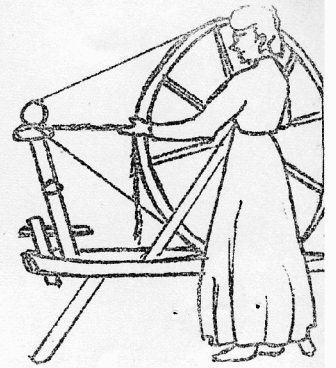




JEFFERSON COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS LETTER



VOLUME 1, No. 2

MARCH, 1968

MARCH MEETING

BUSINESS WILL BE COMBINED WITH PLEASURE AT THE MARCH MEETING OF THE JEFFERSON COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE BUSINESS SESSION.

THEN, ALL PRESENT WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW SEVERAL ANCIENT DOCUMENTS PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY BY MARTHA PALMER BAYNE OF WASHINGTON, R. D. # 4. INCLUDED ARE A DEED TO 345 ACRES NEAR HILL CHURCH DATED 1789 AND AN INDENTURE DATED 1790.

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE SOCIETY AND BRING A FRIEND OR TWO ALONG TO THE MEETING.

JANUARY MEETING

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEADOWCROFT VILLAGE, AVELLA, WAS OUTLINED IN WORD AND FILM BY ALBERT MILLER AT THE JANUARY MEETING. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SOCIETY WILL TOUR THE 19TH CENTURY RESTORATION IN THE SPRING.

FOR YOUR COLLECTION

NOW AVAILABLE AT AREA BOOKSTORES:
LANDMARK ARCHITECTURE OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY BY JAMES D. VAN TRUMP AND ARTHUR P. ZIEGLER, JR. PUBLISHED BY THE PITTSBURGH HISTORY AND LANDMARKS FOUNDATION, PITTSBURGH, 1967.

NEW ADDITION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF EARLY

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FOR YOUR COLLECTION CONT'D.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BY CHARLES MORSE STOTZ, PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH PRESS, 1936.

OUR MEMBERS WRITE

GENERAL WASHINGTON'S VISIT
BY DR. JAMES T. HERRON

IT WAS A TYPICAL WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SEPTEMBER AFTERNOON IN 1784 WHEN GEORGE WASHINGTON AND HIS FRIEND DR. CRAIK RODE UP TO JOHN CANON'S LOG HOUSE IN CANON'S BURG.

GENERAL WASHINGTON HAD RESIGNED HIS COMMAND OF THE COLONIAL ARMIES THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND RETURNED TO MT. VERNON. HE WAS NOW ON A TOUR TO INSPECT HIS LAND HOLDINGS IN THIS SECTION.

IN PARTICULAR, HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT A BLOCK OF 2,800 ACRES IN MT. PLEASANT TOWNSHIP WHICH HE HAD BEEN GRANTED UNDER A VIRGINIA MILITARY PATENT. THE LAND WAS OCCUPIED BY AT LEAST 13 INDIVIDUAL SETTLERS, WHO HAD ERECTED CABINS AND CLEARED ACREAGE, BUT DENIED WASHINGTON'S OWNERSHIP AND REFUSED TO BUY, RENT OR MOVE OFF THE LAND.

IN WASHINGTON'S JOURNAL OF HIS TOUR HE WRITES, UNDER THE DATE OF SEPT. 18, 1784: "SET OUT WITH DR. CRAIK FOR MY LAND ON MILLER'S RUN (A BRANCH OF SHURTEES CREEK).....LODGED AT A COLO. CANNON'S ON THE WATERS OF SHURTEES CREEK - A KIND HOSPITABLE MAN, AND SENSIBLE."

TWO YEARS LATER, WASHINGTON APPOINTED CANON HIS AGENT FOR THE MILLERS RUN LANDS WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY TO RENT OR SELL SAID LANDS.

THERE ARE SEVERAL INTERESTING STORIES THAT CAN BE READ BETWEEN THE LINES OF WASHINGTON'S ENTRIES FOR THE THREE DAYS HE SPENT AS COL. CANON'S GUEST, AND OF THE ENSUING LEGAL SUITS TO EVICT THE TENANTS ON THE MILLERS RUN LAND. NONE OF THESE INCLUDE THE FABRICATED TALE OF WASHINGTON'S BEING FINED BY SQUIRE REED FOR SWEARING. THIS PIECE OF LOCAL FOLKLORE HAS NO RECORDED HAS NO RECORDED FACTUAL BASIS AND WAS DENIED AS HAVING EVER OCCURED BY THE SON OF SQUIRE REED.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON'S VISIT BY DR. HERRON CONT'D.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE FULL RECORD, WE SUGGEST YOU READ THE ACCOUNTS AS GIVEN IN CLELAND'S "GEORGE WASHINGTON IN THE OHIO VALLEY" AND CRUMRINE'S "HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY." THESE BOOKS, AND MANY OTHERS RELATING TO LOCAL HISTORY ARE IN THE "JOHNSON COLLECTION" AT THE LIBRARY.