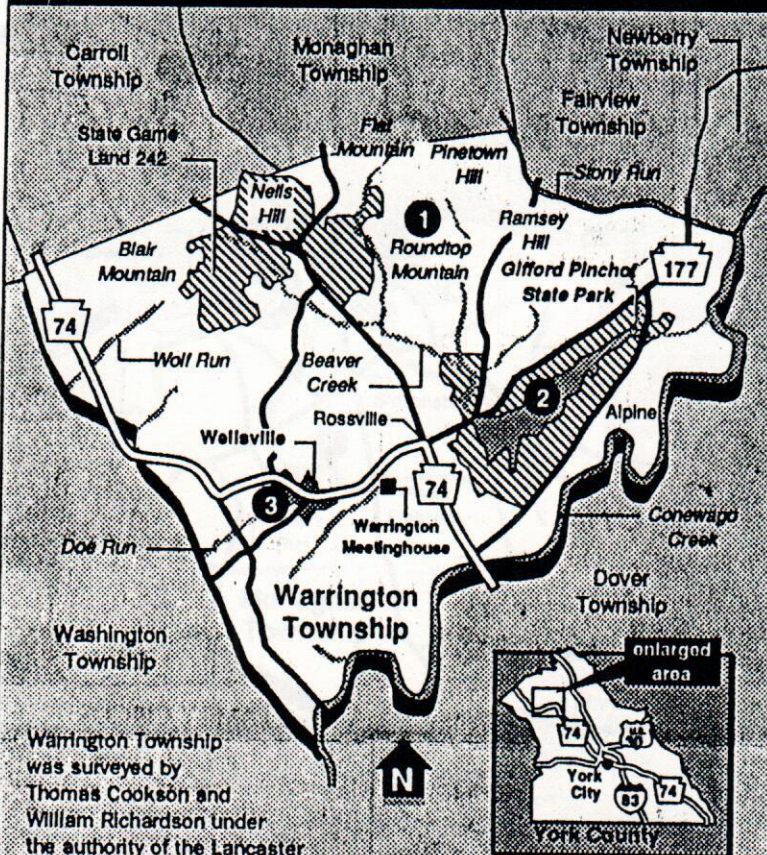




Warrington Township: 1743

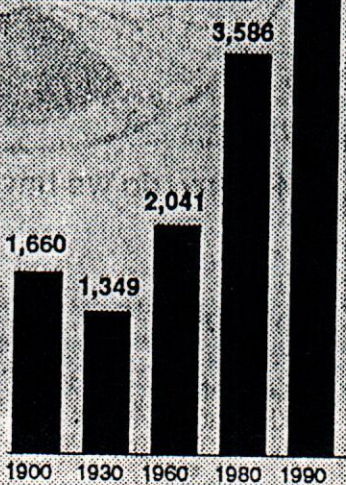
Wellsville Borough incorporated 1892



Warrington Township was surveyed by Thomas Cookson and William Richardson under the authority of the Lancaster County Courts and originally included Washington Township and part of northern Dover Township. Current township boundaries were established in 1803. The area was named for Warrington Township, Lancashire, England.

Todd Stouch/Staff artist

Warrington Township population



First families

The first settlers in Warrington Township were English Quakers from Chester and Lancaster counties who crossed the Susquehanna at Wrightsville and settled north of the Conewago Creek in 1735. The Warrington Quakers began their own congregation and meetinghouse 10 years later. Wellsville was built on land originally granted in 1737 to William Ayles. In 1800, William Ross, a tanner, owned land on the site of the village of Rossville. In 1904, William Hunter Barrett and Thomas Leonard Hoover purchased large tracts of land in Warrington Township, including 384-acre Roundtop Mountain.

1. Roundtop Mountain

In the northern part of Warrington Township, hills of resistant diabase, or ironstone, rise up to form six peaks more than 400 feet above the surrounding countryside. Roundtop Mountain, the highest summit, reaches 1,335 feet above sea level. Its north-facing slopes were cleared in 1964 to become the home of Ski Roundtop. State Game Land No. 242 occupies 1,516 acres, including the southern slopes of Blair Mountain and Nells Hill.

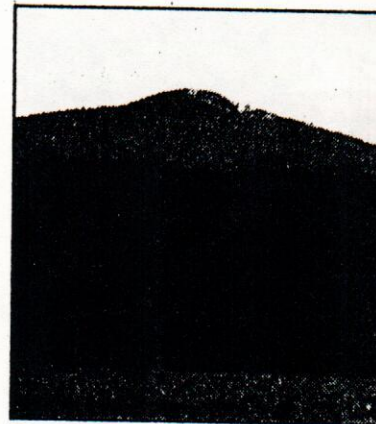


Photo by Paul Chrastina

2. Pinchot State Park

In 1961, Gifford Pinchot State Park was dedicated in honor of Pennsylvania governor and conservationist Gifford Pinchot (1865-1946). The park covers 2,339 acres, including 340-acre Pinchot Lake, which was formed through the flooding of the Beaver Creek valley in 1958-59. Route 177, originally called the Pinchot Road, borders the park to the north and was the first hard-surfaced road built during Pinchot's second term as state governor. In colonial times, the road was known as the "Quaker Race" for the custom of racing horses on the long stretch of level ground halfway between the Warrington and Newberry meetinghouses.

3. Wells & Wells

In 1843, Abraham and John Wells brought the first rural manufacturing industry to northern York County when they opened the Wells Whip Factory. During the Civil War, the already prosperous firm of Wells and Wells was contracted to supply artillery whips to the Union army. The borough of Wellsville grew up around the factory, which later burned down. On July 1, 1863, three brigades of Confederate soldiers totaling 6,000 men under General J.E.B. Stuart marched through the area on their way to Dillsburg and Gettysburg, engaging in a skirmish with Union scouts at Rossville and using Confederate paper money to buy supplies in Wellsville.

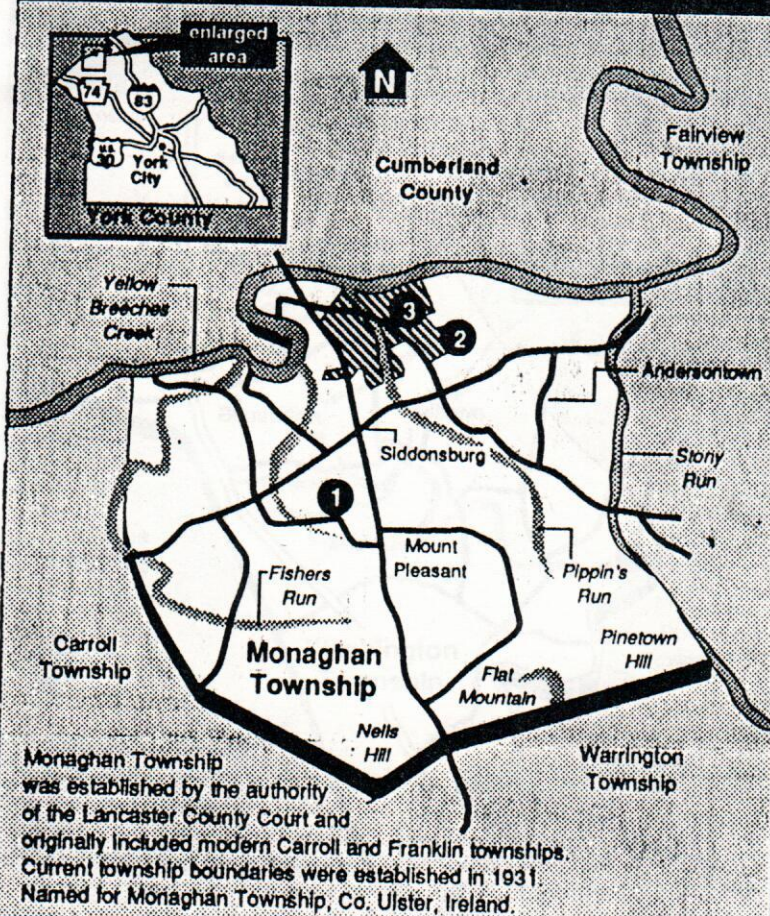


Warrington Meetinghouse, Wellsville

Photo by Paul Chrastina

MAR 11 1991

Monaghan Township: 1745



1. "Phoenician Stones"

During the 1940s, a number of incised ironstone boulders were found along the Yellow Breeches Creek in York and Cumberland counties by Dr. William Walker Strong of Mechanicsburg. After studying the patterns formed by deep V-shaped grooves in the rocks, Strong proposed the exotic theory that they represented inscriptions carved by members of a colony of seafaring Phoenician refugees who crossed the Atlantic Ocean to settle in the area in about 300 B.C. The Phoenicians were a Mediterranean seafaring people whose great North African trading city of Carthage was destroyed by the Roman army in 146 B.C. The carved stones, Strong believed, were to be used as grave makers or as building blocks for a structure that was never completed, possibly because the builders were killed by Indians. Scientists from the Pennsylvania Geological Survey who examined the stones did not agree, concluding that the "inscriptions" were natural in origin, probably the result of cooling and contraction of the original molten rock, erosion of mineral veins, scratches made by farm implements, or outright fraud. Nearly 500 of the stones from Strong's collection are now in the possession of the New England Antiquities Research Association in Westmoreland, New Hampshire. The stone pictured here is on the farm of Charles T. Vogelsong, Siddonsburg.

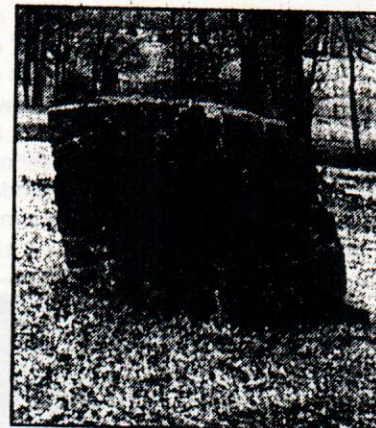


Photo by Paul Chrastina

"Phoenician stone", Monaghan Twp.

2. Cocklin's Orchards

In 1827, Jacob Cocklin planted the first orchard in Monaghan Township. Over the next 40 years, Cocklin successfully introduced and cultivated 180 varieties of apples, 120 varieties of peaches, as well as pears, cherries, and apricots. In 1846 a record crop of 1,500 bushels of peaches sold for \$980. Before 1860, Cocklin distilled apple and peach brandy, which was sold for 75 cents a gallon to Harrisburg markets.

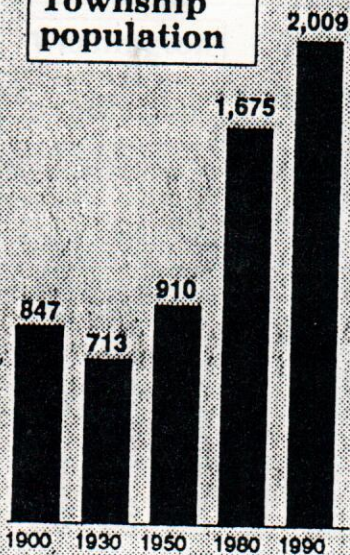
3. Chilton Borough

On November 19, 1990, Monaghan Township was served with a petition requesting the incorporation of the Borough of Chilton in the northern part of the township along the Yellow Breeches Creek. Incorporation of the proposed 492-acre borough is opposed by Monaghan Township, which has filed exceptions in the York County Court.



Map showing original boundaries of Monaghan ("Manahan") Township.

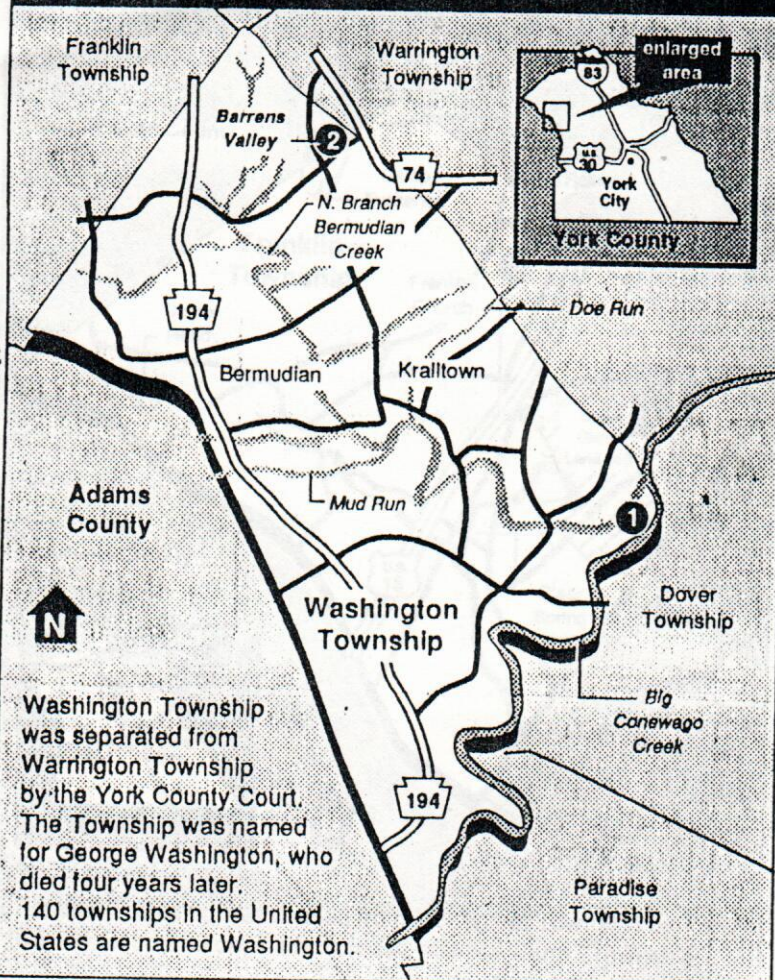
Monaghan Township population



First families

The earliest families in Monaghan Township were English and Scotch-Irish settlers from the Cumberland Valley, an area first settled in 1735. They included the McMullens, Dares, Parks, and Elliotts. German settlement from York County came later, with the arrival of the Myers, Kimmel, Hartman, Fortney, and Brenneman families. Siddonsburg was founded by Benjamin Siddon and William Divin in 1825. Andersonstown was named for Rennox Anderson, who built the first house on the site of the village.

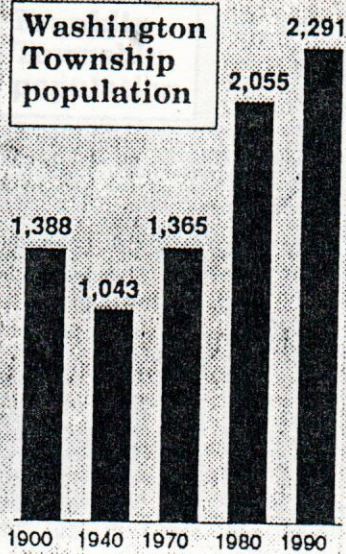
Washington Township 1802:



Washington Township was separated from Warrington Township by the York County Court. The Township was named for George Washington, who died four years later. 140 townships in the United States are named Washington.

Todd Stouch/Staff artist

Washington Township population



First families

English Quakers first settled the northeastern part of Washington Township, and the area southeast of the Bermudian Creek was settled by German Baptists by 1738. The Kimmel, Harlacker, and Hollinger families were early settlers in the Red Run area. William Butt built the first mill on the Bermudian Creek in 1782. Kralltown was founded by mercantile businessman Jesse Krall in 1853.

1. Confederate invasion

In June 1863, Washington Township storekeeper Amos Raffensberger packed up his merchandise into two large wagons, which he hid in a wooded thicket along the Conewago Creek, hoping to elude the scavenging Confederate Army that was approaching from the south. Discovered by a squad of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry, Raffensberger's \$900 in goods and clothing were confiscated by the rebels, who proceeded to Carlisle by way of Dillsburg, missing the first two days of the Battle of Gettysburg. Along with many other York County farmers and storekeepers, Raffensberger was never compensated for his loss.

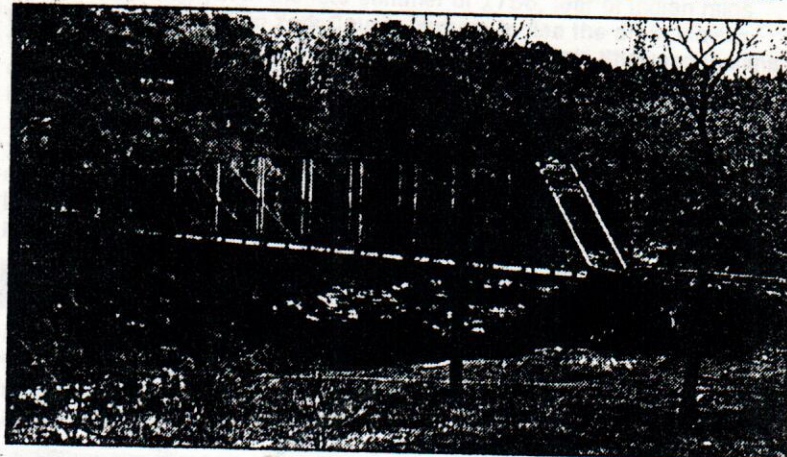


Photo by Paul Chrastina

Wrought-iron suspension bridge over the Bermudian Creek, built 1884.

2. Barrens Valley

The first settlers in northern Washington Township found a barren landscape of about 3000 acres of infertile red shale soil, on which only a few scrub oak trees and a cover of prairie grass grew. This northern "barrens" was converted to agriculture in the period 1830-1880 with the introduction of mechanical cultivation and fertilizers. By 1886, the area was producing an average of 25 bushels of wheat per acre, per year. Portions of State Game Lands 243 are located in this part of Washington Township, consisting of partly developed farmland and small wood lots.

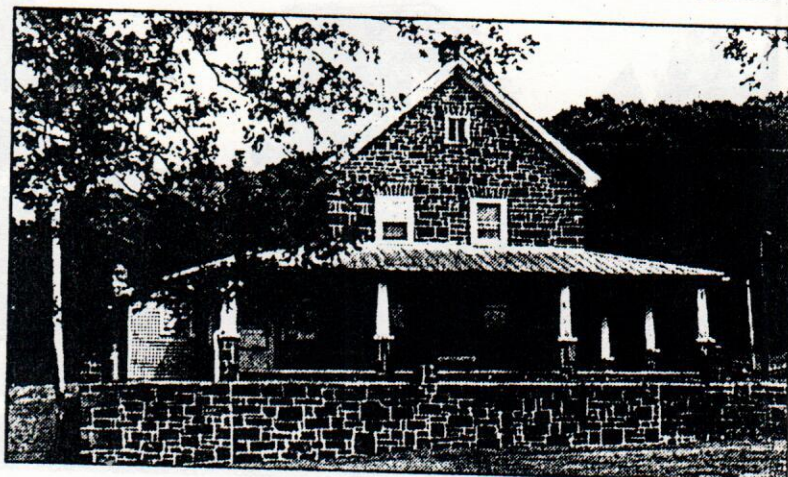


Photo by Paul Chrastina

Harlacker Homestead, 18th Century.

COUNTY NOTEBOOK

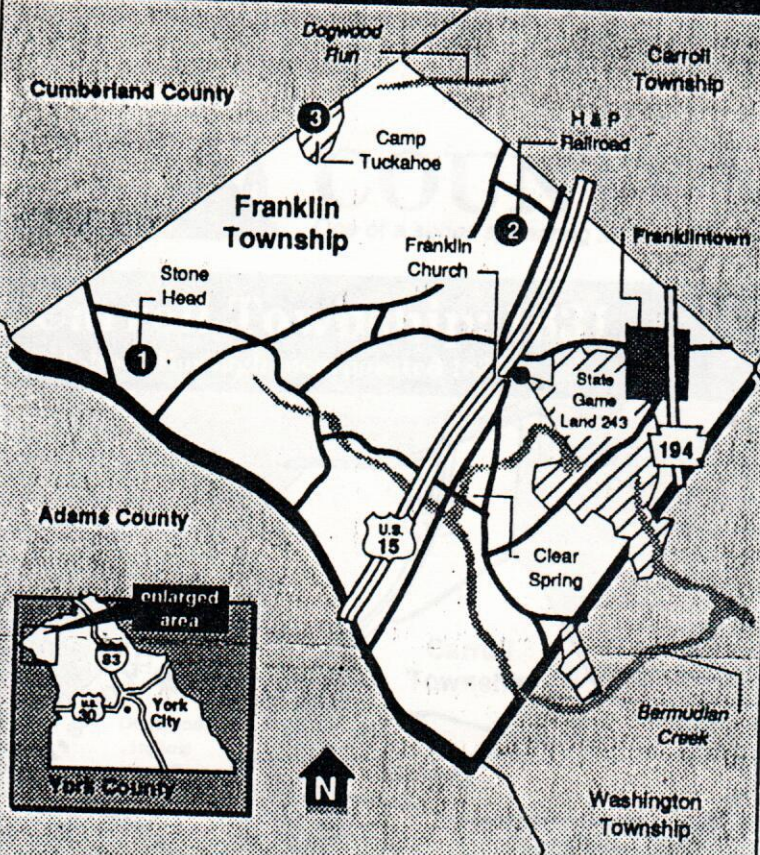
One of a series appearing Mondays in The York Dispatch

By Paul Christina

JUN 24 1991

Franklin Township: 1809

Franklintown Borough incorporated 1869



Franklin Township was divided from Monaghan Township by York County Court and originally included western Carroll Township.

Todd Stouch/Staff artist

1. South Mountain (Stone Head)

Rising above the northern border of Franklin Township, South Mountain is the northern tip of the Blue Ridge, which stretches south through Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Tennessee. Stone Head, at 1,440 feet above sea level, is the highest point in York County.

Indian raids

With the outbreak of the French and Indian War in 1754, frontier settlers faced the threat of violence as England and France fought over Colonial and Indian territories. In the late summer of 1756, fear of Indian raids prompted many northern York County farmers to flee the area, leaving the year's harvest to rot in the fields. In April 1758, six Shawnee Indians and four French soldiers attacked the farm of Thomas Jemison at the head of Marsh Creek (now part of Adams County), killing and scalping 10 members of the Jemison family and farmhands, but sparing 14-year old Mary Jemison and farmhand Will Mann, who were taken captive and subsequently adopted by the Indians. In 1780, five families living on South Mountain were driven from their land by Indians and were not taxed that year.

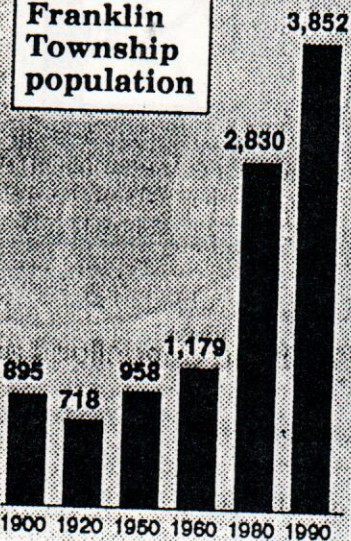
2. The Harrisburg and Potomac Railroad

Abandoned in 1875, the Harrisburg and Potomac Railroad was planned to run from Dillsburg to York Springs through Franklin Township. Remains of the unfinished railroad can be seen south of Twin Hill and Rocky Ridge roads.

3. Camp Tuckahoe

Established in 1947 by the York-Adams Area Boy Scout Council, 540-acre Camp Tuckahoe straddles the York-Cumberland county line in the Dogwood Hollow Valley.

Franklin Township population



First families

The first settlers in Franklin township were Scotch-Irish pioneers who crossed the Susquehanna at Harris Ferry, following the Yellow Breeches Creek, Stony Run, and Dogwood Run west to the slopes of South Mountain. Later, German settlers came from the York area by way of the Conewago Trail (Route 74), beginning in about 1760.



Franklin Church, dedicated 1848.

Photo by Paul Christina



COUNTY NOTEBOOK

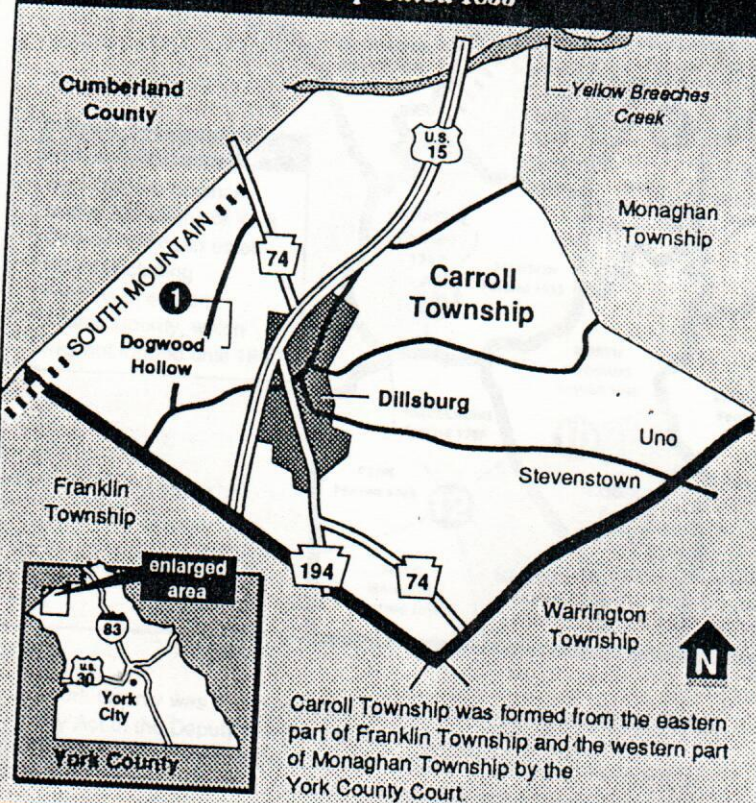
One of a series appearing Mondays in *The York Dispatch*

By Paul Chrastina

JUL 22 1991

Carroll Township: 1831

Dillsburg Borough incorporated 1833



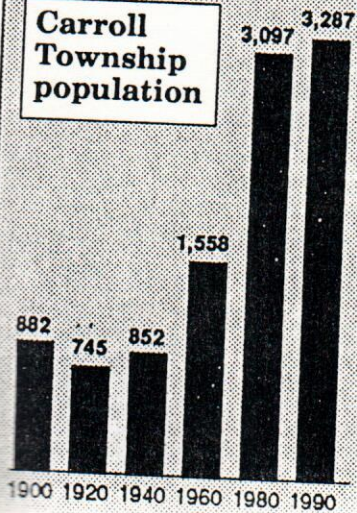
1. Dillsburg iron mines (Dogwood Hollow)

Iron ore was first discovered in Carroll Township in 1847 on a farm east of Dillsburg. Approximately 20 iron mines were operated across northern York County in the late 1800s. Between 1874 and 1886, more than 120,000 tons of magnetic iron ore were mined in Carroll Township. Limonite (brown iron ore) and white clay used in the manufacture of paper, brick and cement were mined on the southern slopes of South Mountain. Today the clay and iron pits, as well as the ruins of an early miners' village, can be found along the steep southern slopes of Dogwood Hollow.

Confederate invasion

On June 28, 1863, the town of Dillsburg was filled with refugees fleeing Confederate Gen. Richard Ewell's forces, which had captured Carlisle the day before. A brigade of cavalry commanded by a Col. Jenkins cautiously rode into town that morning, having been deceived into thinking that the Union Army was camped on the slopes of South Mountain. While the Confederate scouts searched the area, Dillsburg residents quickly buried their money and valuables, hid their horses, and anxiously waited for Ewell's forces to arrive. Col. Jenkins' brigade camped south of Dillsburg until June 30, then rejoined Ewell's corps, which marched south to Gettysburg. The following day, as the battle of Gettysburg was just beginning, 5,600 Confederate soldiers under the command of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart rode into Dillsburg from the south, looking for Ewell's troops. Stuart's lost cavalry and wagon train proceeded north to Carlisle before receiving word that the battle had been joined at Gettysburg, delaying his arrival there until the evening of July 2.

Carroll Township population



First families

Carroll Township was first settled by Scotch-Irish pioneers from the Cumberland Valley, including Matthew Dill, who had emigrated from Monaghan, Ireland, in 1740. Dillsburg was laid out in 1800 and became a prominent stopping point on the road from Harrisburg to Baltimore, now Route 194. Another influential Scotch-Irish immigrant, Daniel Bailey, settled in Dillsburg in about 1760.

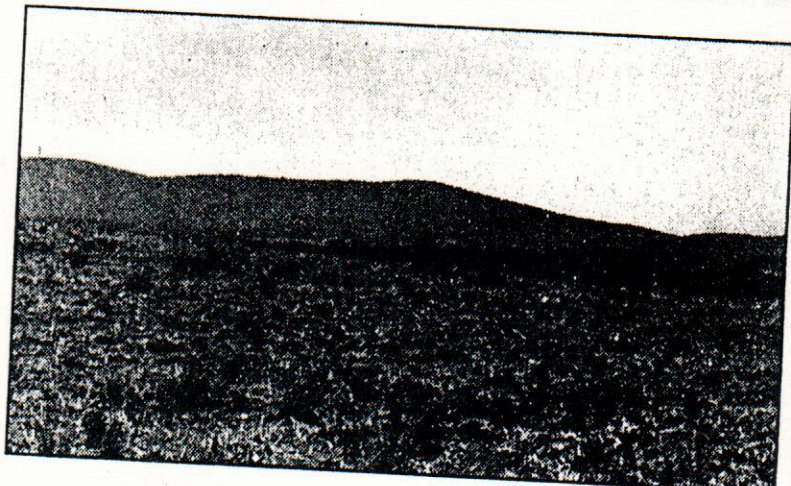


Photo by Paul Chrastina

The original township boundaries

Townships in gray indicate the first township formed as the result of subdivision of the original township.

Different township lines

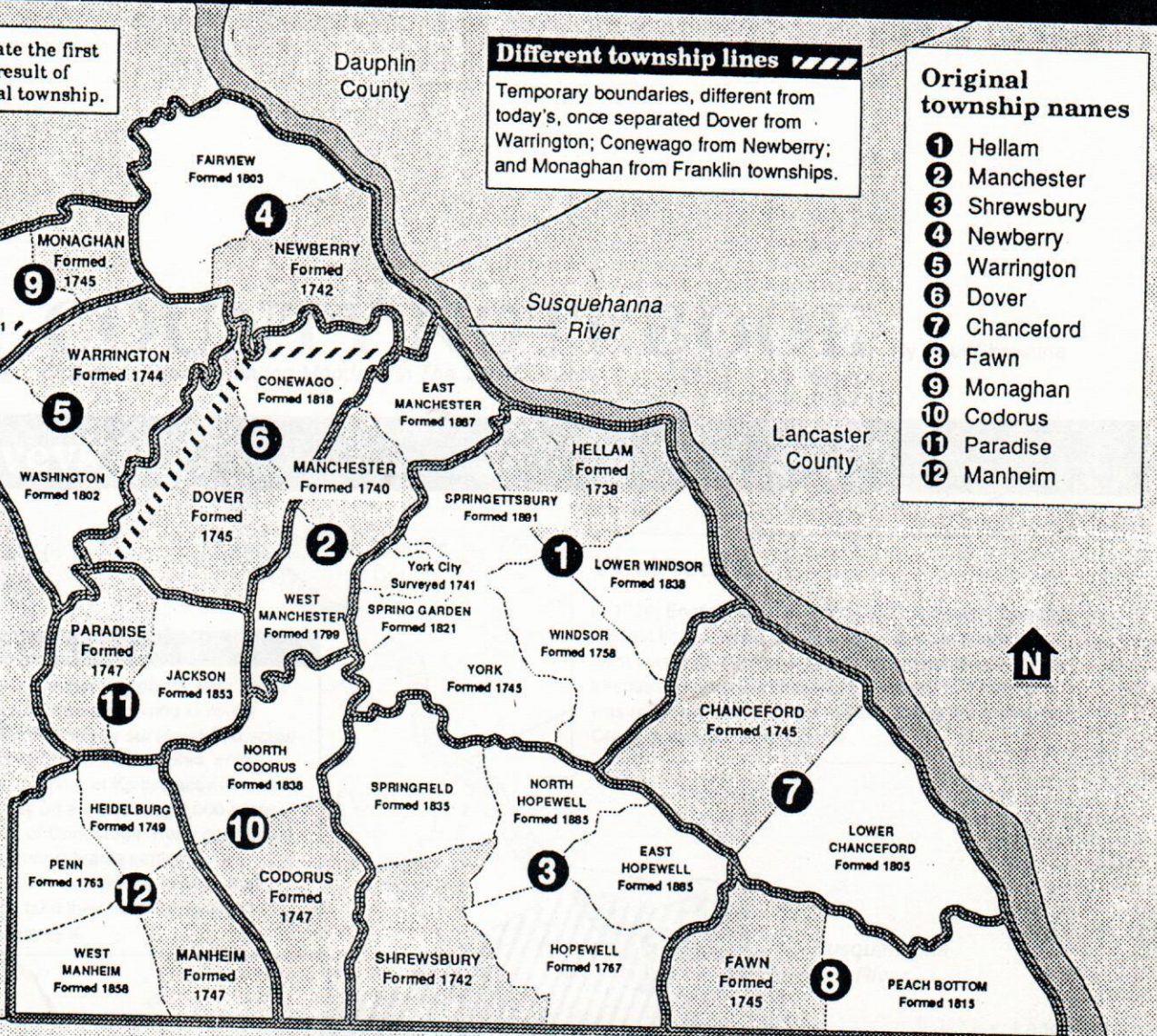
Temporary boundaries, different from today's, once separated Dover from Warrington; Conewago from Newberry; and Monaghan from Franklin townships.

Original township names

- 1 Hellam
- 2 Manchester
- 3 Shrewsbury
- 4 Newberry
- 5 Warrington
- 6 Dover
- 7 Chanceford
- 8 Fawn
- 9 Monaghan
- 10 Codorus
- 11 Paradise
- 12 Manheim

Twelve townships

By 1750, the original twelve townships of York County had been established, including portions of eastern Adams County, which was not formed until 1800.

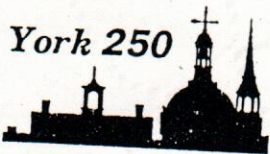


MARYLAND

Mason-Dixon Line

The Mason-Dixon Line was surveyed between May 19, and August 3, 1765, at latitude 39° 43' 18".

York County was separated from Lancaster County on August 19, 1749, by Act of the Deputy Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania. Hellam Township was the Lancaster County township from which later York County townships developed, expanded and were divided.



COUNTY NOTEBOOK

One of a series appearing Mondays in The York Dispatch

By Paul Christina

OCT 21 1991

Early surveys

1 Keith's Mine Tract

Attracted by rumors of rich mineral deposits west of the Susquehanna, Pennsylvania's enterprising Colonial governor, Sir William Keith, secretly surveyed 500 acres near Accomac in March 1722. In Philadelphia, commissioners of property, learning of Keith's activities, sent their own surveyors to lay off an adjoining 2,000 acres. That June, at the Treaty of Conestoga, Keith persuaded local Indians to permit Pennsylvania settlement of unpurchased territory. Keith warned the Indians that Maryland settlers would take their land if they didn't allow Pennsylvania to survey it.

First settler

In 1720, English squatter John Grist (or Kreutz) became the first known white settler west of the Susquehanna. Grist was arrested and taken to Philadelphia in 1722 for trespassing on unpurchased Indian land. In 1738, he was released and returned to settle along the Bermudian Creek in western York County.

Adams County

Present day township lines

York County

MARYLAND

Lancaster County

Susquehanna River



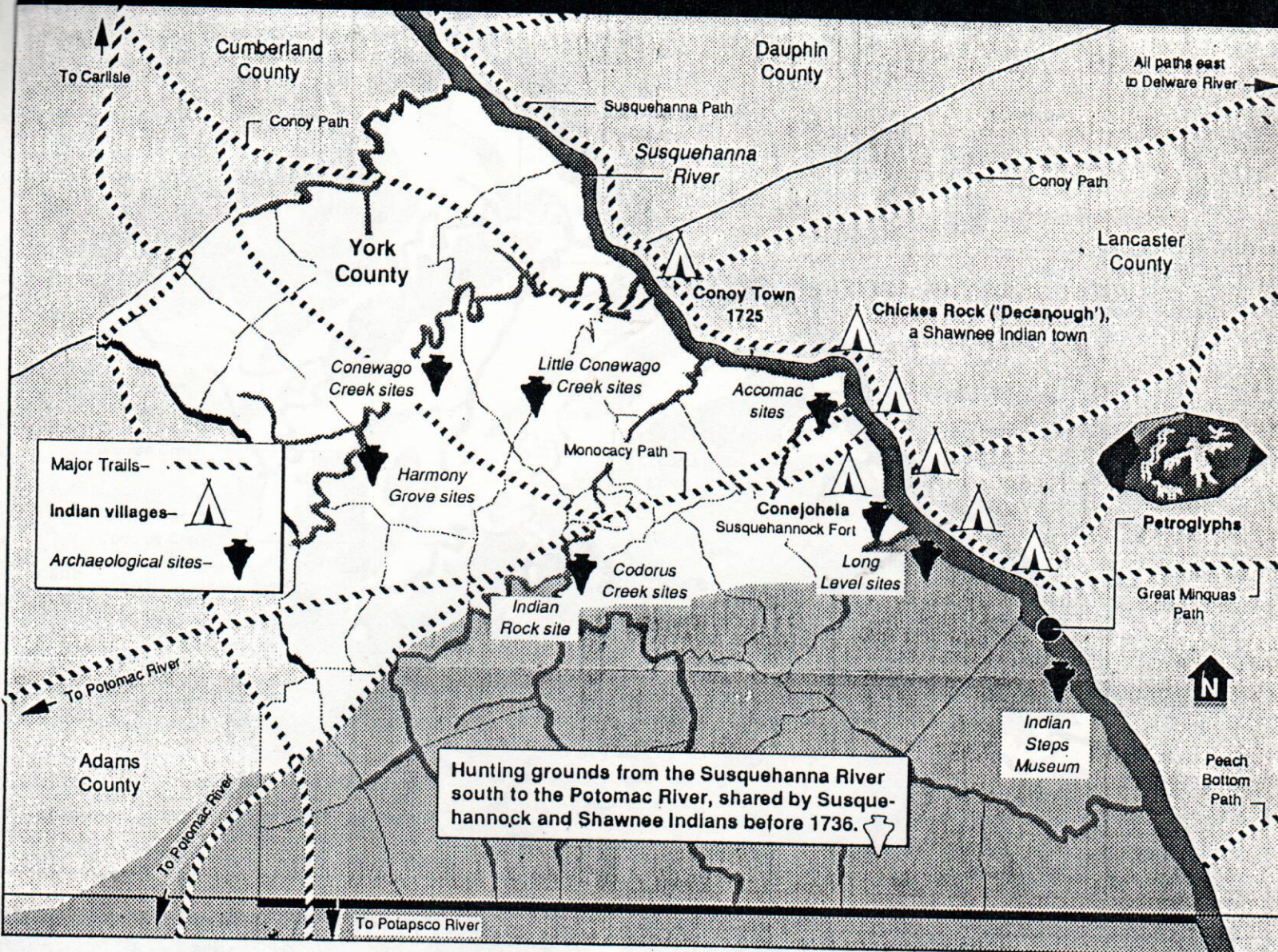
2 Original Springettsbury Manor

The boundaries of the original Springettsbury Manor were surveyed immediately after the Indian treaty, encompassing about 70,000 acres in what are now Hellam, Windsor, Lower Windsor, Chanceford, York, and Manchester townships. One of many manors reserved by the Penn family, Springettsbury was surveyed "in the name of and for the use of Springett Penn," a grandson of William Penn, by Keith. The original survey was never recorded at the Colonial Land Office in Philadelphia.

3 Springettsbury Manor resurveyed

In 1734, Samuel Blunston of Lancaster was given permission to issue licenses for land west of the river, reserving property for settlers as soon as that land was purchased from the Indians. In 1736, Iroquois Indians in New York state officially sold all land west of the Susquehanna to the heirs of William Penn. Springettsbury Manor was resurveyed and relocated in 1768 to contain the growing town of York and areas as far west as Jackson Township.

Indian country



Todd Stouch/Staff arts

The Susquehanna ('River of Islands')

The current river level is the result of the flooding of the reservoirs created by the Safe Harbor, Holtwood, and Conowingo hydroelectric dams. Originally, the Susquehanna was composed of stretches of rapids and waterfalls. The original wild and scenic aspect of the river can be seen today only in the areas just below the dams.

Indian Steps Museum

Indian Steps Museum, along the river off Route 425, houses the largest collection of York County Indian artifacts, as well as other Indian relics and displays. The original "Indian Steps," footholds carved in rock, are now underwater.

Shenk's Ferry People

Pre-Susquehannock Indian rock carvings, or petroglyphs, occur in the Lower Susquehanna gorge. From 1200 to 1575, this area was home to an Indian group known as the Shenk's Ferry People, who were defeated by and intermarried with the Susquehannocks.

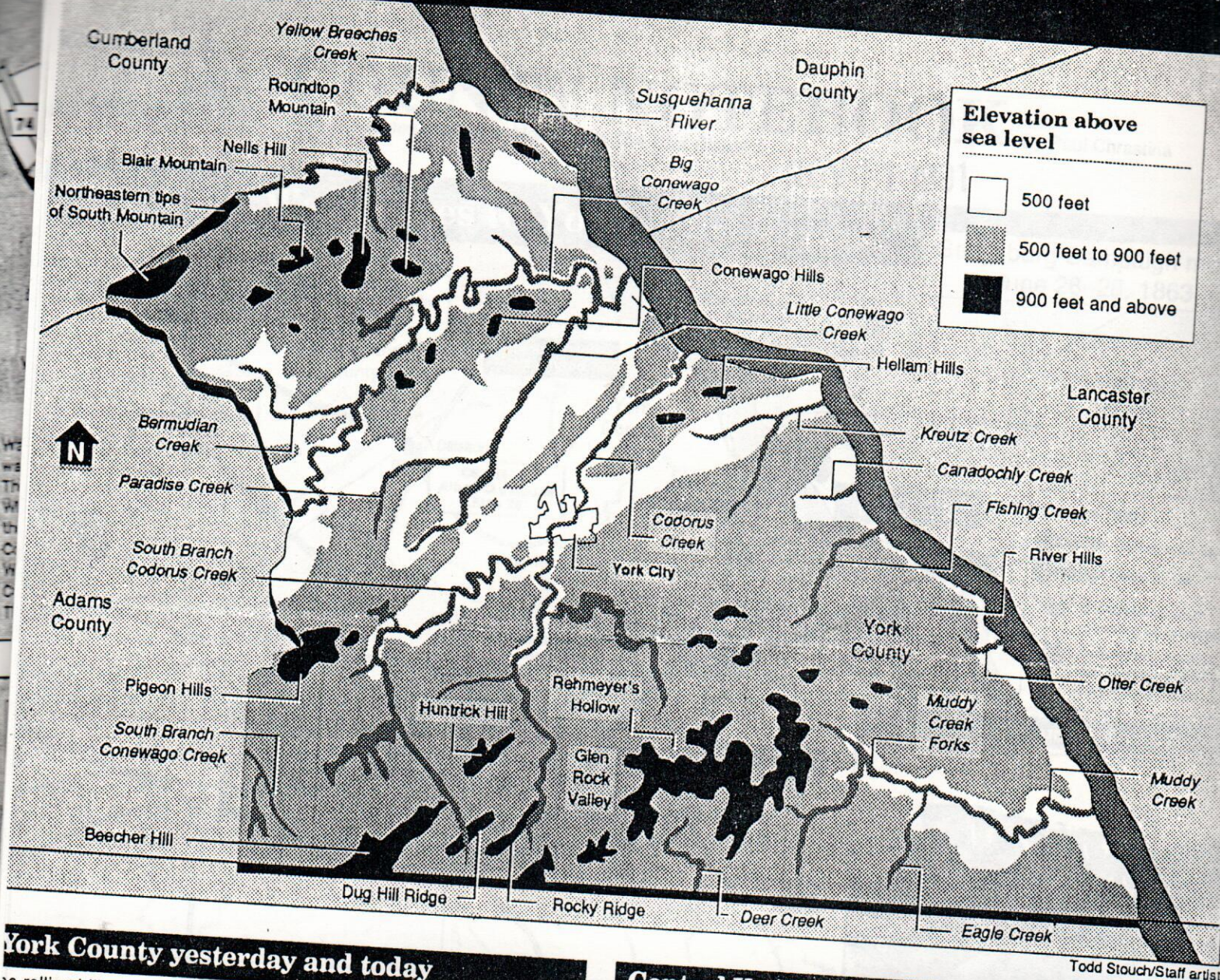
Susquehannock Indians

The Susquehannock, or Conestoga, Indians, of Iroquois stock, controlled the shallow, rocky river for hundreds of years before the arrival of the first Europeans. In 1616, French interpreter Etienne Brule became the first white man to travel down the Susquehanna River, escorted by Susquehannock braves who later killed him. Stockaded towns of the Susquehannocks near East Prospect, Lower Windsor Township, were destroyed in 1675 by the empire-building Five Nation Iroquois tribes from New York, ending a 20-year war. Most of the Susquehannocks fled south to Maryland and Virginia, where their presence sparked the Indian War of 1675. Territory west of the Susquehanna and north of the Susquehannock fort was claimed by the French...

The last of the Susquehannocks

In 1763, the last of the remaining Susquehannocks were massacred by a band of frontiersmen called the "Paxton Boys" in the Lancaster jailyard, where they had fled for protection after news of brutal Indian retaliations in northern and western Pennsylvania was reported.

The lay of the land



York County yesterday and today

The rolling hills and fertile valleys of York County have been sculpted by billowing rain and flowing water over the course of the past 200 million years. Natural features such as streams and ridges formed convenient boundaries for early settlers, dividing the county into three broad areas that were settled by diverse European ethnic groups beginning about 1730. As well as serving as political boundaries, many streams provided fresh water, fish, and power for mills that operated into the 20th century.

Northern York County

The steep, wooded hills of northern York County were first settled by English Quaker pioneers from Lancaster and Chester counties, who crossed the Susquehanna River about 1734, cleared small tracts of land, and sent for their families to join them. Later, German families from central York County moved north into areas first settled by Quakers. Highest points above sea level include South Mountain, 1,440 feet; Roundtop Mountain, 1,355 feet; Nell's Hill, 1,330 feet; and Blair Mountain, 1,135 feet. Major streams include Yellow Breeches Creek, Bermudian Creek, Big Conewago Creek and Little Conewago Creek.

Central York County

The fertile limestone valleys of central York County were first settled by English and German farmers and craftsmen who concentrated around the future sites of York and Hanover beginning about 1728. Highest points above sea level include Pigeon Hills, 1,183 feet; Hellam Hills, 1,017 feet. Major streams include Codorus Creek, Little Conewago Creek, Kreutz Creek and Canadochly Creek.

Southern York County

The earliest settlers in the narrow, intricate valleys and uplands of southeastern York County were Scotch-Irish hunters, fur-traders and farmers who moved north from Maryland into borderland claimed by both Pennsylvania and Maryland about 1730. Highest points above sea level include Beecher Hill, 1,087 feet; Huntrick Hill, 1,028 feet; Dug Hill Ridge, 1,019 feet; Rocky Ridge, 1,015 feet; and the River Hills, 700 feet to 900 feet. Major streams include the East Branch Codorus Creek, South Branch Codorus Creek, West Branch Codorus Creek, South Branch Conewago Creek, Muddy Creek, South Branch Muddy Creek, Deer Creek, Fishing Creek and Cabin Creek.



COUNTY NOTEBOOK

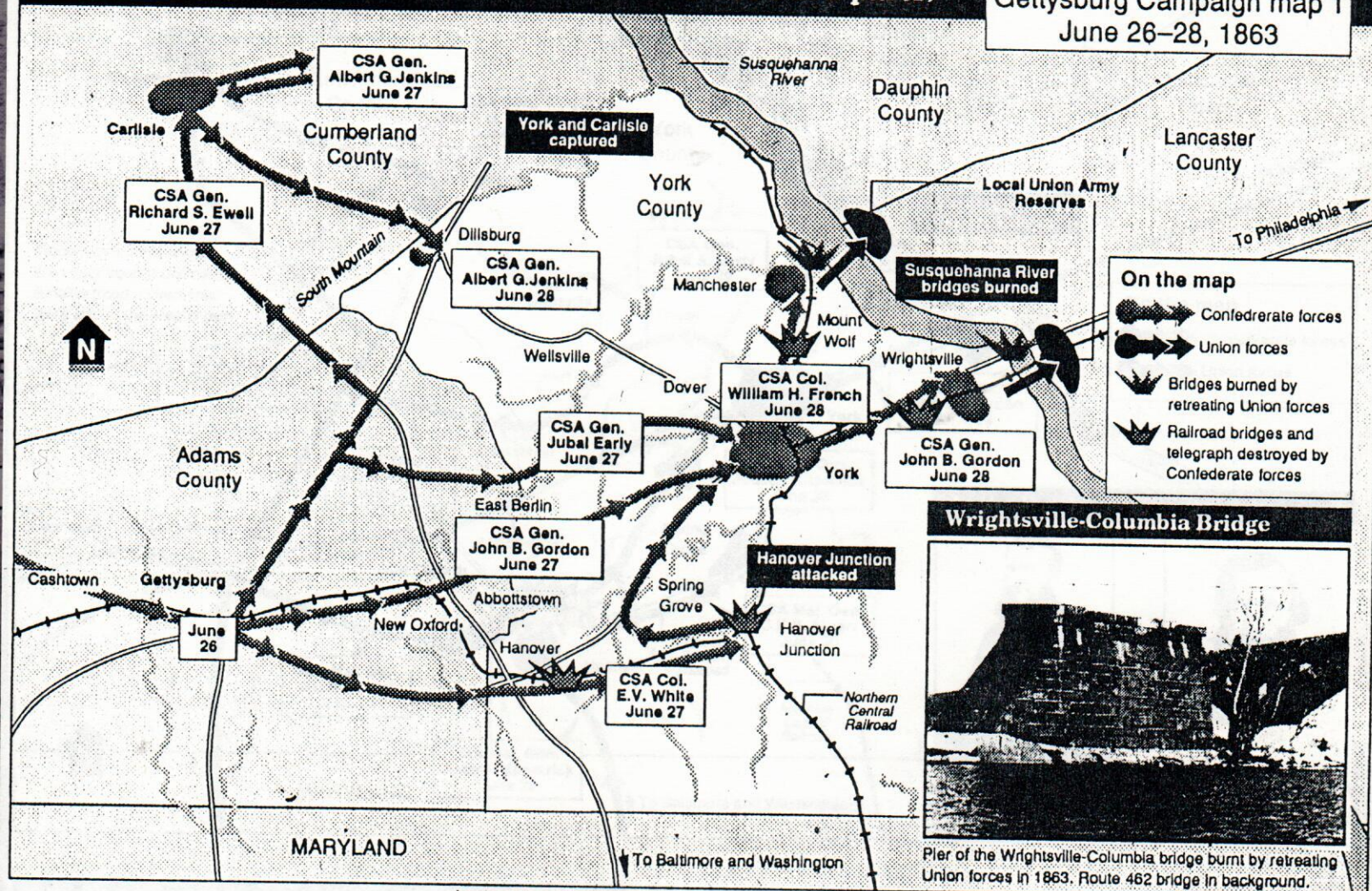
One of a series appearing Mondays in The York Dispatch

By Paul Christina

NOV 11 1991

The Civil War comes to York (Part 1 of 3 parts)

Gettysburg Campaign map 1
June 26-28, 1863



Gen. Robert E. Lee heads north

On June 15, 1863, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee advanced his troops north of the Mason-Dixon Line, planning to capture the strategic city of Harrisburg and from there to threaten Baltimore, Washington, and Philadelphia. Fresh from victories over the Union Army at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, Lee intended to finish off the Army of the Potomac, then concentrated west of Washington, in Pennsylvania.

Confederate troops invade York

Arriving in Gettysburg on June 26, the Confederate Army moved north and east. Confederate General Richard S. Ewell captured Carlisle, while General Jubal A. Early led forces to surround and capture the city of York. A squad of Early's cavalry, led by Lt. Col. E.V. White, destroyed bridges of the Northern Central railroad and cut telegraph lines between Harrisburg and Washington at Hanover Junction on the 27th, while Early

and Gen. John B. Gordon bivouacked in the countryside near Big Mount and Farmers, 10 miles west of York. On June 28, Confederate troops entered and occupied York, meeting no resistance. Confederate soldiers under Gordon continued east as far as Wrightsville, where retreating Union militia burned the covered wooden bridge linking York with Lancaster and Philadelphia. Confederate cavalry also occupied Manchester and Mount Wolf, north of York, burning railroad bridges across the Conewago Creek and cutting telegraph lines there. Simultaneously, the cavalry of Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart succeeded in cutting telegraph lines between the Army of the Potomac and the city of Washington near Sykesville, Maryland, as well as capturing 125 supply wagons from the Union Army. Stuart headed north, intending to deliver these supply wagons to Early at York. With vital telegraph lines cut, Union Gen. George G. Meade sent two cavalry divisions, led by Gens. Maxey Gregg and Jedson Kilpatrick, north to pursue Stuart into southern York County. (Part 2 next Monday)

Todd Stouch/Staff artist

COUNTY NOTEBOOK

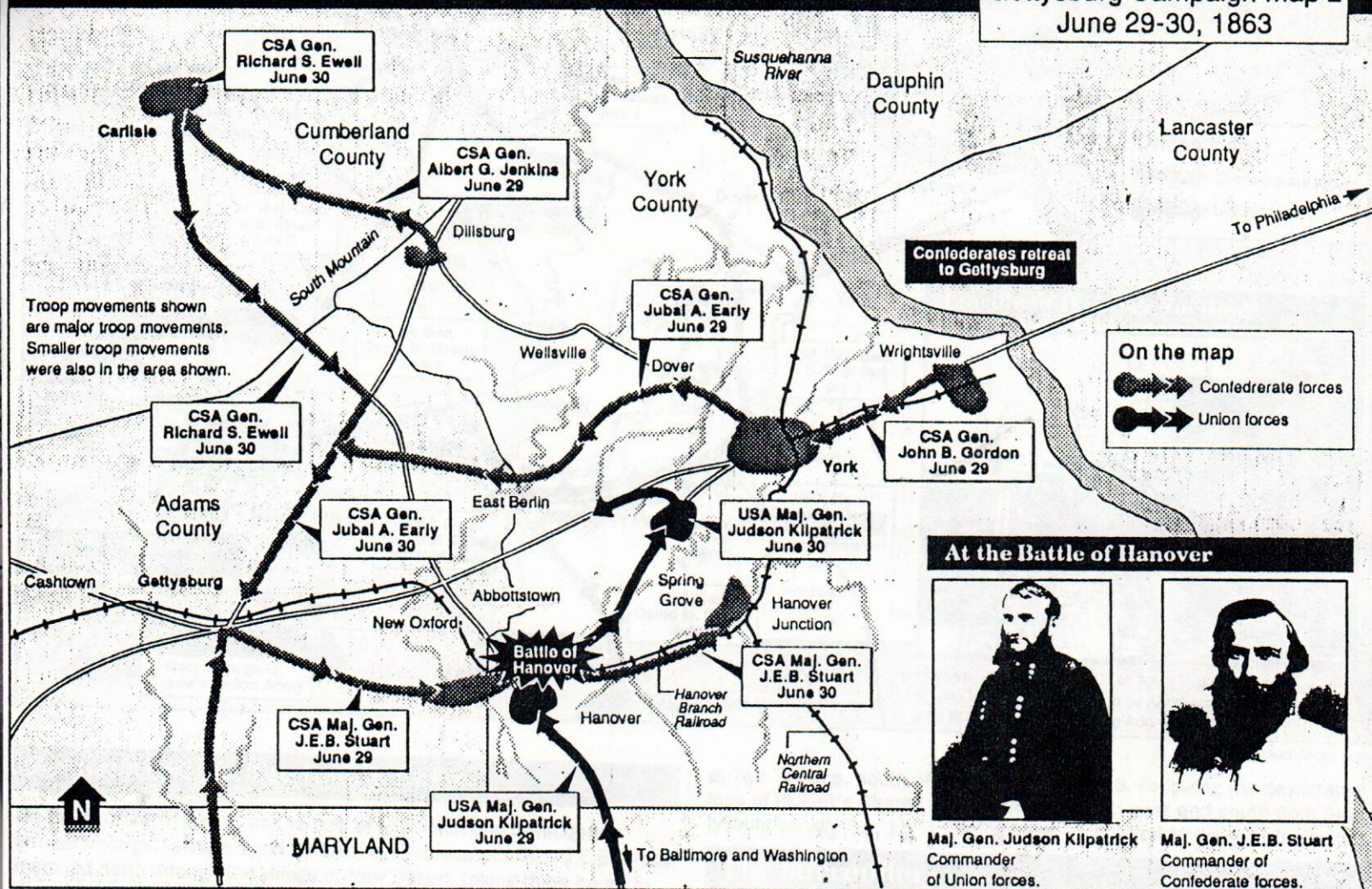
One of a series appearing Mondays in The York Dispatch

NOV 18 1991

By Paul Chrastina

The Civil War comes to York (Part 2 of 3 parts)

Gettysburg Campaign map 2
June 29-30, 1863



Should we burn York?

On the evening of June 29, while deciding whether to set fire to York's rail yards, occupying Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early received a message from Lee recalling him to Gettysburg. After deciding not to destroy the town, Early's forces pulled out of York quickly, followed by Gen. John B. Gordon's troops, who had occupied Wrightsville, both retracing their paths to rejoin Gen. Richard S. Ewell at Gettysburg.

Battle of Hanover

Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry and captured wagon train headed north from Westminster, Md., toward Hanover, where it encountered and attacked the rear guard of Union Maj. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry. The Battle of Hanover became a standoff between Stuart and Union forces led by Kilpatrick, Gen. Elon J. Farnsworth and Gen. George

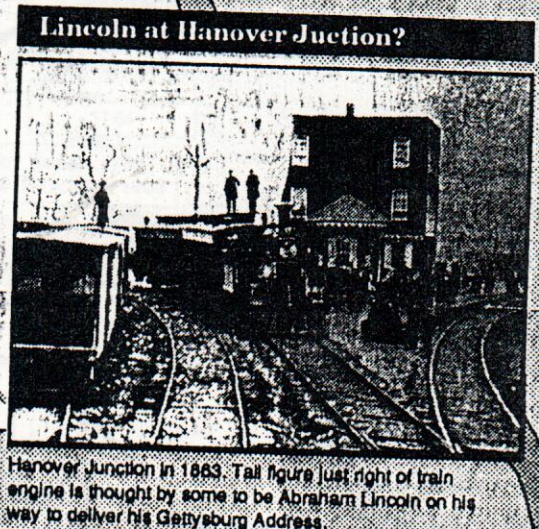
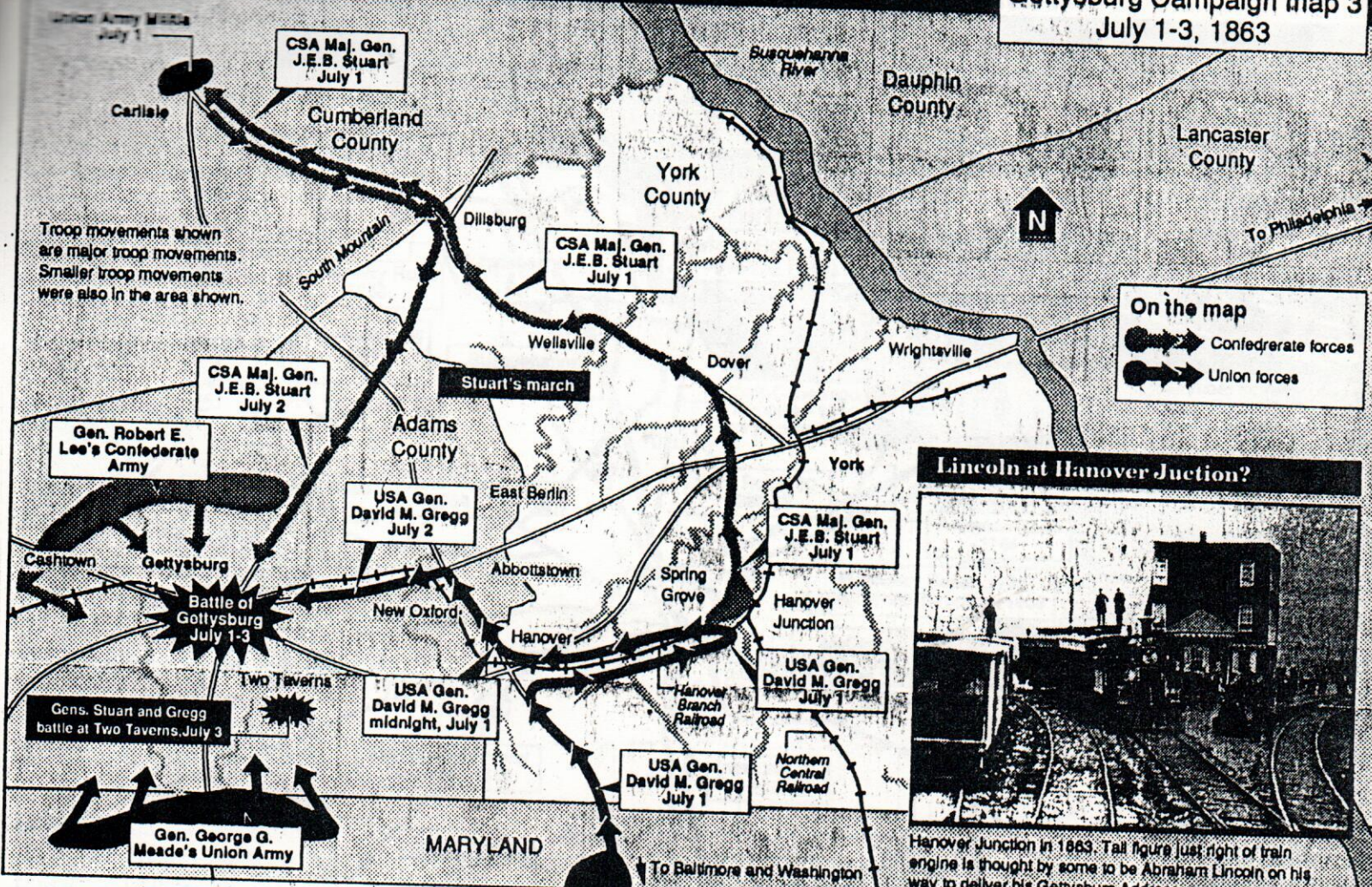
A. Custer. The roar of cannon at Hanover was heard by Gen. Early, who was by then headed west through Davidsburg from York. Stuart, still thinking that Early might be in York, retreated east from Hanover, while Kilpatrick moved north after the battle. Kilpatrick's men camped near

Stuart's entourage

In addition to 6,000 of his own soldiers and the 125 captured supply wagons, Stuart had taken 400 prisoners from the Union Army in Maryland. "Our wagon train was now a subject of serious embarrassment ... in an enemy's country, very near a hostile army," Stuart wrote on the afternoon of June 30. Pressured by Union troops to the west and south and low on ammunition, Stuart's entourage continued east, marching through North Codorus Township on the night of June 30, hoping to join Early at York. (Part 3 next Monday)

The Civil War comes to York (Part 3 of 3 parts)

Gettysburg Campaign map 3
July 1-3, 1863



Todd Stouch/Staff artist

Stuart's entourage heads north

On the morning of July 1, as the bulk of the Union and Confederate armies were gathering around Gettysburg, Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart marched north through the village of New Salem, taking three hours to pass through the square. When Stuart's troops reached the York-Hanover Road, they were told that Confederate Gen. Jubal Early's infantry had left York and was headed for Gettysburg. Stuart, who believed that the Confederate Army was concentrating near Shippensburg, proceeded north through Dover, where he released 400 Union prisoners. In Rossville, a squad of Union scouts skirmished with Stuart's rear guard, while his main force passed north through Wellsville and Dillsburg to Carlisle, unaware of the beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg only twenty miles away.

Urgent orders from General Lee

On the afternoon of July 1, Early's cavalry succeeded in driving the Union Army back to a defensive position on Cemetery Hill. Stuart found Carlisle guarded by Union militia, and was about to attack the town when a messenger brought urgent orders from Lee to move at once for Gettysburg. Stuart's cavalry arrived at the battle on the afternoon of July 2. Meanwhile, Union Gen. David M. Gregg, who was in position to guard Baltimore, had moved west from Hanover and defeated Stuart's cavalry

at Two Taverns, south of Gettysburg, on July 3. Following the devastating loss of Pickett's Charge, Lee's army retreated west and south from Gettysburg on July 4-5, 1863, having failed in its effort to conquer the north.

The surrender

The following November, President Abraham Lincoln travelled to Gettysburg through Hanover Junction and Hanover on the reconstructed Northern Central railroad to deliver the Gettysburg Address. The Civil War ended in April 1865 with the surrender of the Confederate Army at Appomattox and Greensboro.

Flags carried through York



The Flag of 1861
Used during the Civil War, this flag had stars for thirty-four states, including the South.



The Confederate Battle Flag
Used for battle, this flag had stars for eleven states and for secession governments in Kentucky and Missouri.

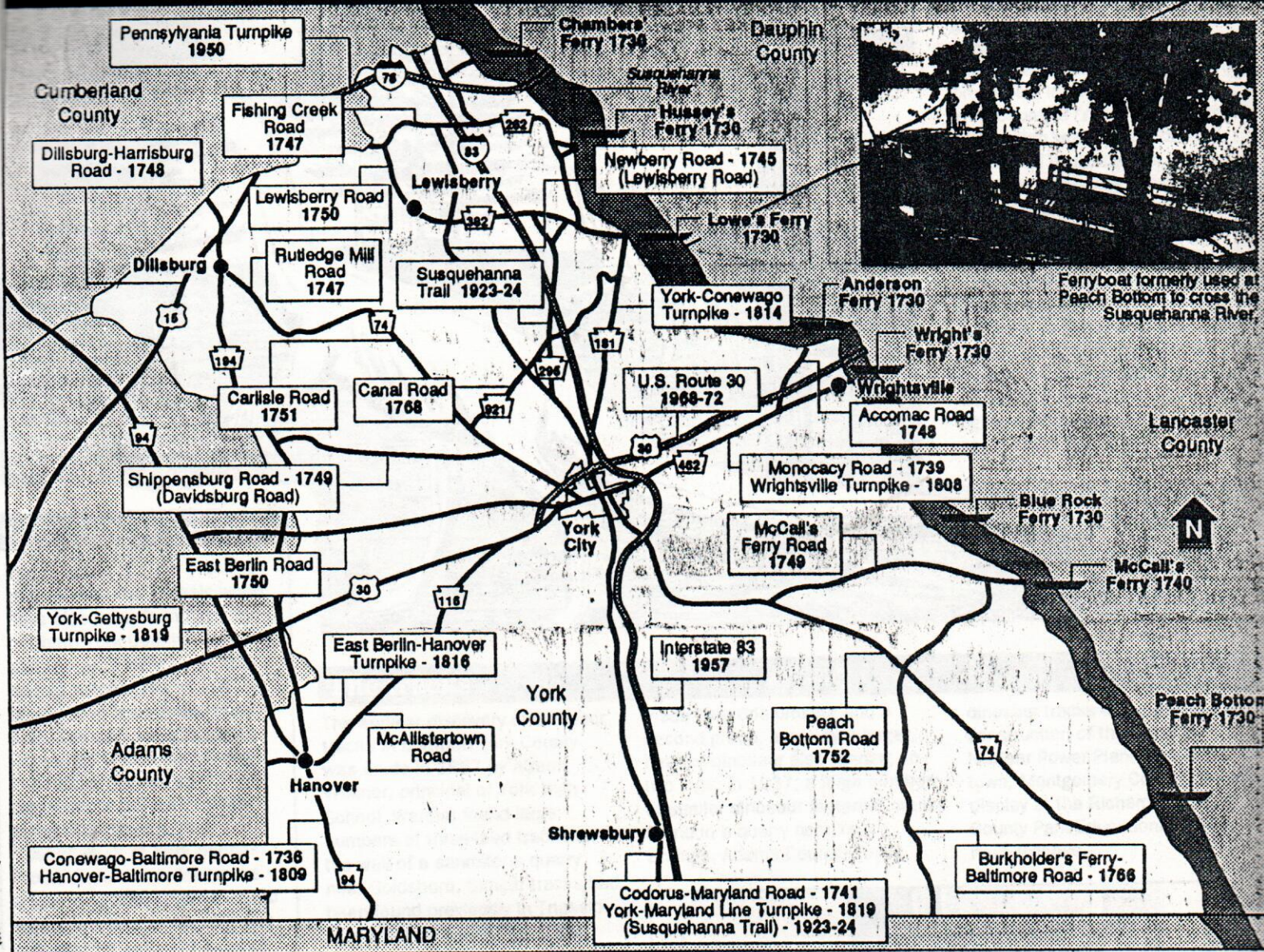
Source: World Book Encyclopedia

COUNTY NOTEBOOK

By Paul Chrastina

One of a series appearing Mondays in The York Dispatch DEC 2 1991

Early Roads and ferries



Ferryboat formerly used at Peach Bottom to cross the Susquehanna River.



Todd Stouch/Staff

Highway and byways

The earliest roads west of the Susquehanna River followed the courses of existing Indian trails and river crossings. Early settlers traveled by horseback and "shank's mare" (on foot), and farmers took their goods to market loaded on teams of pack horses. As better roads were established, wagons were built and stagecoaches used to carry goods and passengers between York, Baltimore, Carlisle and Lancaster. By the early 1800s, the need for more extensive and improved roads led to the formation of private turnpike companies that undertook paying with crushed stone, grading, and widening of existing routes, charging tolls every few miles. The invention of macadam and other paving materials made it possible for permanent roads to be established, leading to the road system we use today.

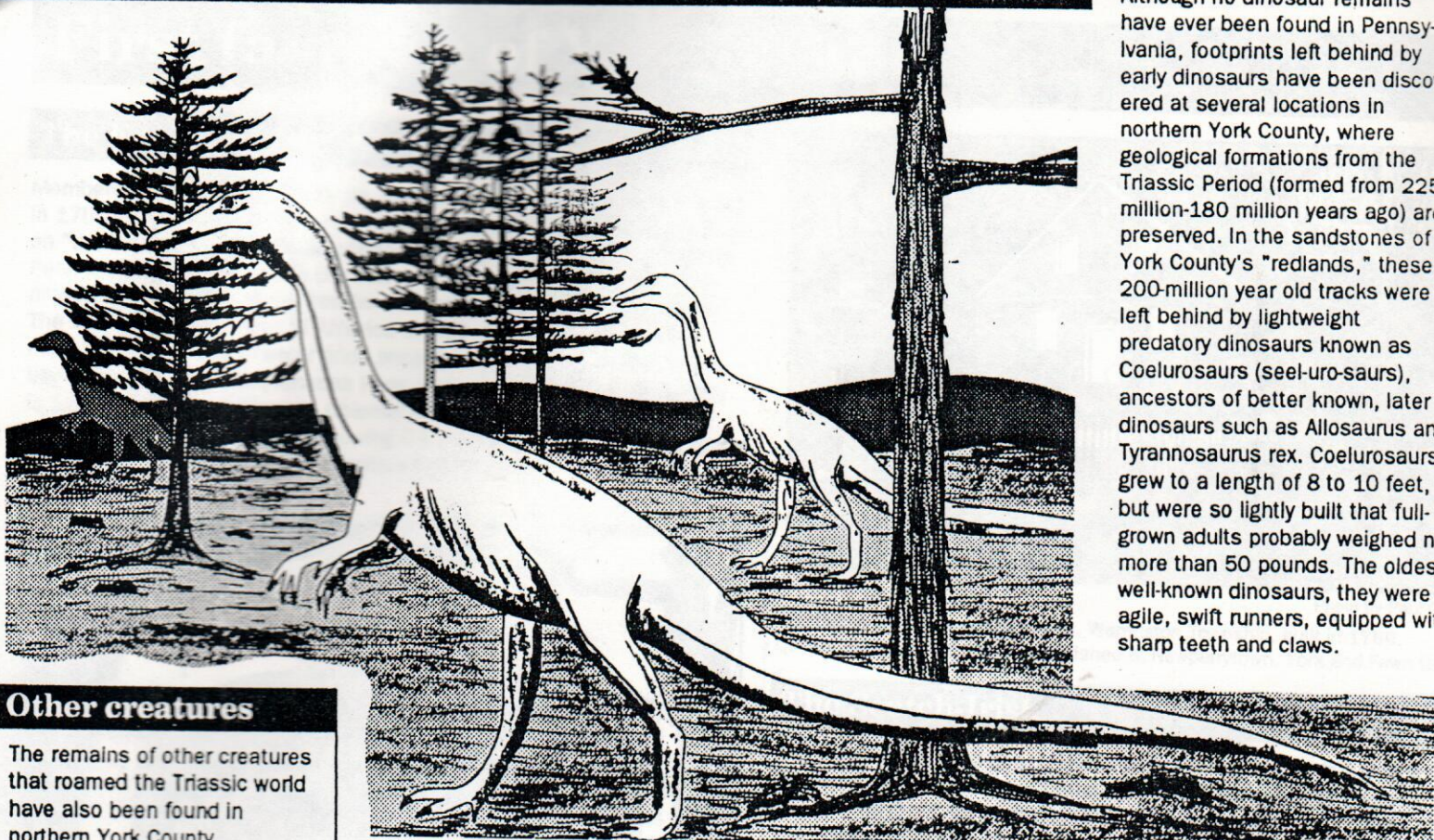


Photos courtesy of Pennsylvania Geological Survey
 Bridge, built of triassic sandstone, over Conewago Creek on Route 74. A bridge constructed of concrete replaced the sandstone structure many years ago.

When dinosaurs ruled York County

Early dinosaurs

Although no dinosaur remains have ever been found in Pennsylvania, footprints left behind by early dinosaurs have been discovered at several locations in northern York County, where geological formations from the Triassic Period (formed from 225 million-180 million years ago) are preserved. In the sandstones of York County's "redlands," these 200-million year old tracks were left behind by lightweight predatory dinosaurs known as Coelurosaurs (see-luro-saurs), ancestors of better known, later dinosaurs such as Allosaurus and Tyrannosaurus rex. Coelurosaurs grew to a length of 8 to 10 feet, but were so lightly built that full-grown adults probably weighed no more than 50 pounds. The oldest well-known dinosaurs, they were agile, swift runners, equipped with sharp teeth and claws.



Todd Stouch/Staff artist

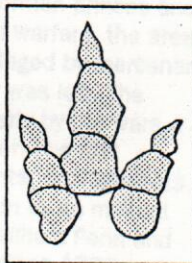
Other creatures

The remains of other creatures that roamed the Triassic world have also been found in northern York County.

Metoposaurs were large, flat-bodied amphibians whose bones have been found near Zion View and along the Big Conewago Creek. Large, dog-like reptiles known as dicynodonts left their tracks along-side those of the Coelurosaurs at York Springs. Probably the most dangerous creatures of the Triassic Period were phytosaurs, crocodile-like reptiles that lurked in swamps and lakes and that reached lengths of 15-30 feet. Phytosaur teeth and bony scales have been collected from several locations near Dover and Emigsville. Pieces of petrified wood from Triassic forests have been found along the Little Conewago Creek near Manchester.

The tracks

The earliest discovery of dinosaur tracks in northern York County was made in 1887 by Atreus Wanner, principal of York High School. Wanner found large numbers of three-toed tracks on the wall of a sandstone quarry near Goldsboro. Similar tracks had been found previously in Triassic-age rocks in Connecticut, New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. The Goldsboro tracks, which may have been made by a herd of migrating Coelurosaurs, are now in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. The next discoveries of dinosaur tracks in the Triassic sandstone were made in 1923 and again in 1932 along Fishing Creek near Yocumtown. Two types of tracks were found, the first set



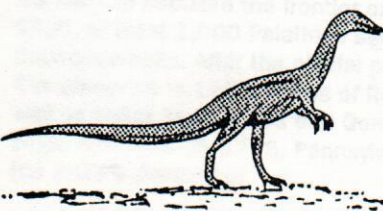
made by a Coelurosaur and a second group, made by a larger, heavier dinosaur also running on two legs. In 1937, a large number of similar dinosaur footprints were found in a quarry near York Springs, Adams County. Fossil

dinosaur tracks found during the construction of the Limerick Nuclear Power Plant near Pottstown, Montgomery County, are on display at the Richard M. Nixon County Park Educational Center near Jacobus.



Photo courtesy Pa. Geological Survey

Dinosaur tracks found in a quarry near York Springs, Adams Co.



DEC 30 1991

First families of York County

The English Quakers

Members of the Society of Friends, known as Quakers, were persecuted in 17th-century England for their independent, egalitarian faith, focused on "the inner light" of spiritual conscience and morality. Quaker William Penn received official title to the colony of Pennsylvania in 1681, and promoted settlement of the frontier as a haven for people of all faiths. The first Quakers to come to America settled near New Castle, Del., moving from there to Chester and Lancaster Counties. Quaker families began to cross the Susquehanna River and settle northern York County in 1734. Though numerous in Colonial times, many Quakers migrated south and west immediately following the American Revolution and again about 1900, establishing communities in Ohio, Illinois, Virginia, and North Carolina.



Photo by Paul Chrastina

Gulston Presbyterian Church, Chanceford Township, built in 1773. The builders of Gulston Church were families from Scotland and Ireland who first came to York County between 1734 and 1736.

The Pennsylvania Germans

Between 1685 and 1707, the fertile area of southwest Germany between the Rhine River and the French border was devastated by a series of brutal wars fought between an alliance of German princes and the French "Sun King" Louis XIV. During this period of warfare, the area known as the Palatine was burned, plundered and pillaged by mercenary armies that lived off the land and destroyed whatever was left. The farmers and craftsmen of this region, reduced to poverty by the wars, fled to England and then to the New World to start over. The first Pennsylvania Germans also included French Protestants, or Huguenots, who had left France for Germany to escape persecution by its militant Catholic aristocracy. These refugees were invited by William Penn and his heirs to populate the frontier of Pennsylvania. Between 1733 and 1736, at least 1,000 Palatines settled in the valleys of the Kreutz and Codorus creeks. After the official purchase of Indian territory west of the Susquehanna in 1736, waves of Reformed and Lutheran Palatines, as well as Swiss Mennonites and German Baptists, came to York County to begin new lives. By 1776, Pennsylvania Germans constituted one-third of the state's population.

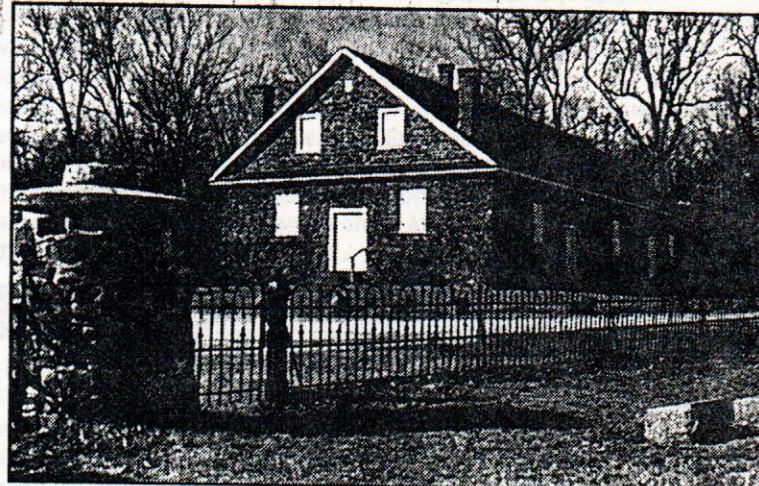


Photo by Paul Chrastina

Warrington Quaker Meeting House, Warrington Township, built in 1789. Quaker meetings were also established at Newberrytown, York and Fawn Grove.

The Scotch-Irish

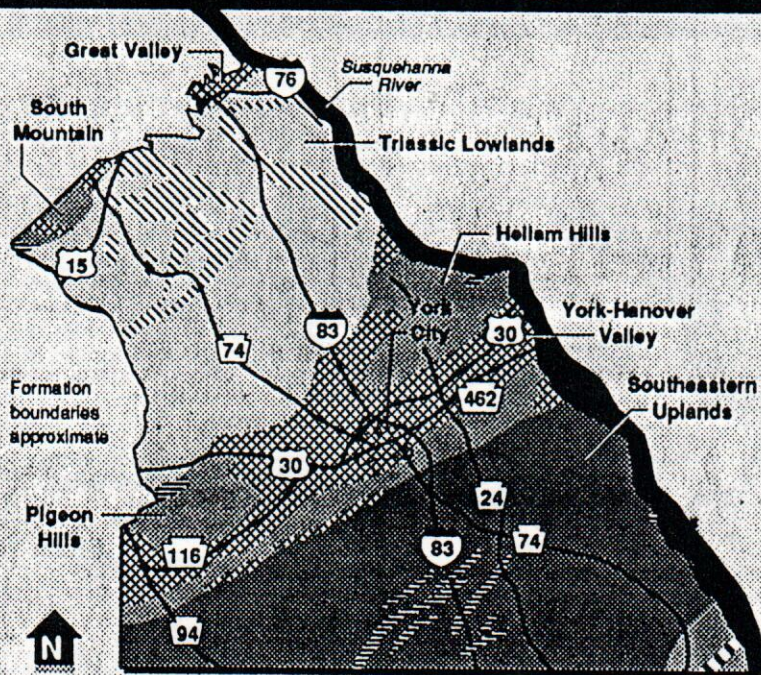
The Scotch-Irish were descendants of English and Scottish families who had lived in northern Ireland after its gradual conquest by England, which lasted from the 14th to the 17th century. Beginning about 1650, the Independent Presbyterian Scotch-Irish began to emigrate to the American frontier, settling first in Maryland and Virginia. Maryland settlers began moving north into southern Pennsylvania in the early 1730s under charters from Lord Baltimore. Other Scotch-Irish pioneers came into northern and western York County from Cumberland County. Fiercely patriotic Scotch-Irish frontiersmen played major roles in the French and Indian War and in the American Revolution. Up and down the Atlantic coast, Scotch-Irish settlers were the first pioneers to cross the rugged barrier of the Appalachian Mountains.



Photo by Paul Chrastina

St. Jacob's "Stone" Church, Codorus Township, 1889. Used by both Reformed and Lutheran congregations, an early log church was built on this site near Brodbeck's in 1761.

York County geology



Except for South Mountain, which is the northern tip of the Blue Ridge, and a small part of the Great Valley along the Dauphin County line, most of York County lies within the Piedmont Province of the Appalachian Mountains.

Map legend (Rock formations)

- Triassic-Jurassic (225-135 million years old)
Diabase and baked shale formations
- Triassic (225-180 million years old)
Conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone and shale formations
- Cambrian- Ordovician (600-430 million years old)
Shale, limestone and dolomite formations
- Cambrian- Ordovician (600-430 million years old)
Conglomerate, quartzite and phyllite formations
- Cambrian- Ordovician (600-430 million years old)
Schist and marble formations
- Cambrian- Ordovician (600-430 million years old)
Slate and conglomerate formations
- Precambrian (800 million years old)
Metabasalt and metarhyolite formations

Source: Pennsylvania Geological Survey

Todd Stouch/Staff artist

Precambrian rocks

Small outcrops of volcanic rocks on South Mountain, the Hellam and Pigeon Hills, and the Southeastern Uplands were formed about 800 million years ago during the violent breakup of an earlier version of the North American continent. These ancient lava flows were subsequently buried beneath thousands of feet of sedimentary rocks during the Cambrian and Ordovician periods of geologic time.

Cambrian and Ordovician rocks

The thick sequences of quartzites, phyllites, shales, dolomites and limestones which lie beneath the York-Hanover Valley were laid down in a warm, shallow tropical sea similar to today's Caribbean between 600 million and 430 million years ago. In the Southeastern Uplands, glittering metamorphic schists and small amounts of slate and marble were originally deposited as mud and ash in deep waters bordering volcanic islands farther out to sea. Between 500 million and 300 million years ago, these reefs, islands and deep water trenches were caught among the colliding North American, European and African continental plates. During the course of these slow, massive continental collisions, the intervening rock formations were compressed, folded, faulted and raised above sea level to form a chain of mountains equal to or higher than today's Alps and Himalayas.

Triassic rocks

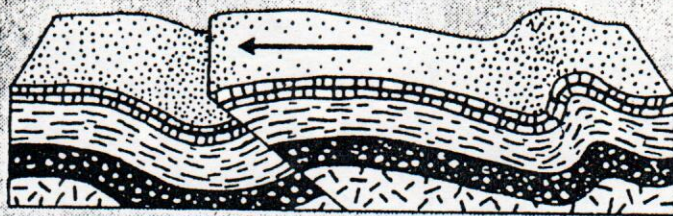
The rock formations of the northern third of York County were created about 200 million years ago, as part of a series of large rift valleys which stretched from modern Canada to South Carolina. The North American and African continents were being pulled apart at this time, as a larger, more active rift valley was opening to form the Atlantic Ocean. The sedimentary rocks of the "redlands" were deposited in lakes and streams which wandered across the floor of the gradually sinking valley. As the rift widened and deepened, molten diabase, an igneous rock, was released from the Earth's mantle to make its way in between layers of sandstone buried deep beneath the valley floor. Eroded layers of these diabase or "trap rock" formations now form Roundtop Mountain and the other high hills north of the Big Conewago Creek.

The Susquehanna

Cutting perpendicularly across the ancient rock formations exposed in York County, the original Susquehanna River may have begun flowing in the opposite direction, draining the high mountains formed by the collision of North America and Africa about 300 million years ago. As these mountains slowly wore away, the Susquehanna would have reversed its course to empty into the early Atlantic Ocean. Beginning about 150,000 years ago, the Susquehanna became an outlet for enormous floods of ice and water produced by melting glaciers of the Ice Age. The old channel of the Susquehanna has been traced beneath the Chesapeake Bay to the edge of the continental shelf, recording lower sea levels during periods of glaciation.

Thrust faults

Dipping into the earth towards the southeast, low-angle thrust faults define the structure and physiography of York County.



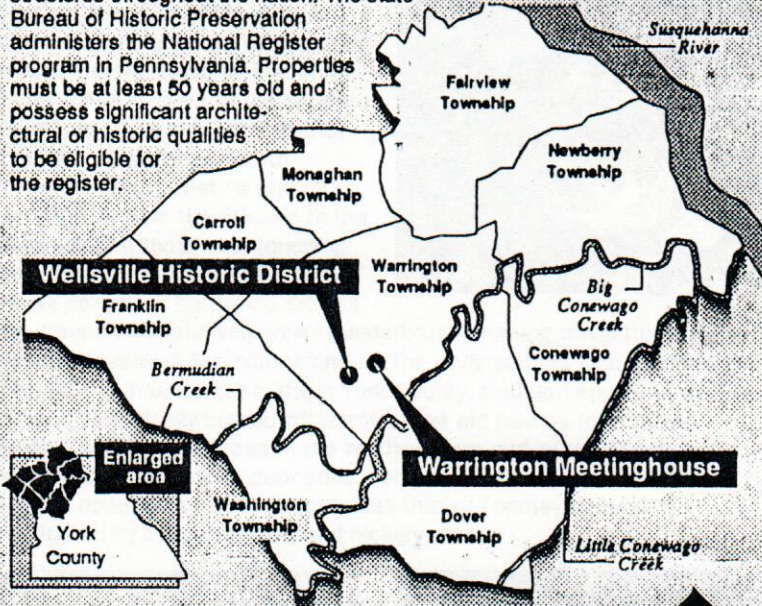
Illus. by Paul Chrastina



The National Register of Historic Places (Part 14)

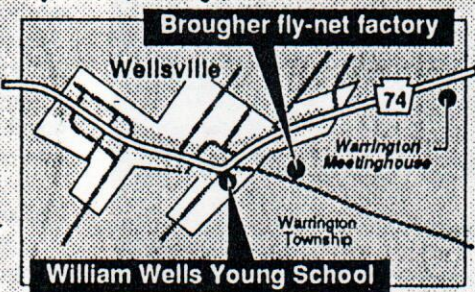
Northern York County

The National Register of Historic Places was established in 1966 by the U.S. Department of the Interior to foster the preservation of historic sites and structures throughout the nation. The state Bureau of Historic Preservation administers the National Register program in Pennsylvania. Properties must be at least 50 years old and possess significant architectural or historic qualities to be eligible for the register.



Wellsville Historic District

The National Register of Historic Places defines a historic district as a "definable area - urban or rural, large or small - possessing a significant concentration, linkage or continuity of sites, buildings, structures and/or objects united by past events or by plan or physical development." Historic districts are outdoor museums preserving the character of landmark neighborhoods that might otherwise be redeveloped or destroyed. Most historic districts consist of a few core buildings surrounded by contemporary structures, roads, alleys, and open spaces.



Todd Stouch/Staff artist

Warrington Meetinghouse

Warrington Meetinghouse

Route 74, Warrington Township

Placed on the National Register in 1975

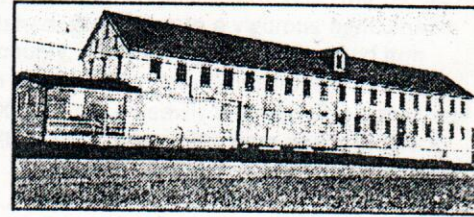
One of the region's finest examples of Quaker architecture, the Warrington Meetinghouse was built in 1769 on the site of an earlier log structure. In 1862, the meetinghouse was abandoned by the large Quaker migration to Ohio and Indiana, a situation that lasted until 1946 when descendants of the original members renovated and reactivated the building for its original purpose. The interior of the building, which is still used as a meetinghouse, is well preserved, retaining the original benches, hardware, and flooring, and is host to an annual Christmas candlelight service.

Wellsville Historic District

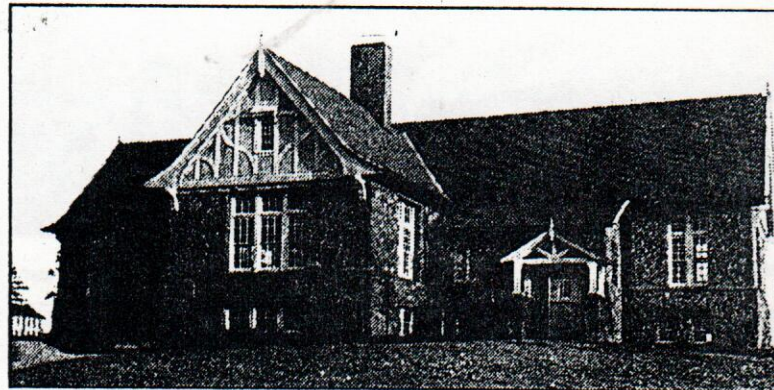
Wellsville Historic District

Placed on the National Register in 1977

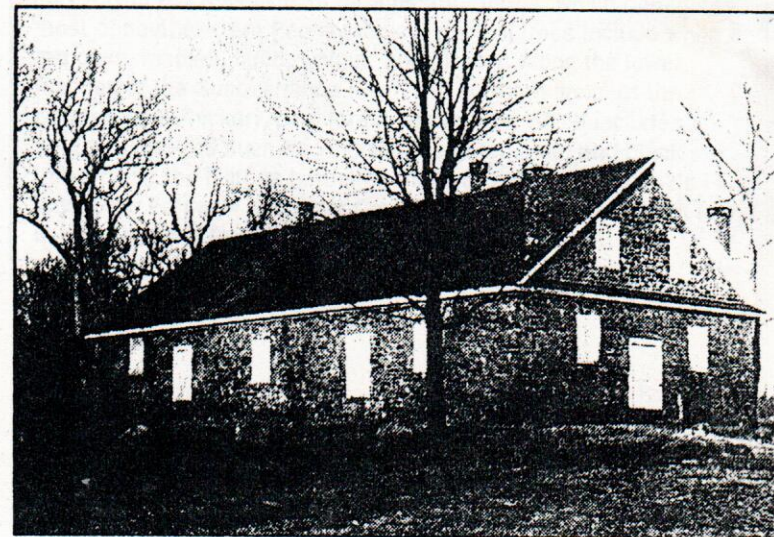
The village of Wellsville was founded by Abraham and John Wells as one of York County's first rural industrial villages. The Wells Whip Factory opened in 1843 and was followed by a tannery, fly-net factory, and baby shoe factory. During the Civil War, Wells & Wells produced artillery whips and ammunition belts for the Union Army. The town was raided by the cavalry of Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart on its detour through York County in July 1863. The Borough of Wellsville was incorporated in 1892. The architecture of the borough's historic district includes a range of styles popular in the 19th century. The Queen Anne-style William Wells School was built in 1903. In 1959, the Wells Whip Factory burned down. The Brougher fly-net factory is the last surviving structure from the town's leather industry.



Brougher fly-net factory



William Wells Young School



Warrington Meetinghouse

Photos by Paul Chrastina

First forests

The primeval forest

Before the arrival of European settlers, the rolling hills of York County were blanketed by thick old-growth forests, the culmination of nearly 20,000 years of undisturbed development. It has been said of this early, pre-pioneer North American forest, that "a squirrel could travel from the Atlantic to the Mississippi without ever touching the ground." Sheltered by a high, dense canopy of hardwood crowns, the ground was relatively free of underbrush, making travel through the woods convenient for Indians and for the early settlers who followed their paths. In parts of southern York County, tradition says that the Indians periodically burned off tracts of the old forests to facilitate hunting, while other areas in the northwestern part of the county remained barren due to poor soils. For the most part, however, the original appearance of the county was that of "primeval forest," dominated by oak, chestnut, and hickory stands.



Rebirth of forests

After the turn of the century, as the lifestyles and industrial interests of York County changed, its forests began to make a comeback in the form of woodlots and abandoned farm fields, where the natural processes of succession began to take place. Today, much of rural York County contains wild woodlands in varying stages of development, carefully managed tree farms, and open spaces where young woods are beginning to be established. If not drastically altered by human management or natural disaster, the ecological succession in York County could result in local climax forests similar to those encountered by its first inhabitants.



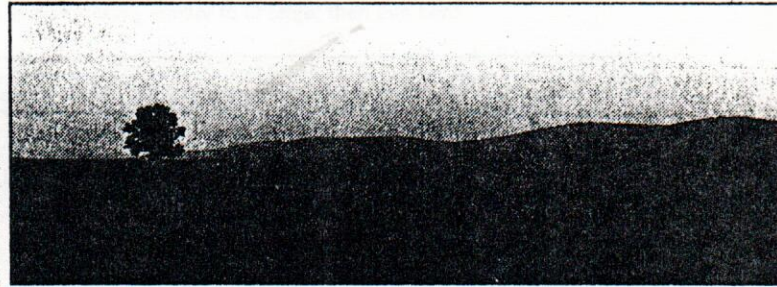
Photo by Paul Chrastina

A pine grove at Lake Williams.

Death of the forests

"A large forest of primitive trees is now almost a curiosity to the prosperous York County farmer. If there be one, some avaricious individual is on the alert to purchase it, and fell the grand old trees for gain. An occasional large white oak... is seen here and there on the farms of judicious husbandmen, who will not permit any one to 'touch a single bough.'" - George R. Prowell, History of York County, Pennsylvania, 1907.

The clearing of York County's old-growth forests by early settlers for agriculture at first created large tracts of barren ground, as poor soils in many parts of the county became depleted after the first few plantings. Later, with the introduction of lime and other chemical fertilizers, the productivity of the land was replenished, giving rise to a vigorous agricultural community throughout the county. Meanwhile, the tanning and iron industries that flourished in 18th-century York County used up huge amounts of lumber. By 1900, the once heavily forested non-agricultural areas in the Conewago, Hellam and Pigeon hills were nearly clearcut.



View of the Conewago Hills.

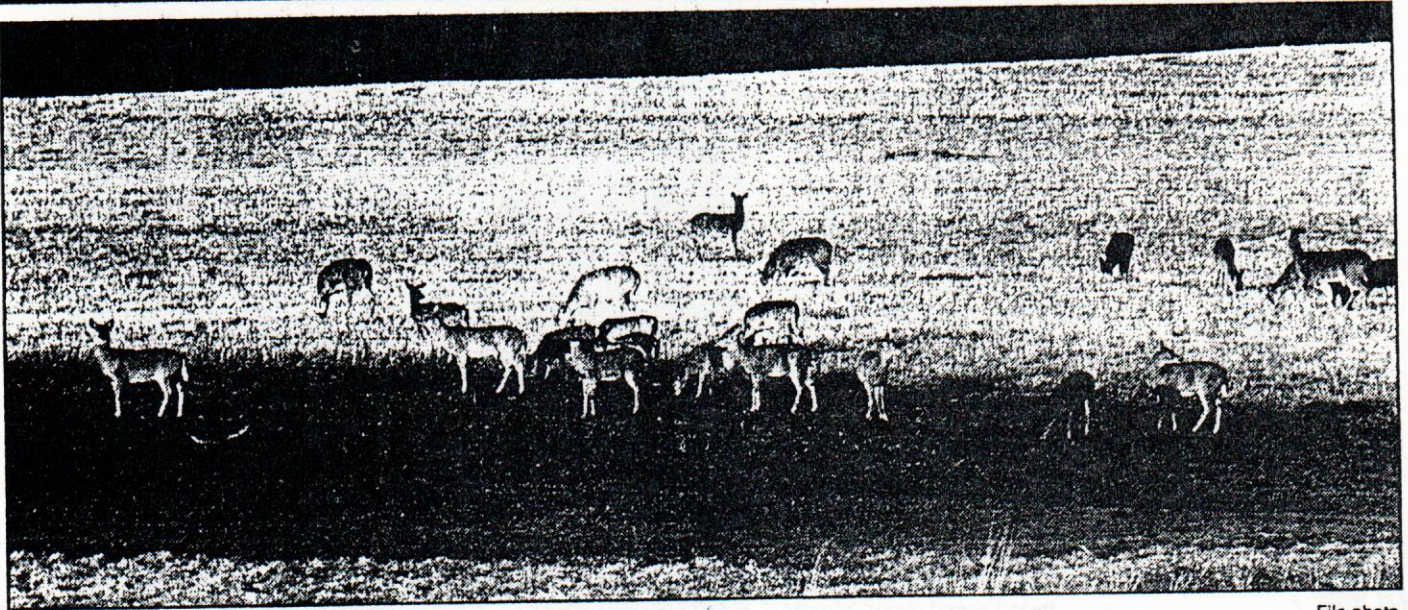
Photo by Paul Chrastina

Forest types

The majority of the natural vegetation in York County falls into the category of the Appalachian oak-chestnut forest, which dominates most of southeastern Pennsylvania. Principal trees include white and red oaks, maples, birch, walnut, and hickory. Along the lower reaches of the Susquehanna River, the northern limits of the Southern oak/hickory/pine forest community, which includes southern species such as Virginia pine, pitch pine, and black oak, thrive along the hilltops bordering the river gorge. The Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve and Otter Creek Recreation Area are both found in this Southern forest area.



York County hunting lore



File photo

In the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries it was common to see herds of deer in York County similar to or larger than this herd.

Deer in the Snow

In January 1772, a heavy snow storm left 3-1/2 feet of snow over York and surrounding areas, followed by a freezing rain that formed a thick crust over the snow. According to York historian John Gibson, "nearly every man and boy now turned out to chase deer, for while the hunter could run fleetly on the crust, the poor animals stuck through, and were unable to proceed far." The resulting "harvest" nearly eliminated the county's deer population. "Before that time deer were common throughout the county," Gibson noted in 1886, "since then but few have been found." In 1760, a North Hopewell Township hunter, named Liggett, was frozen to death while hunting deer in a deep snow, according to Gibson. In southern York County, deer were hunted until 1833. Fawn Township and the borough of Fawn Grove were named for large herds of deer which lived in the area during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission was organized in 1895, primarily to conserve the state's dwindling deer population. In 1913, the first hunting licenses were issued, enabling enforcement of game laws. By the 1930s the deer population had rebounded to such an extent that starvation killed many deer. Today, York County ranks fourth in the state for the number of deer harvested per forested square mile.

The swimming squirrels

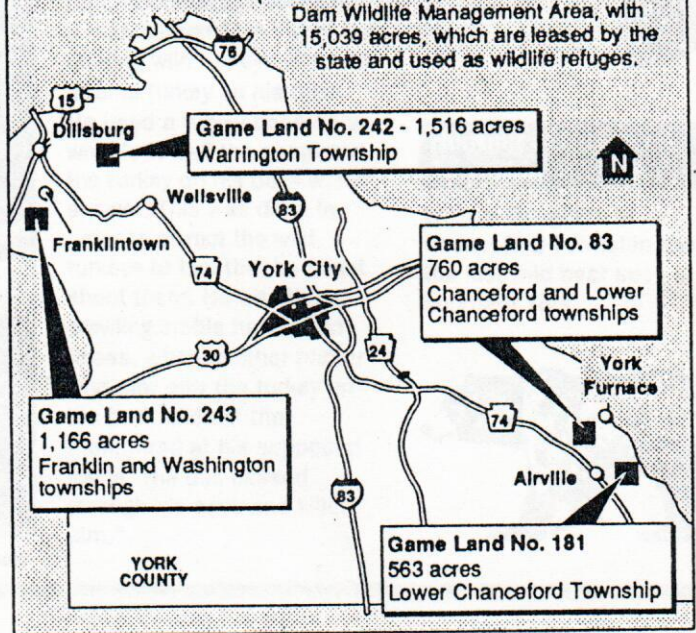
In September, 1796, according to the newspaper The Harrisburg Oracle, "several hundred squirrels per day cross the Susquehanna from the Cumberland and York County side. Some of the inhabitants were enabled to catch them as they swam the stream, and stored salt barrels of them for winter use."

"Possumtown"

The village of Pleasureville, in Springettsbury Township, was once locally known as

State game lands in York County

There are approximately 4,000 acres of state-owned game lands in York County, with over 57,000 acres of farm-game lands (not shown on map) and the Indian Rock Dam Wildlife Management Area, with 15,039 acres, which are leased by the state and used as wildlife refuges.



Todd Stouch/Staff artist

"Possumtown" because of the activity of an early resident, John Meyer. Meyer, according to Gibson "followed 'coon and possum hunting"

as an occupation. He nalled on the front of his house scores of opossum skins, and from this incident the town received its original name."



York County hunting lore (Part 2)



File photo

Big bad wolf

In the early 1800s, the high hills of Fairview and Conewago townships were filled with wolves, wild turkeys, and foxes, according to York historian John Gibson.

In 1825, Henry Kochenour of Conewago Township assisted in killing the last wolf seen in the Conewago Hills. In 1805, Robert Ramsay of Peach Bottom Township reported a narrow escape from a pack of wolves near the village of Delta. The last wolf killed in the area was taken by a pack of hounds on the ice-covered Susquehanna River above the Peach Bottom ferry in 1838. The wooded hills along Muddy Creek "were noted resorts for these voracious animals," according to Gibson.

Turkey hunting tragedy

Along the Conewago Creek near the mouth of Bennett's Run, in Conewago Township, a man named Sipe "went out hunting wild turkeys and had a tame turkey on his back. He used a turkey bone as a whistle to call the game and the turkey on his back would answer. This was done in order to attract the wild turkeys to him that he might shoot them. He was thus crawling on his hands and knees, when another hunter who saw only the turkey on his back and not the man...fired at his supposed game. The ball passed through his neck and killed him."



Hunting in Hopewell Township

William Douglass of Chanceford Township shot the last wild bear seen in southern York.

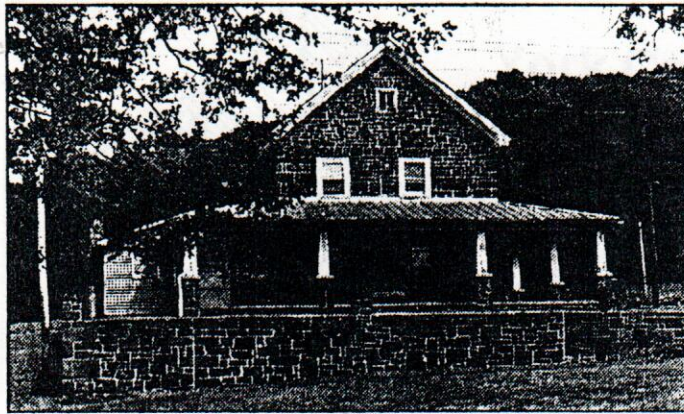




Down on the farm (Part 2)

First farmers

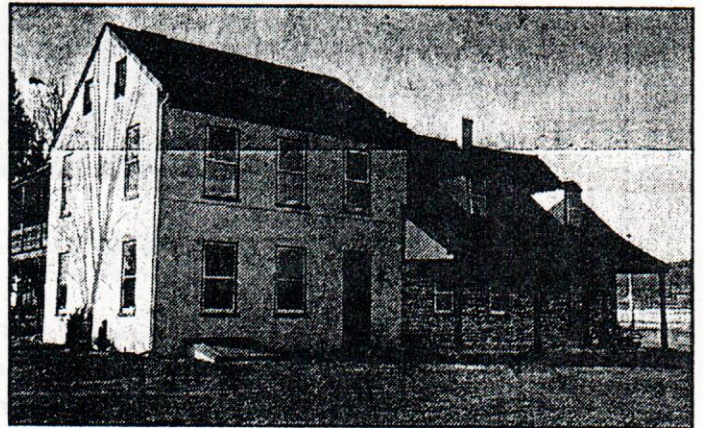
The early European settlers of York County brought with them agricultural methods that had been used in their countries of origin. Between 1730 and 1736, several hundred farms were cleared by English Quakers, Pennsylvania Germans, and Scotch-Irish immigrants in all parts of the county. Early farms consisted of from 100 to 300 acres, all planted, cultivated, and harvested by hand. Pioneer families first built log cabins and fences from stands of old-growth forest which blanketed the county. As they became better established, settlers in the northern, central, and southern parts of the county developed their own characteristic styles of farmhouses, usually built from locally quarried stone. With thriving agricultural communities already established east of the Susquehanna River, York's colonial farmers had a convenient source of seed, domesticated animals, and tools to begin their farms. In 1792, the first clover seed was sold in York by Quakers Samuel Updegraff and Caleb Kirk. Red clover



Harlacker Homestead
Washington Township

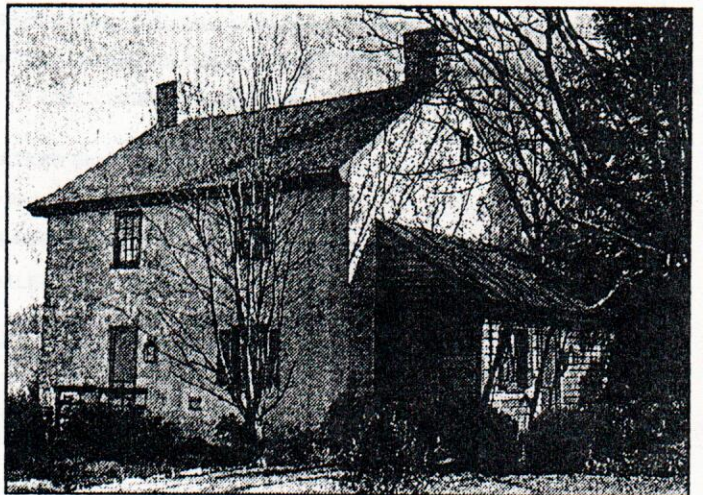
Strickler Farmhouse
Springettsbury Township

and timothy, grasses, native to Europe, were introduced as food for domestic animals, which had previously been fed on nutrient-poor native grasses and corn. During the colonial period, "Hemp, cotton, rice, spelts, oats, millet, lucerne, sainfoin, flax, melon, rape, rye, barley, and buckwheat were all experimented with," according to York historian John Gibson, "but few of them remained in profitable cultivation." Corn, first planted by the Indians, along with wheat, barley and rye, became the staple crops of York County's earliest farmers.



Photos by Paul Chrastina

Fitzkee Homestead
Lower Chanceford Township



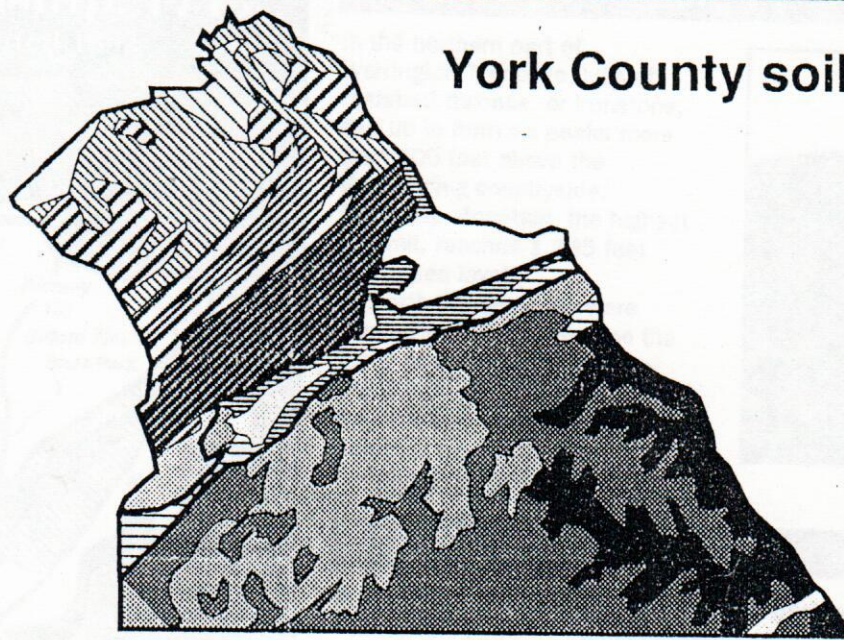


Down on the farm (Part 3)

A saga of soils

When the first settlers arrived in York County in the early 1700s, they found a landscape that was varyingly adapted to agricultural use. The county's central limestone valley, stretching from Hanover northeast to Wrightsville, was quickly cleared and farmed when the extremely fertile nature of its soils was discovered. In the southern part of the county, however, less fertile soils often led to subsistence-level farming and the routine abandonment of used-up fields. According to York historian John Gibson, "the practice was to clear a [new] field every season. Wheat was...the first crop, of which the yield was from eighteen to twenty bushels per acre. The second crop was rye, then corn, then oats. After going through this course, it was left for a year or two, and then the course began again; this was continued until the soil would produce nothing." Similarly, in parts of northern York County, infertile soils underlain by red shale were practically worthless for farming in Colonial times. By the 1800s, however, the introduction of chemical fertilizers had transformed many previously "barren" lands into productive cropland across York County.

York County soils



Soil association key

Soil associations are map patterns used to indicate a combination of parent bedrock, soil depth, and steepness of terrain in a particular area, which, taken together, affects agricultural productivity as well as other land use.

- MANOR-GLENELG ASSOCIATION:** Shallow to moderately deep, steep schist/phyllite soils.
- CHESTER-ELIOAK-GLENELG ASSOCIATION:** Deep, mostly level schist/phyllite soils.
- GLENELG-MANOR ASSOCIATION:** Shallow to moderately deep, sloping to moderately steep schist/phyllite soils.
- CARDIFF-WHITEFORD ASSOCIATION:** Shallow to moderately deep slate/shale/phyllite soils.
- HAGERSTOWN-DUFFIELD ASSOCIATION:** Deep, level to moderately steep limestone/shale soils.
- CONESTOGA-DUFFIELD-BEDFORD-LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION:** Deep, level limestone/dolomite soils.
- PENN-LANSDALE-READINGTON ASSOCIATION:** Shallow to deep, level to gently rolling sandstone/shale soils.
- PENN-READINGTON ASSOCIATION:** Shallow to deep, gently to strongly sloping sandstone/shale soils.
- PENN ASSOCIATION:** Shallow to moderately deep, steep, stony sandstone/shale/conglomerate soils.
- MONTALTO-LEGORE-LEHIGH ASSOCIATION:** Shallow to deep upland diabase/hornfels soils.
- LEWISBERRY-ATHOL-LANSDALE-ARENDSVILLE ASSOCIATION:** Deep and moderately deep sandstone/conglomerate soils.
- EDGEMONT-HIGHFIELD-MURRIL ASSOCIATION:** Deep upland quartzite/metavolcanic/limestone soils.

Todd Stouch/Staff artist