

A Bit Of History About Your Own Adams County

This is the 28th in a series of historical talks given over Radio Station WGET by Dr. Robert Fortenbaugh, Adeline Sager professor of history at Gettysburg College, on some of the outstanding events and interesting episodes in the development of Adams County.

The incorporation of the borough of Littlestown on February 23, 1864, marked a milestone in the history of a community whose beginnings go back more than a century before this official act of incorporation.

The settlement which became Littlestown was the focal point of an area of early occupation by some of the pioneer settlers in this county. In 1734 Andrew Schreiber and David Young were the first to take land in this general vicinity, settling in what was then Germany Twp. of Lancaster County, about three miles from the site of the present Littlestown.

This land was in dispute between Maryland and Pennsylvania, but Pennsylvania finally won jurisdiction to the area of Germany Twp., and the authority of Lancaster County was recognized until 1749 when its jurisdiction west of the Susquehanna River was put under that of a new county, the fifth in Pennsylvania, York County.

Important History
In 1800 Germany Twp. was one of those townships of York which were cut off to be included in the new Adams County. The settlement of the German pioneers in Germany Twp., not far from the site of Littlestown, was the oldest permanent settlement in present day Adams County. The Littlestown area is therefore worthy of honor for that reason, and the history of this section is highly important in tracing the history of Adams County.

While not much development of this area took place under the jurisdiction of Lancaster County, that is, before 1749, one act by the Lancaster County Court was of very great importance. That was the ordering by the court in 1736 of the laying out of a road from Wright's Ferry on the Susquehanna westward through the sites of the present York, Hanover and Littlestown, to Frederick, Md.

This was the famous Monocacy Rd. which became the highway of early traffic through southern Pennsylvania to the Monocacy River (hence its name) over which the flow of the westward movement of the population moved into Maryland and Virginia. In the course of the years the land along the road developed into thickly settled and prosperous farmland.

Gets Deed To 31 Acres
In 1760 a settler named Peter Little received a deed of 31 acres along the Monocacy Rd., granted by Pennsylvania on September 18. Five years later this same Peter Little laid out a town on this land, setting off some 50 lots, each with a 66-foot frontage and a depth of 264 feet. A condition attached to each deed passed required the purchaser to build a substantial dwelling house on each lot, within three years from May 1, 1765.

Along the Monocacy Rd. the town street name was given as King St., and crossing it at right angles, along a road leading from Baltimore to Pittsburgh, the town street was given as Queen St. In his deeds Peter Little calls the town Petersburgh, and states that he wishes it to be called so forever. Popularly for some time the town was known as "Kleena Stedle" or Littlestown. How long it was officially "Petersburgh" I have not been able to learn. However, it was still called that in 1808 when the Gettysburg and Petersburgh Turnpike was built. Confusion with the Petersburgh (now York Springs) in the northern part of the county caused the name "Littlestown" to be popularly and then officially applied.

Growth Is Slow
Like many other country towns Littlestown's growth was slow for many years. The American Gazeer for 1797 says merely that Petersburgh, in York County, was two miles north of the Maryland line, and contained a Catholic Church and about 80 houses. In 1800 the census reported 250 persons, and in 1810 the number was 287. In 1850 there were 394 residents in the town, and in 1860, 720. Littlestown is the oldest borough in Adams County, and has for many years been second in population.

After just 100 years of existence the benefit of incorporation was realized, and on August 20, 1864, the first borough election was held. The result of this election was as follows: Burgess, W. F. Crouse; councilmen, Noah J. Wickert, John Spangler, David Schwartz, George Stonesifer, and Dr. J. S. Kemp. Since that day Littlestown has grown and developed into the busy and prosperous borough of the present day.

One of the reasons why Littlestown was early settled and has had a prosperous career is due to the presence of the town on excellent lines of travel. Reference has already been made to the importance of the Monocacy Rd. which goes through Littlestown as King St. Mention has also been made of the presence of Littlestown on the line of an important road from Baltimore to Pittsburgh.

Build Gettysburg Road
In 1807 the Gettysburg and Petersburgh Turnpike Co. was chartered to build an improved road

from Gettysburg to Littlestown as a part of a general improvement of the long road from Baltimore to Pittsburgh. In January, 1809, notice for bids to construct the road was published, and the road was completed in 1814. It became one of the most important roads in southern Pennsylvania and Littlestown benefited accordingly.

However, probably the biggest boom to the town came with the building of the Hanover and Littlestown Railroad. The first survey for this railroad was made by J. S. Gitt in November, 1855. A charter was soon thereafter received, and on the 4th of July, 1857, the work of construction was begun at Littlestown. The completion of the road was celebrated just one year later, but the first trains ran three days earlier than the formal celebration, on July 1, 1858. The line ran to Hanover where it joined the Hanover Branch and thus had connection with all important points in the east. The road was later taken over by the Pennsylvania Railroad, and extended to Frederick, Md.

The completion of the railroad brought new life to the town, and it is likely that this gave impetus to the idea of incorporation as a borough six years later.

Historical Significance
Because of its location on important lines of travel, Littlestown has shared in historical occurrences of more than local interest. The first to be mentioned took place in May, 1781, when Washington's army was moving south through Pennsylvania to engage Cornwallis in battle in Virginia.

The diary of an officer of the "Pennsylvania Line" notes that May 26, 1781, these Pennsylvania troops marched from York, under the command of General Anthony Wayne, and encamped 11 miles out on the road to Frederick, or the Monocacy Rd. On the 27th, he says, the drums beat at daylight and the troops took up the line of march at sunrise, and halted near "Peter Little's Town," 14 miles. On the 28th the march was begun through Taneytown and to the banks of Pipe Creek, 14 miles. This force consisted of 800 effective.

The second to be mentioned, and one which has particular interest because of the birthday on February 22 of the "Father of His Country," relates to a visit of George Washington to Littlestown. During his presidency, Washington made trips, from time to time, between the capital city, which was for the greater part of his terms in Philadelphia, and his home at Mt. Vernon. For the sake of variety and also that he might become better acquainted with the country, he made these trips by different routes and by different means. In June and July, 1791, he made one of these trips in returning to Philadelphia from Mt. Vernon by way of Frederick, and spent the night of July 1 in Taneytown.

Quotes From Diary
The following is recorded in his diary for July 2, 1791: "Saturday, 2nd. Set out a little after 4 o'clock and in about six miles crossed the line which divides the states of Maryland and Pennsylvania — the trees on which are so grown up that I could not perceive the opening though I kept a lookout for it. Nine miles from Taneytown, Littlestown is past. They are of similar appearance but the latter is more significant than the former. Seven miles farther we came to Hanover."

Of course this was the Monocacy Rd., and Washington was traveling in a handsome chaise drawn by four white horses and was accompanied by his military secretary, Major Jackson. In addition to him and the coachman there were a baggage wagon and three servants in the party.

Thus, through the nearly 200 years of its existence, Littlestown has stood at the crossroads, receiving and in turn giving of the strength, inspiration and service which have altogether given us a distinctive American way of life.

Smokey Says:



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A Kentucky Tune



Boy Scouts from Frankfurt, Ky., sing state folk songs for Gov. Adlai Stevenson. Adlai Stevenson, executive mansion in Springfield, Ill., after completing 20-mile hike on the old Lincoln Trail. Top (from left) are: Billy Dawkins, Jerry Greenleaf and Buzzy Nave. In front of them (left to right) are: Watson Blanton, Donald Graves, Earl Williams, Gov. Stevenson, Ed Martin and Dickie Dawkins. (AP Wirephoto)

THINGS OF THE SOIL

By DAN P. VAN GORDER
The Gettysburg Times Agriculture Editor

Questions of our readers on lawns, flowers, vegetable growing, poultry, fruit, livestock and general agriculture will be answered by return personal letter without charges if a 3-cent stamp is enclosed.

Address Letters to
THE GETTYSBURG TIMES AGRICULTURE EDITOR
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BRIEF FACTS ABOUT LILIES

Bulbs of the beautiful Madonna lily should be planted in late August or early September because this lily must have time to develop a strong rosette of leaves before winter. Bulbs of other hardy lilies should be planted after they reach the market, in October or even as late as early November.

All lilies resent "wet feet." In choosing sites and preparing soils emphasis should be kept on a low water level, especially over winter when bulb roots are likely where water stands high in the soil.

Use of fresh or coarse manure is unwise. One of the most beneficial forms of organic matter to improve soils for lilies is well weathered cattle manure gathered after it is thoroughly dry in a summer pasture. This should be pulverized and worked uniformly through the lower rooting stratum.

Gardeners who maintain compost heaps may in the absence of the recommended weathered cattle manure use finely rotted compost from where fresh, green vegetation has decayed.

It is advisable to prepare soils for lilies at least two or three weeks before planting time and work some bone meal through the top few inches of soil. Then the entire worked-over area should be soaked with water to settle the soil and render the plant foods soluble.

It is important to avoid undrainable "pockets" when preparing sites for lilies. This is a danger that is common where the sub-soil is heavy.

Lilies are divided into two main groups as regards depth of planting — base-rooting and stem-rooting. The latter group may be planted deeper than base-rooting sorts. A general rule to observe is this: Cover the bulb tip to a depth three times the bulb's greatest diameter. For example, a bulb that measures two inches through its thickest part should be covered 6 inches deep.

Sharp sand placed under and around each bulb insures greater freedom from standing water and excessive soil dampness and at the same time repels soil insect attacks.

An ideal site for lilies is a location sheltered from direct winds where the soil surface is shaded and the lily bulbs reach up into all-day sunshine.

It is doubtful that any group of ornamentals excels lilies in their stately beauty. There is at least a score that should be grown wherever suitable soils and adequate space are available.

Lilies like to be left alone after they are established. That is,

they should not be divided or moved until they begin to crowd. Soil fertility can be maintained indefinitely by working some finely pulverized (weathered) cattle manure and a little bone meal into the surrounding soil in March.

There are no merits to cultivation except to control weeds and grass.

Tender early shoots should be protected from unseasonably late spring frosts.

All lilies are remarkable in their immunity to insect attacks.

The editor invites all related questions.

GROWING TREES FROM SEED
America needs more forests to protect sloping land, to safeguard our cherished freedom of the press through domestic production of ample supplies of wood pulp, to provide timber for many roles where timber is indispensable, to increase rainfall, to drive back the ominous peril of encroaching deserts which inevitably follow in the wake of this thing we call civilization.

One of the chief excuses against tree planting is the factor of cost. How to obtain seedling trees to increase farm woodland plantings is truly a problem until the individual farmer considers growing his own seedlings. Herein several practical suggestions are necessary.

Most forest trees are easy to grow from seed sown in ordinary garden beds and seedlings moved to their growing sites the second or third year. Seed beds should be located in a well drained site near dwellings in order to reduce dangers of rodents damaging the seed or young plants.

As a general rule tree seeds are planted in early spring. The proper depth of covering may be roughly stated as two to three times the thickness or diameter of the particular seed. Thus, small seeds as those of birch must be covered very shallow.

Trees which develop long tap-roots, such as those grown from acorns and nuts in general, may often be wisely started where they are to grow. To prevent rodents from eating planted nuts, each nut should be shielded by a tin can. Remove one end from a can and make two crosscuts at right through the metal of the other end, bending back slightly the four central prongs. Push the open end of the can down over the planted nut. By the time the seedling protrudes through the protective flanges of metal the can will have rusted almost entirely away.

Acorns may be planted in the fall.

Black walnuts, butternuts, and shellbark hickorynuts may be stratified over winter and planted in early spring.

Seed of trees which mature in spring and early summer, including most elms, silver and red maples, poplar, river birch, and mulberry, should be sown soon after it is gathered because seed of these species lose their germinat-

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EISENHOWER TO START TOUR OF SOUTH SEPT. 2

By RELMAN MORIN
NEW YORK (AP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower announced his first major campaign trip today, a double-circle route that will carry him through strategic voting areas in the South and the Middle West.

Leaving New York Sept. 2, he will make appearances in 14 cities in 10 states. The schedule also includes speeches in New York and Philadelphia. The itinerary:

Sept. 1 — New York.
Sept. 2 — Atlanta, Ga., and Jacksonville and Miami, Fla.
Sept. 3 — Tampa, Fla., Birmingham, Ala., Little Rock, Ark., and return New York.
Sept. 4 — Philadelphia.
Sept. 5 — Chicago.
Sept. 6 — Rochester, Kasson and Minneapolis, Minn.
Sept. 7 (Sunday) — Minneapolis no appointments.
Sept. 8 — Indianapolis, Ind.
Sept. 10 — Return New York.

"Whistle Stop" Next
One of his aides said today the general will remain in New York for no more than two or three days before starting on an even longer swing, via the traditional campaign train with numerous "whistle stop" appearances. The route has not been fixed.

Probably, during that period, Eisenhower will meet with Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio, whom he defeated in a bitter battle for the Republican presidential nomination.

One of the general's aides said Taft had told him, in a telephone conversation, that the senator has every intention of giving his best efforts to assist Eisenhower's campaign. The aide was not to be quoted by name.

Taft has been vacationing at Murray Bay, Canada. He is expected to return about Sept. 8.

On the first swing, two sets of regional meetings with Republican party leaders have been scheduled.

In Chicago, Eisenhower will confer with representatives from Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. In Cleveland, conferences are scheduled with party chiefs from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Talks With Dulles
Eisenhower talked at length yesterday with John Foster Dulles, one of his advisers on foreign policy.

Dulles said he believes that Eisenhower stated the outline of a more aggressive foreign policy in his Legion speech. "We should have a declaration by the President along the lines that the next president made — that we will never be satisfied with the rule of communism over 18 formerly independent nations," Dulles said.

"Anyone who says we must not disturb the Communists is writing the ticket for World War III, and that is what the administration is doing. The only way to stop a head-on collision with communism is to break it up from within."

ing power if stored long.
Black locust seed may be gathered directly from the tree or later after the pods drop. On the other hand, such fragile seeds as those of the sycamore must be gathered quickly after it ripens or winds will carry it away.

Stratification refers to a method of storage over winter that actually permits the seed to "ripen" without danger from excessive cold or heat, also in the proper degree of moisture. One of the better methods for stratifying small seeds is to place a layer of moist sand in the bottom of a box and a layer of seed on this. Repeat alternate layers of sand and seed. Then bury the box in a well drained place and cover with dry vegetation to shed water. It is usually advisable to place a layer of cinders beneath the box to insure freedom from standing water. If the outside of the box is covered with wire screen, ground mice and other rodents will be unable to reach the seed.

The editor invites interested readers to write him for all the additional information they desire in planning to grow trees from seed.

The native plants from which corn was developed never have been determined with any certainty by modern scientists.

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Train Resumes Run In South Malaya

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — The northbound main train service between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur is being resumed after constant Communist guerrilla attacks and derailments caused it to be suspended 20 months ago. At the peak of the attacks night trains were derailed or fired on several times a week.

Freight trains continued to run at night after suspension of the passenger service. The resumption of the night mail service indicates an improvement in the situation on South Malaya, where security forces under High Commissioner, Gen. Sir Gerald Temple, have been achieving success against the Red insurgents recently.

GOV. STEVINSON RAPS ATTACKERS OF MARSHALL

By DON WHITEHEAD
NEW YORK (AP)—Gov. Adlai Stevenson coldly accused the attackers of Gen. George C. Marshall today of hiding under a cloak of patriotism which he called "the last refuge of scoundrels."

The Democratic presidential nominee did not use any names but he left no doubt that one of the main targets of his bitter blast was Republican Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin—one time recipient of an American Legion award for Americanism.

McCarthy has accused Marshall, former secretary of state and former secretary of defense, of being party to a plot against the security of his own country.

Stevenson launched his surprise statement in a speech written for the American Legion convention meeting in Madison Square Garden, where GOP presidential nominee Dwight D. Eisenhower spoke only two days ago.

Spanks Legion—
Also, Stevenson figuratively

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wagged a finger under the Legion's nose and told them he would not submit to any pressures from the Legion if he thought their demands were "excessive or in conflict with the public interest."

It was a fighting speech with patriotism as the theme and through it ran a plea to defend freedom of thought in the fight against communism.

Stevenson assailed communism as "the death of the soul" but he added freedom of thought is being menaced by over-zealous patriots.

He called for a strong national defense and the restrained use of America's power to promote freedom, justice and peace in the world.

He told Legionnaires patriotism "is not short, frenzied outburst of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

Then in his first major drive for votes in the East, Stevenson said there are men among us "who use patriotism as a club for attacking other Americans."

He continued: "What can we say for the man who proclaims himself a patriot—and then for political or personal reasons attacks the patriotism of faithful public servants?"

"I give you, as a shocking ex-

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ample, the attacks which have been made on the loyalty and the motives of our great wartime chief of staff, Gen. Marshall.

"To me this is the type of 'patriotism' which is, in Dr. Johnson's phrase, the last refuge of scoundrels."

The Legion speech was the opening gun in Stevenson's big bid for Eastern support in the November election—and it was to be followed by a busy round of speeches and political contacts in New York and New Jersey.

Bali, where Hindu gods still reign, is a place of temples and spectacular rice terraces, glittering dances and ancient music.

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