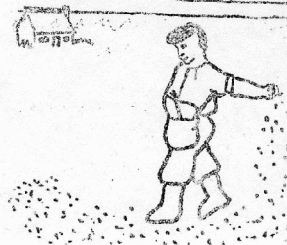


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JEFFERSON COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWS LETTER

VOL. 1. NUMBER 3

MAY, 1968

MAY MEETING

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE JEFFERSON COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD AT 8 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH, IN THE CAPONSBURG BOROUGH BUILDING.

A FILM ON THE HISTORY OF PENNSYLVANIA WILL BE PRESENTED.

MARIO D'ANGELO, PROGRAM CHAIRMAN, ANNOUNCED THAT MEMBERS WISHING TO REPORT ON OBJECTS OR TOPICS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST MAY CONTACT HIM, MRS. FRANCES HERRON OR MISS ETHEL BRICELAND PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

FIRST PRESIDENT JUDGE. A MAN FOR HIS SEASON

BENEATH THE SOMBER ROBES OF THE FIRST PRESIDENT JUDGE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTS APPARENTLY DWELLED THE RAMBUNCTIOUS SOUL OF A TRUE FRONTIERSMAN, IF BOYD CRUMRINE'S "COURTS OF JUSTICE, BENCH AND BAR" IS TO BE BELIEVED. (AND WHO DARES DOUBT?)

HENRY TAYLOR, PERHAPS ESQUIRE, PERHAPS NOT, BECAME THE FIRST PRESIDENT JUDGE VIA A COMMISSION ISSUED BY THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF PENNSYLVANIA, AUGUST 24, 1781. THIS WAS ACCORDING TO PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF 1776. HE BECAME TOP MAN BY VIRTUE OF HIS NAME APPEARING FIRST IN A LIST OF 12 APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION.

OF ENGLISH DESCENT, TAYLOR CAME TO WASHINGTON COUNTY FROM CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND IN 1769 OR 1770. HE STAKED OUT HIS CLAIM AND BUILT A CABIN ON THE OLD PITTSBURGH ROAD NORTHEAST OF WASHINGTON.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY RECORDS SHOW THAT, BEFORE THE ERECTION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY (MARCH 28, 1781). TAYLOR WAS BOUND OVER TO THE COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS ON A CHARGE OF

ASSAULT AND BATTERY ARISING FROM A BOUNDARY DISPUTE. IN 1773 HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST GRAND JURY CALLED IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY.

A COLONEL IN THE COUNTY MILITIA, TAYLOR SERVED ON THE COUNCIL OF WAR HELD AT CATFISH CAMP, THEN THE VIRGINIA DISTRICT OF WEST AUGUSTA. PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL WAS TO ARM, DRILL AND PLACE MILITIA FOR THE DEFENSE OF YOHOGANIA, OHIO AND MONONGAHELA COUNTY SETTLEMENTS AGAINST THE INDIANS.

THE FRONTIERSMAN-SOLDIER-JUDGE EVIDENTLY ROCKED THE PRESBYTERIAN BOAT IN 1784 BY "HAVING AND ENCOURAGING A PROMISCUOUS DANCE AT HIS HOUSE." HE SUBMITTED TO THE ADMONITION OF THE SYNOD AND THE JUDGEMENT WAS READ BEFORE THE CONGREGATION OF CHARTIERS.

IN 1790, UNDER THE SECOND PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUTION, TAYLOR WAS APPOINTED AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH DISTRICT (WESTMORELAND, FAYETTE, WASHINGTON AND ALLEGHENY COUNTIES.)

GOVERNOR MIFFLIN, IN 1793 - THE YEAR OF "MAD" ANTHONY WAYNE'S SUCCESSFUL FORAY AGAINST THE INDIANS IN THE BATTLE OF FALLEN TIMBERS - COMMISSIONED TAYLOR A BRIGADIER GENERAL OF THE BRIGADE COMPOSED OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY MILITIA.

ACCORDING TO THE COMMISSION OF 1781, TAYLOR AND THE ELEVEN OTHER MEN NAMED, WERE ASSIGNED TO HOLD COURTS OF OYER AND TERMINER, QUARTER SESSIONS OF THE PEACE, COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS AND ORPHANS COURTS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY. ALL ARE REFERRED TO AS "ESQUIRE", ALTHOUGH NO MENTION WAS MADE BY CRUMRINE AS TO TAYLOR'S HAVING BEEN TRAINED IN THE LAW. AT THAT TIME IT WAS NOT REQUIRED THAT JUDGES BE EDUCATED FOR THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

APPOINTED FOR SEVEN-YEAR TERMS, THE JUDGES ALSO SERVED AS JUSTICES OF THE PEACE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

TAYLOR DIED IN 1801 AT THE AGE OF 63, AFTER HAVING LIVED AN INTERESTING AND EVENTFUL LIFE IN THE DAYS WHICH SAW THE CREATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY AS WELL AS THE WINNING OF A NEW NATION.

WHISKEY BOYS MEMORIALIZED

A MONUMENT TO THE WHISKEY INSURRECTION LEADERS WAS ERECTED RECENTLY IN THE CHURCHYARD OF MINGO CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, VENETIA ROAD AND ROUTE 88.

WHISKEY BOYS CONT'D.

INSTIGATOR OF THE PROJECT WAS 89 YEAR OLD D. C. GAULT OF FINLEYVILLE, A LIFETIME MEMBER OF MINGO CHURCH.

SINCE HEARING LEGENDS OF THE "WHISKEY BOYS" IN HIS CHILDHOOD, GAULT HAS DREAMED OF A FITTING MEMORIAL TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTIANS OF 174 YEARS AGO WHO "HANDED DOWN A RICH HERITAGE OF COURAGE WHEN UNFAIR EXCISES THREATENED THEIR LIBERTIES AND LIVIHOOD."

WHAT FINALLY TRIGGERED THE PROJECT WAS THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN RECENT YEARS. "I DECIDED THAT THESE HEROES OF LIBERTY (THE WHISKEY INSURRECTIONISTS) SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN." FUNDS WERE DONATED BY MANY ANONYMOUS FINLEYVILLE RESIDENTS.

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE MONUMENT WAS WRITTEN BY NOAH THOMPSON, AUTHOR OF A HISTORY OF UNION TOWNSHIP. IT READS: "HERE IN THE LOG MEETING HOUSE, THE MINGO CREEK BOYS, LEADERS IN THE WHISKEY INSURRECTION, HELD THEIR MEETINGS AND LAID THEIR PLANS TO RESIST THE FEDERAL TAX OF SEVEN CENTS PER GALLON ON MONONGAHELA RYE WHISKEY IN 1794. THIS WHISKEY WAS THE MONEY CROP OF THE PIONEERS. AN ARMED FORCE OF 500 MEN, LED BY MAJOR JAMES MACFARLANE, MARCHED TO ATTACK THE BOWER HILL HOME OF GENERAL JOHN NEVILLE, THE FEDERAL TAX COLLECTOR. MAJOR MACFARLANE, AN OFFICER IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR, WAS KILLED IN THIS ATTACK AND HE IS BURIED IN THE MINGO CEMETERY."

THE FORMAL UNVEILING AND DEDICATION CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD SOMETIME THIS SUMMER, ACCORDING TO HAROLD PHILLIPS, PRESIDENT OF PETERS CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

THIS REMINDER OF THE WHISKEY INSURRECTION REVIVES AN OLD QUESTION WHICH HAS LURKED IN OUR MIND FOR MANY YEARS. WHERE ARE THE OLD STILLS WHICH FIGURED IN THIS FAMOUS ERA IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA? SURELY SOME REMAIN. WE'VE ONLY SEEN ONE, AND THAT WAS IN BETHEL PARK.

THE LATEST FROM MEADOWCROFT

THE ALBERT AND DELVIN MILLER DEVELOPMENT OF MEADOWCROFT VILLAGE, AVELLA, ASSUMES MORE AND MORE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF HISTORIC WILLYANSBURG, VIRGINIA.

ALTHOUGH NOT ON SO GRAND A SCALE, MEADOWCROFT CAN PROUDLY HOLD ITS OWN AS A PLACE WHERE YESTERDAY DEMANDS THE RESPECT OF TODAY.

THE CURRENT EFFORT IS TO LOCATE CRAFT EXPERTS AND THOSE INTERESTED IN EXPLAINING THE HISTORY OF THE VARIOUS CRAFTS.

THE LATEST CONT'D.

HISTORICAL ITEMS AND RESTORED BUILDINGS.

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR VIEWERS AT MEADOWCROFT ARE 32 STRUCTURES SUCH AS LOG CABINS, A COUNTRY STORE, A BLACKSMITH SHOP AND MUSEUM EXHIBITS.

TO ENHANCE THE ATMOSPHERE OF ANOTHER ERA, IT IS HOPED THAT DEMONSTRATIONS OF TRAPPING, WOOD LORE, SPINNING, WEAVING, SHINGLE SPLITTING AND CANDLE MAKING CAN BE OFFERED.

THOSE INTERESTED MAY CONTACT HARRY SUTHERLAND, JR., WASHINGTON-GREENE TOURIST PROMOTION AGENCY, GEORGE WASHINGTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, PA. OR PHONE 222-8130.

EDITORIAL - BY CHARLOTTE LAMBDIN

ARE THE SINS OF THE FATHERS VISITED UPON THE SONS UNTO THE UMPTENTH GENERATION, AS THE BIBLE SAYS?

IF SO, IT COULD ACCOUNT IN PART FOR CERTAIN MORAL DIS-INTEGRATION APPARENT IN 20TH CENTURY, USA.

CONSIDER THE AMERICAN INDIAN. MANY HISTORIANS DEPICT HIM AS A SUB-HUMAN SAVAGE DESERVING OF NO MERCY. HE WAS THE "BAD GUY" WEARING THE BLACK FEATHER. THE SETTLERS WERE THE "GOOD GUYS" TOTING THE BIBLE IN ONE HAND AND A RIFLE IN THE OTHER. THEIR SLOGAN, "THE ONLY GOOD INDIAN IS A DEAD ONE," OR "MY GOD MEANT ALL THE GOODIES FOR ME AND THE HECK WITH EVERYBODY ELSE."

SOME OF OUR FOREFATHERS OF HALLOWED MEMORY STOLE THE INDIAN'S LANDS, LIED TO HIM, MURDERED HIM, CREATED HIM, DEMORALIZED HIM WITH BOOZE AND FINALLY SHOVED HIM INTO RESERVATIONS WHERE HE IS TODAY.

THE SAME GENERAL MODUS OPERANDI IS APPARENT IN THE LONG HISTORY OF THE NEGRO IN AMERICA.

PIGMENTATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE "LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE" IS AN INTERESTING PHENOMENON. IT BEARS STUDY AND A CAREFUL REEVALUATION OF ATTITUDES.

BECAUSE, UNLESS AMERICA MEANS MORE THAN "WASP" (WHITE ANGLO SAXON PROTESTANT,) IT MEANS NOTHING AT ALL.

ABOUT DUES

THEY ARE DUE. THEY ARE ALSO TAX DEDUCTIBLE. THOSE WHO ARE IN ARREARS ARE NOT REALLY MEMBERS OF THE JEFFERSON COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SO LET US GET WITH IT.

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP ARE: INDIVIDUAL STUDENT, \$1.00, INDIVIDUAL ACTIVE, \$5.00, CONTRIBUTING, \$10.00, BUSINESS OR INSTITUTIONAL, \$25.00, SUSTAINING, \$50.00 AND LIFE IS \$100.00.

CHECKS MAY BE MAILED TO M. L. TAYLOR, 439 CANYON DRIVE, CANONSBURG, PENNA., 15317.