

Additional notes for 2014 Reunion

Henrich Esch arrived on the ship Friendship October 1754 to Philadelphia. His brother Wilhelm, arrived in 1752 and lived in New York.

Henry was naturalized September 10th, 1765 at All Hallows Parish (Church of England) Ann Arundel County, MD.

He took the Patriot's Oath of Fidelity and Support in Salem Reformed Church, Hagerstown, Washington County, MD in 1778.

He owned property along with his sons in Bedford, Pennsylvania.

French and Indian War

The French expanded into areas that the British had claimed. In 1754, Major George Washington was sent by Virginia's governor to evict the French from Fort Duquesne. Washington came upon a French scouting party and ordered his men to open fire. Washington's men killed 12 Frenchmen and wounded 22. The war was on.

During the first two years of the war the French and their Indian allies defeated the British numerous times. The period began poorly for the British and their colonial soldiers, when a British force led by British General Braddock tried to capture Fort Duquesne. A smaller French and Indian force succeeded in defeating the British force and General Braddock was defeated.

The War officially came to an end on February 10, 1763, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. France officially ceded all of its holdings in North America, west of the Mississippi; while regaining the Islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. The most long lasting effect of the war was not negotiated between the parties? rather, it was the effect the war had on the American colonies. The cost of the war and of controlling the newly acquired territories was high. The British looked to the colonies to help pay those costs. That began the long spiral of events that led to the Revolution.

Fort Duquesne, Fort Pitt, and Fort Dunmore

Fort Duquesne was a French fort in western Pennsylvania in the French and Indian War (1756-1763).

After securing Fort Duquesne, the English renamed it Fort Pitt in honor of William Pitt. Pitt, the English Prime Minister during the French and Indian War, had determined that the only way that England could defeat France in Europe in this war was first to conquer the French in the New World. He sent thousands of British soldiers to North America to assist the English colonists in driving the French from the continent. By 1759, the English had secured practically all of France's possessions in North America. The New World portion of the war came to a close. Under the Treaty of Paris (1763) France relinquished control of all of its former territories in North America to England.

Fort Pitt remained under England's control until the American Revolution, when the colonists took possession of it. The fort served as an important trading post with the Ohio Country natives for both the English and the Americans. As more and more Americans sought to improve their fortunes by moving into the Ohio Country, Indians began to attack the settlers. The fort's garrison actively protected people moving into the region. In the mid-1770s, the English renamed the installation Fort Dunmore. John Murray, Lord Dunmore, served as the royal governor of New York and later in Virginia. Once the colonists declared their independence, they renamed the fortification Fort Pitt.

1.Hurt, R. Douglas. *The Ohio Frontier: Crucible of the Old Northwest, 1720-1830*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1996.

Pontiac's War, Pontiac's Conspiracy, or Pontiac's Rebellion was a war that was launched in 1763 by a loose confederation of elements of Native American tribes primarily from the Great Lakes region, the Illinois Country, and Ohio Country who were dissatisfied with British postwar policies in the Great Lakes region after the British victory in the French and Indian War (1754–1763). Warriors from numerous tribes joined the uprising in an effort to drive British soldiers and settlers out of the region. The war is named after the Ottawa leader Pontiac, the most prominent of many native leaders in the conflict.

The war began in May 1763 when Native Americans, offended by the policies of British General Jeffrey Amherst, attacked a number of British forts and settlements. Eight forts were destroyed, and hundreds of colonists were killed or captured, with many more fleeing the region. Hostilities came to an end after British Army expeditions in 1764 led to peace negotiations over the next two years. Native Americans were unable to drive away the British, but the uprising prompted the British government to modify the policies that had provoked the conflict.

Authorities of the Province aligned with the Six Nations instead of the Delawares. The Delawares hated the members of the Six Nations who called themselves their masters (1742). The Iroquois claimed ownership of all lands in Pennsylvania as they had been conquerors of the Delawares and Shawnees. (Six Nations of the Iroquois: Onondegá, Seneca, Oneida, Mohawk, Cayuga, Tuscarora).

In 1709 30,000 Germans left their home and went to England. With long religious wars in Germany, and the coldest winter on record caused them to flee. At the invitation of Mohawk chiefs, then in the Indian embassy in London, Conrad Weiser, led 4,000 emigrants to New York Province and subsequently to Berks and Lancaster counties.

The Migration of the Schoharie Germans to Pennsylvania and the History of Tulpehocken Township

Notes on The Meaning of Tulpehocken: Sources: Dick Creps, Judy Thayer, and Dave Becker

Tulpehocken...which means "Land where the turtle sang and wooed"...also the name of a Creek in Eastern Berks County. The Swatara, a tributary of the Susquehanna, led to the Tulpehocken Creek, which "fed" into Lancaster Co. Now, a distinct area of research within Berks and Lancaster Counties, and into an even larger area.

When the Palatinites went to New York, and got fed up with the British attitudes toward them, Weiser, and others began to look for other better places to settle. Apparently, Wm. Penn's folks had contacted them, offering land in the western part of Pennsylvania. Seemingly, the ulterior motive for the Penns was to provide themselves (in Eastern Penn) with a westerly buffer against the Indians. The PA

authorities didn't throw down so many roadblocks against German Settlement, as did the British (who allowed only 10 acres per family and was not sufficient for adequate farming). The story of the Palatinates migration is mythical. You might like to order Earl W. Ibach's "Map".

Conrad Weiser (father and son) knew about the Tulpehocken area of Berks County through numerous contacts with the Indian peoples of that area, and trips made to the region. It is unknown how long the negotiations took, but the decision was finally made to make the move to the Tulpehocken area. A petition exists which names those original migrants. This migration took place in 1723, when 33 families left New York upon the invitation of Governor William Keith of Penn. And settled in the Tulpehocken area. The following petition to Governor Keith from these Palatinates who would eventually settle along the Tulpehocken Creek in Eastern Berks County.

"To his excellency, William Keith, Baronet, Governor of Pennsylvania...The Honorable Council...The petition to us, the subscribers, being thirty-three families in number, at present inhabiting TUPLEHOCKEN CREEK, Humbly Sheweth that your petitioners being natives of Germany about 15 years ago were by the great goodness and royal bounty of her late Majesty, Queen Anne, relieved from the hardships which they then suffered in Europe, and were transported into the colony of new York, where they settled. But the families increasing, being in that Government confined to the scanty allowance of ten acres of land to each family were on they could not well subsist. Your petitioners being informed of the kind reception which their countrymen usually meet with in the Province of Pennsylvania, and hoping they might, with what substance they had, acquire larger settlements in that Province, did last year (in the Spring of 1723) leave their settlements in that Province, and came with their families into this Province, where upon their arrival they applied themselves to his excellency the Governor, who, of his great goodness, permitted them to inhabit upon Tulpahaca Creek, on condition that they should make full satisfaction to the proprietor of his agents for such lands as should be allotted to them, when they were ready to receive the same. And now, your petitioners, understanding that some gentlemen, agents of the proprietor, have ample power to dispose of lands in this province. An we, your petitioners, being willing and ready to purchase do, humbly beseech your Excellency and Council to recommend us to the favorable usage of the proprietors agents, that upon paying the usual prices for lands at such distance from Philadelphia, we may have sufficient rights and titles made to us for such lands as we shall have

occasion to buy, that our children may have some settlement to depend on hereafter, and that by your authority we may be freed from the demands of the Indians of that part of the country, who pretend a right thereto. And we humbly beg leave to inform your Excellency and Council, that there are fifty families more who, if they may be admitted upon the same conditions, are desirous to come and settle with us. We hope for your favorable answer to this our humble request, and as in duty bound shall ever pray.

JOHANNES YANS JOHANNES CLAES SHAVER
PETER RITT JO. HAMELAR RITT
CONRAD SCHITA ANTONIS SHARB
PALTUS UNSF JOHANN PETER PACHT
TORITINE SERBO JOCHAM MICHAEL CRICHT
JOSAP SAB SEBASTIAN PISAS
JORGE RITT ANDREW FALBORN
GODFREY T FILLER

The above, as well as the portion to follow, is taken from "The German Emigration from New York Province into Pennsylvania: Part V of a narrative prepared at the request of the Pennsylvania German Society," by Reverend Henry Richards, D.D. and presented in 1899.

This next section deals with the long journey from New York to Pennsylvania, which these original settlers made: "Guided by the Indians, and not under the leadership of either the elder Weiser, or his gifted son, as some suppose, both of whom came later, the pioneers of 1723, with much toil and labor, cut their way through the forest, after which, with their wives, little ones, and animals, they followed, by day, the scanty track they had made in the woods and slept at the foot of it's trees, wooed to slumber by it's ceaseless noises, during the night, until the forty or fifty miles, which separated them from the (Susquehanna) river had been traversed. Then came the building and launching of heavy rafts, to contain their domestic utensils, and of the light and speedy canoes for themselves, on which they were to continue their long journey to the haven of rest, accompanied slowly by their cattle, driven along the river's banks. As forest and open space, trees, rocks, and sandy beach, succeeded in each other, with tiresome monotony, and as camp-fire at the close of day, they little reckoned that they had swept by the spots

where the flourishing towns of Binghamton and Oswega were, later, to stand. As they rounded the curve where the Lackawanna joins the Susquehanna at Pittston, who was the wizard of their number whose divining rod would point to the priceless diamonds beneath them and tell them that their dumb animals were treading underfoot riches of far greater value to mankind than all the pearls and rubies for which the world was striving? Whose fancy amongst them all would have pictured or imagined the beautiful city of Wilkes-Barre, and the coal breakers everywhere rearing their heads into the air as though they were indeed giants issuing from their long slumber in the bowels of the earth? As they exchanged greetings with the Indians, in their village of Shamokin, can it be that there rose up before any one of them a picture of the hideous scenes of their near future, or any foresight of their murdered sons, and daughters and the blackened ruins of the homes towards which they were hastening, or did the troubled dreams of any other reveal to him the fort at Sunbury, no longer Shamokin, filled with its soldiers, and sound into his astonished ears the booming of its guns? Down the Grand Stream, which was bearing them, they slowly floated until their watchful eyes caught sight of a long log cabin on its shores, where now stands the capitol city of Pennsylvania, (Harrisburg) and as they looked upon the home of John Harris, it is altogether probable they saw, for the first time in all their journey, the dwelling of a white man. Cheered by the sight on they went, until they came to where the Swatara Creek joined its waters with those of its mighty brother, and at the spot where Middletown now stands, our wanderers at last changed course and entered the stream which told them they were drawing near the goal towards which they had been hastening for so many weary days. To reach this goal, was to endure a few more hardships and trials, and when, in the lovely Tulpehocken (which means "land where the turtle sang and wooed.") region, nestling at the foot of the Blue Mountains and wavered by its numerous streams, they pitched their camp for the last time, it was HOME.

Outside of the surrounding Indian villages, we have no record of previous settlements, so that, in very truth, they had taken up "vacant lands." Thus is the connection of the Tulpehocken Settlement with the region of Schoharie, New York.

Later in the same paper, Rev. Richards wrote:

"There were constant accessions to the number of the first feeble band. In 1728, other families left Schoharie, and settled (in Tulpehocken), amongst whom were:

Leonard Anspach Jacob Werner
Caspar Hohn Johann Philip Schneider
George Schmidt Jacob Katterman
George Zeh Johannes Noecker
Jacob Lowengut Johann Jacob Holsteiner
Heinrich Six Michael Lauer
Philip Theis Conrad Scharf

Hagerstown, PA
Salem Reformed Church

Henrich Esch and Wife Catherina were witnesses to Rutholf and Dorotha Hoffman's child Jonathan's baptism. Born June 9, 1770 and baptised April 1, 1771.

Henrich Esch and Wife Catherina were witnesses to Adam Esch and Catherina Esch's child, Henrich's son, Henrich's baptism. Child born January 22nd 1774, baptised April 2nd.

February 1801, Henry's will

To John, my fourth son, and David, my fifth son, I give and bequeath the tract of land on which I now live, on each side of Conococheague Creek and running along the road leading to Williamsport, and it is my desire and intention that it be equally divided between my said two sons.

Williamsport, MD

Conococheague Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River, is a free-flowing stream that originates in Pennsylvania and empties into the Potomac River near Williamsport, Maryland. It is 80 miles (129 km) in length,[1] with 57 miles (92 km) in Pennsylvania and 23 miles (37 km) in Maryland. The watershed of Conococheague Creek has an area of approximately 566 square miles (1,470 km²), out of which only 65 square miles (170 km²) (12% of the area) are in Maryland.

The word "Conococheague" is translated from the Delaware Indian or Unami-Lenapi term òk'chaxk'hanna, which means "many-turns-river." [2] The

Conococheague, or Connogochegue, as it was known at the time, was the northernmost extent of the range along the Potomac within which Congress in the Residence Bill of 1790 authorized the establishment of the Federal District, known as the District of Columbia. By presidential proclamation, George Washington placed the District at the lower end of the range, near the "Eastern Branch", later Anacostia River, which marked the southernmost extent of the Residence Bill's range.

The water divide between Conococheague Creek and Conodoguinet Creek is sometimes used as the boundary between the Hagerstown Valley and the Cumberland Valley.

Bedford County, Bethel Twp.

1784 Census. Henry and Adam Ash are residents.

Robert MacRay opened the first trading post in Raystown (which is now Bedford) on the land that is now Bedford County in 1750. The settlers had a difficult time dealing with raids from Indians and the fighting between the French and the British.

In 1759, after the capture of Fort Duquesne in Allegheny County, a road was built between the fort (which was renamed to Fort Pitt) to the newly built Fort Bedford in Raystown. This road followed Indian trails and became "Forbes Road" which passed through Bedford and is now Route 30.