wick-on-Tweed, which likewise stood just within the boundaries of Northumberland.

GREENWOOD

Greenwood township was formed in 1799 from Fishing Creek township and at present is a sub-division of Columbia county. GREENWOOD took its name from the valley of Green creek and Little Green creek, which drain this area. The suffix **wood** was probably added as being purely descriptive of the original forests of that region.

HEMLOCK

Hemlock township was erected in 1801 by dividing Mahoning township; the eastern portion, with Little Fishing creek as its eastern border, became Hemlock township. Like the previous township considered, its name was taken from the stream which drained much of the area, Hemlock creek, and was at the same time descriptive of the hemlock forests which were a predominant feature.

PENN'S

Penn's township was one of the original seven townships into which Northumberland county was divided at the time of its erection in 1772. At that time its area comprised that district west of the Susquehanna river and south of Penn's creek, practically what is today Snyder county, with some territory to the westward.

Penn's township has been a political unit perhaps longer than any other in central Pennsylvania. It was originally organized as a township of Cumberland county in 1767, as the northernmost division of that county, with the following boundaries:

> "Beginning at the intersection of Cocolamus Creek with McKee's Path; thence up said creek, according to the North-East branch thereof, to the Susquehanna River as high as George (Gabriel) Gabraith's plantation, thence down said river as far as McKee's path; thence along said path to the place of beginning."

Penn's township has therefore a continuous existence of at least five more years than any of the other townships of Old Northumberland.

PENN'S TOWNSHIP received its name, of course, from that majestic stream, Penn's creek, which today as in 1772, forms its northern boundary. Penn's creek has its source at Penn's Cave, that beautiful limestone cavern to which has been attached the legend of Nittany, the Indian maiden. From its source in this cave near the end of Brush mountain in present Centre county, it flows eastward thru Penn's Valley, until at present Coburn it breaks thru the mountain barrier to the south; then again eastward until it merges itself with the Susquehanna at the Isle of Que. One of our most beautiful streams thruout its entire course, bordered by pasture lands, mountain passes and again fertile fields, it remains one of our few streams still natural and unspoiled by polution.

Penn's creek is first mentioned in the deed of the land purchased from the Six Nations at the Albany treaty on July 6, 1754.

> "South and west of a line commencing at the Kittochtinny or Blue hills, on the Susquehanna river, to a point one mile above the mouth of a certain creek, called Kayarondinhagh; thence north-west and by west as far as the Province of Pennsylvania extends, to its western line or boundary."

Inasmuch as the commissioners sent to Albany in the interest of Pennsylvania were John Penn and Richard Peters to represent the Proprietaries in the land purchase, Isaac Norris and Benjamin Franklin to represent the Assembly, and Conrad Weiser as interpreter, it is quite possible that this creek was referred to as the stream marking the extent of John Penn's purchase, and then as **John Penn's Creek.** It is already referred to by this latter name in a letter from Conrad Weiser in 1755 and also in the deed of 1758.

Penn's creek was known in the Delaware language as the **Big Mahonoy,** and is thus marked on Scull's map of 1759, as I have noted in a previous paragraph. This

name continued to be used in deeds as late as 1772. In the language of the Iroquois it was **Karoondinhah, Kaarondinhah,** etc., the meaning of which I have been unable to ascertain.

It was along this stream, as a result of the Albany Purchase of 1754, that a party of dissatisfied Delawares, 14 in number, under a chief, Kechinnyperlin, from Kittaning, struck the first hostile blow against defenseless settlers on the Pennsylvania frontier on Oct. 16, 1755, when 15 were killed and 10 taken captive near present New Berlin—**the Penn's Creek Massacre.** Near the mouth of this creek was the ambush of the party under John Harris, who had come up to bury the dead, nine days later. It is of interest to note that in John Harris' account of this action he uses the Delaware name of the stream, Mahanoy, while Weiser, who was an adopted Mohawk and shared their scorn of the Delawares, calls it John Penn's creek. This has no doubt led many an historian to state that there were two massacres, one on the east shore of the river, but I am convinced that the one called the Mahanoy Massacre is identical with this action.

This completes the group of townships which were named for streams which drain the area. Twelve of these were Indian names, and of the twelve others most were probably translated with the exception of the last one considered, Penn's. This latter name could also be considered in the next group, those townships named for famous men.

TOWNSHIPS NAMED FOR FAMOUS MEN

Only seven of the early townships were named for famous men, or eight if we include Penn's. Five of these men were of particular local significance, each having a close association with the early history of Northumberland county and each being perhaps the most extensive land owner in that particular region to which his name is now attached. The other two are likewise quite appropriate, one being named for the first governor of our Commonwealth and the other for the first president of the United States.

TURBUTT

Turbutt township was one of the original seven townships into which Northumberland county was laid out in 1772. As then bounded it formed a somewhat irregular quadrilateral, with the West Branch and North Branch forming two sides, the Muncy Hills the northern boundary and the old Berks-Northampton line at the east.

Following the French and Indian War, which was the first war in which Pennsylvania participated, there was an association formed to secure for the veterans of the war some additional compensation. This corresponded very much to our modern bonus, except that in those days only the commissioned officers participated. This movement had taken form as early as 1764 at Bedford, where the officers who had served under Colonel Bouquet met upon their homeward journey. They requested lands to be granted to them. This request was pressed with renewed vigor following the "New Purchase" of 1768, and on May 16, 1769, the officers again met at Harris' Ferry with the surveyors, who laid before them the drafts of three surveys of approximately 8000 acres each, north of the forks of the Susquehanna, in the Buffalo Valley and in the Bald Eagle Valley. These officers then agreed that Lieutenant Colonel Turbutt Francis, whose name headed the list and who had been very active in securing the grant, should receive 2,075 acres surveyed to him in one grant adjoining the tract which he had lately purchased from Andrew Montour.

Lieutenant Colonel Turbutt Francis had served as captain of the Sixtieth Foot during the French and Indian War and was Lieutenant Colonel of the Pennsylvania Provincial Regiment under Colonel Bouquet during the Pontiac War. The story of his life and especially of his local contracts has been told at length and quite ably by our president, Mr. Godcharles, in a paper published in a previous volume of the proceedings of our society.

According to Meginess* Colonel Francis owned the land from Chillisquaque creek, along the West Branch

* (Otzinacnson, Page 338.)

to a point near Watsontown and also acquired by purchase the land from Chillisquaque creek to and including Northumberland, a continuous strip to almost eighteen miles. He says that John Lowdon bought the site of Northumberland from Colonel Francis and had it patented to his wife, Sarah Lowdon, July 7, 1770.

Colonel Francis was commandant of the garrison at Fort Augusta, 1769-1771, served as prothonotary of Cumberland county in 1770, and was living at Sunbury when Northumberland county was organized in 1772, at which time he was commissioned one of the first justices in Council of the new county; and this township in which he was probably the most extensive landowner was named in his honor.

When Columbia county was formed, March 22, 1813, Turbut township was included in that county and remained a part of it until Feb. 21, 1815, when it was returned to Northumberland county. However, on Jan. 22, 1816, it was divided and a portion again given to Columbia county; this part is now Limestone township, Montour county.

TURBOTVILLE was laid out and named when it was within the bounds of Turbut township. It was first know as **Snydertown,** in honor of Philip Reifsnyder, a pioneer settler, but renamed to avoid confusion with other towns of that name. It became a borough in 1858.

The township is known as Turbut, instead of the original Turbutt, while the name of the borough is spelled Turbotville.

POTTER

Following the formation of Northumberland county in 1772, the first sub-division to be formed within the county was at the May sessions of the courts in 1774, when Potter township was formed. As then laid out its extent was that district which is today included in south and eastern Centre county, Nittany mountain being its northern boundary. In the formation of this new township Bald Eagle township contributed the largest portion, with smaller parts from Buffalo and Penn's.

Probably no township in Old Northumberland county was more appropriately named, since POTTER bore the name of the man who was the first white man to set eye upon this valley, and the story of whose life was the history of Potter township until his death.

A young ensign in the battalion of Lieut. Col. John Armstrong, who was wounded in the attack upon Kittaning, Sept. 8, 1756, James Potter became a captain before the end of the war. During his return from Kittaning he conceived the idea that inclosed by the mountain ranges, there must be some open valleys. Upon being stationed at Fort Augusta he secured a leave of absence one summer between 1759 and 1764. With one companion he traversed the West Branch and then up Bald Eagle creek and its tributary, Spring creek. Striking south they came to the summit of Nittany mountain, where Capt. Potter, seeing the magnificent panorama of the valley below him, called to his attendant, "By heavens, Thompson, I have discovered an empire."

Upon descending into the valley, which we know today as Penn's Valley, they soon found themselves out of provisions. For two days they subsisted on the flesh scraped from a dried beaver's skin and starvation was facing them, when they fortunately happened upon a stream of some size flowing eastward, which they reasoned should bring them to the Susquehanna. Hastily constructing a canoe or raft they floated down the stream which they called **John Penn's Creek,** little dreaming that it was the stream which entered the river at the Isle of Que and known there as Penn's creek.

Upon their arrival at Fort Augusta they talked of the beautiful valley which they had found, and it so happened that a certain Indian, Job Chilloway, who had gained the friendship of the garrison, overheard that they had found this valley, and realizing that it was lost to the Indians, determined to make some personal profit thereby; he went to Colonel Hunter and sold him certain rights which he claimed to hold. Thereupon Capt. Potter and Col. Hunter each went to Philadelphia to file applications and procure warrants for

this land, which led to conflicting titles and litigation for many years.

Capt. Potter lived in the vicinity of present Sunbury in 1768 and was one of the justices appointed when Northumberland county was organized. He lived for a year or so near the present site of New Columbia, Union county, and in the spring of 1774 removed with his family to Penn's Valley and Potter township was erected. In Jan., 1776, he was elected a colonel of Northumberland county militia and commanded a battalion at Trenton and Princeton, and on April 5, 1777, became a brigadier-general. He commanded a brigade at Brandywine, Germantown and Valley Forge. During 1777 his log house in Penn's Valley was stockaded and became known as **the Upper Fort** or **Potter's Fort,** and in later days as the **"Old Fort,"** the most exposed outpost between the West Branch and the Juniata.

In January, 1778, because of his wife's illness, he obtained a leave of absence and returned to Penn's Valley, where he took personal charge in repelling the Indian raids. He remained there until the "Great Runaway" in July, 1779, when he withdrew with the other frontiersmen to be within closer range of Fort Augusta. During these days he lived along Middle creek, in present Snyder county, and it was there that his first wife died. In November, 1780, when he became a member of the Supreme Executive Council he was still living along Middle creek. On Nov. 14, 1781, he was elected vice-president of Pennsylvania and May 23, 1782, he was unanimously elected major-general. He was defeated for President of the Commonwealth by a very few votes by John Dickinson, one of the most distinguished men in the State.

General Potter continued to live in Potter township, improving his lands, placing them in cultivation, building houses, barns and mills. In 1788 he built the first house and mill at what is known today as POTTER'S MILLS, also known in past years as **Potter's Bank,** along the main highway leading south over the Seven Mountains. In 1789 he was injured in raising a barn near his home. He journeyed to Franklin county

to secure the attention of a physician he knew, and died there November, 1789, at which time he was an associate on the bench of justices of Northumberland county. He is buried in an unmarked grave at Brown's Mill, ten miles south of Chambersburg.

At the time of his death, General Potter owned over 6000 acres of the finest land in this township. It has been said that one could travel from present Spring Mills to Boalsburg without leaving his property.

General Potter was further honored by having a county in the northern tier named for him. The House had passed the bill to call the new county **Sinnemahoning,** but in the upper house Senator James Harris, one of the founders of Bellefonte, made a motion to change the name to POTTER, which carried.

Potter township remained in Northumberland county thruout the Revolutionary period until 1789, when it was taken in the formation of Mifflin county, where it remained until 1800 when Centre county was formed and of which it is today a part.

HAINES

When Mifflin county was erected, March 19, 1789, that part of Potter township west of George McCormick's mill on Penn's creek, now Spring Mills, was included in the new county. This left a considerable portion of the township in Northumberland county and this part, the eastern end of Penn's Valley, became Haines township, by order of the court, February session, 1790.

HAINES TOWNSHIP took its name from Reuben Haines, who was the largest land owner of that region.

Following the discovery of Penn's Valley by General Potter, and the purchase of certain rights by Colonel Hunter from Job Chilloway, both had gone to Philadelphia to file their claims. However, Colonel Hunter sold his claim to Reuben Haines, then a rich brewer in Philadelphia, a Quaker, and from that time on one of the large land speculators of this county.

Potter and Haines seem to have engaged in litigation over the valley, but by 1766 they seem to have

arrived at a compromise, by which Potter took the western part of the valley, while Haines received title to the east. The earliest warrants to both are dated Aug. 1, 1766, and from that date on, Potter's surveys are west of Penn's creek, and Haines' to the eastward. The first surveys were made upon these orders or warrants by Samuel and William Maclay in 1766. The odd feature is that the first survey for Haines was **"The Great Spring"** tract, named for and including the large spring on the west side of Penn's creek, from which SPRING MILLS takes its name, and the first survey for Potter was the **"Auchentorlie"** to the east of the creek.

In this manner, Reuben Haines became possessed of several thousand acres of land in Penn's Valley, extending from present Woodward to Spring Mills.

Sometime at about this period Reuben Haines became a resident of the town of Northumberland. He acquired the title of the plot from Lowdon and Patterson and became proprietor of the town in 1775. He developed the town during the following years, selling lots to new settlers and tradesmen who established themselves there; he also donated town lots to various churches for church purposes and cemeteries. Among the latter plots is that known today as **"Quaker Green"** where several of his children are buried. He is said to have built **"Oak Hall,"** now the home of the American Legion along the Danville road, altho I have been unable to confirm this.

As a real estate promotor he early realized that it was necessary to provide roads so that new settlers might have better access to his land in Penn's Valley. To this end he caused the first road west of the Susquehanna in this part of the State, to be opened in 1771. It followed an ancient Indian trail from the river's edge opposite Fort Augusta, westward up thru Blue Hill Hollow, along the present road which is the Snyder-Union county boundary, thru present New Berlin to the fork in the present highway in the eastern part of Hartleton, thence along the present State highway to the county line, marked on old maps as the "Four Mile Tree on Reuben Haines' Road," and thence into Penn's Valley.

Haines township remained a part of Northumberland county until 1800 when it was included within the new county of Centre.

MILES

As early as 1774 a petition had been presented to the Court of Quarter Session asking for a division of Haines township, setting forth that Penn's and Brush valleys were separated by a lofty mountain range which rendered communication difficult.

The court appointed six commissioners, but their report cannot be found. The new township was organized in 1797, however, and was named in honor of Col. Samuel Miles, who originally owned all the arable land from the Brush Valley Narrows to Penn's Cave, having obtained title thru twenty-four warrants, issued in 1772, in various names, real or fictitious, who later conveyed to Samuel Miles.

Samuel Miles had been an ensign in Colonel Clapham's regiment and assisted in the building of Fort Augusta. It was he who, together with Lieut. Samuel Atlee, were almost taken prisoner by the Indians at the time a soldier drinking at the spring was killed by them, which incident has been remembered in the name "Bloody Spring." During the Revolution he was Colonel of the Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment, Continental Line, in which many Northumberland county soldiers served, including Capt. Casper Weitzel's Company. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Long Island, and after his release became Deputy Quarter Master General of Pennsylvania. In 1790 he was elected mayor of Philadelphia.

Colonel Miles died Dec. 29, 1805, at Cheltenham, Montgomery county. In addition to the land in Miles township, he also was the proprietor of MILESBURG, also now in Centre county, which he laid out in 1793 and where his descendants have lived down to the present generation. A year or two previous to this he had been one of the original partners in the erection of **Centre Furnace,** one of the first iron furnaces in western Pennsylvania.

Miles township was taken from Northumberland county in the erection of Centre county in 1800. At that time its area included in addition to Brush Valley, the region of Sugar Valley at present Logan and Greene townships in Clinton county.

HARTLEY

Hartley township was erected in 1811 from West Buffalo township and was a sub-division of Northumberland county for only two years, when it was taken by the newly organized county of Union, of which county it still forms the extreme western part.

However, HARTLEY township perpetuates the name of a man whose services during the Revolution were of the greatest help to Northumberland county in those trying days. Thomas Hartley was born in Berks county in 1748, had studied law in York and had been admitted to the bar of York county in 1769. During the early days of the Revolution he had served in a number of civil and military offices. In January, 1776, Congress elected him Lieutenant Colonel of the Sixth Battalion of the Pennsylvania Line and he served with that regiment on the campaign in Canada. He then commanded the First Pennsylvania Brigade, Wayne's division, at Brandywine and Germantown.

In July, 1778, following the Indian outrages along the West Branch and North Branch, since known as the Big Runaway, he was sent with a force of 200 men to punish the savages along our frontier. He gathered his stores at the Maclay house in Sunbury, which he further strengthened by stockading the rear. In August he had proceeded to Muncy where the men of his command built Fort Muncy. He placed garrisons at four or five outposts between the Great Island and Fishing creek. On the 21st of September he left Muncy, moving by way of the Sheshequin Path, to Tioga, which he burned, as he likewise did all the Indian towns between Tioga and Wyoming, and returned to Sunbury by way of the North Branch on the 5th of October, having struck a very telling blow against the Indians, with the small force under his command, for which deed he

received a vote of thanks from the Supreme Executive Council.

Later in the same year his command was merged with the "New Eleventh" Regiment of the Pennsylvania Line and he retired from military service. In 1783 he was a member of the Council of Censors, and in 1787 a member of the Constitutional convention. In 1788 he was elected to Congress and was a member until his death at York, Pa., Dec. 21, 1800.

Col. Hartley seems to have lived for some time at Sunbury. He is taxed in Augusta township 1778-80, and also became a member of Lodge 22, F. and A. M., in 1784, having been initiated in Lodge 29, which was one of the military lodges. In April, 1800, he was commissioned Major General of the Pennsylvania Militia. He was one of the original members of the Society of the Cincinnati and an early trustee of Dickinson college.

Sometime during the Revolution he had acquired by purchase a tract of some 1000 acres of land in the western part of Buffalo Valley, and on this tract in 1799 he laid out a town, at first known as **Hartley's Town,** and now HARTLETON, which together with the township perpetuate his name.

MIFFLIN

Mifflin township was organized in 1799 from the eastern part of Catawissa and still maintains its identity in eastern Columbia county.

For a number of years this township included within its limits that long neck of territory reaching eastward and remaining in Northumberland county, for the reason that the boundaries of Luzerne county had been defined as "beginning at the mouth of Nescopeck creek, and running along the south bank thereof eastward to the head of said creek, from thence a due east course to the head branch of Lehigh creek." Thus a strip of mountain land, thirty miles in length and from six to eight miles wide, and including the present site of Hazleton, remained in our county and in this township until annexed to Luzerne county by special act of assembly in 1808.

MIFFLIN township was named for Governor Thomas Mifflin, the last President of the Supreme Executive Council and the first Governor of the Commonwealth under the constitution of 1790; who served three successive terms as Governor. It was during his final term as Governor that this township was formed and named in his honor.

Governor Mifflin served during the formative period of our country, and for that reason several new towns and other subdivisions are named for him. MIFFLIN county was erected in 1789, and to its area Northumberland county contributed all of Upper Bald Eagle township and part of Potter township, which territory is now largely included within Centre county.

The town of MIFFLINVILLE, now in Columbia county on the south shore of the North Branch, was laid out in 1794 by John Kunchel and William Rittenhouse and sometimes marked on older maps as **Mifflinburg.** These promotors marked off a spacious main street, some 150 feet in width, with the hope that their town might some day be the State capital, and failing that, surely a county seat, but they seem to have planned in vain.

In another part of Old Northumberland, now in Union county, is MIFFLINBURG, that neat and trim little borough which always arrests the notice of every passerby; and also named for our first governor. Laid out in 1792 by Elias Youngman, it was long known as **Youngmanstown,** and in the dialect as **Youngmanstaedle.**

WASHINGTON

Washington township was erected by order of the August session of the court, 1785, in response to a petition for a division of White Deer township. The portion south of White Deer mountain having retained the old name, the northern portion was named for General George Washington, who four years later was to become the first President of the United States.

Washington township then extended from South White Deer ridge to the West Branch. Its identity is still preserved in southern Lycoming county.

Many years later, when Northumberland county had been greatly reduced in area, another township in the southern part of the county was named Washington in 1856.

A borough, now in Montour county, is named WASHINGTONVILLE, also in honor of the first President.

This concludes the group of early townships named for famous men.

In the final groups are two named for natural features and four which can only be classified as having names of various miscellaneous origins.

POINT

Point township was organized in 1786 from a portion of what had previously been included in Mahoning township. It was triangular in shape with the West Branch and North Branch of the Susquehanna along either side and Montour Ridge along the northern border. It has preserved its geographical identity ever since that time, longer than any other sub-division within the county, having only lost a small portion of territory when Northumberland became a borough, and also the loss of Shamokin Island which originally was assigned to it.

POINT TOWNSHIP took its name from the forks of the Susquehanna or "the Point," in the same way that Forks township, Northampton county, was named. The point had been the site of a part of the Indian town of Shamokin, this part was sometimes known as **Chenastry** or **Chenasshy,** no doubt a corruption of **Otzinachson.** Here James Le Tort had his trading post as early as 1725, and Robert Martin a tavern at the time when settlers were coming into the "New Purchase" lands.

CENTRE

Centre township was formed in 1804 from Penn's township. It is possible that thru boundary adjustments that Beaver township may have contributed some territory.

The name is purely of geographical significance and this is hard to explain. It certainly was far from being the central point of Northumberland county in 1804, and while it was for some time near the centre of Union county, that county did not come into existence until nine years later.

However, the most reasonable explanation seems to be that the formation of this new township had divided the Middle Creek Valley into three townships, Penn's and Beaver at either end, and the new township in the centre. In the report of the viewers for this new township they had recommended the name to be **Jefferson,** for Thomas Jefferson, at that time President, but the name CENTRE prevailed.

MIDDLE CREEK has been known by its present name from the earliest times and is so marked on the early maps. The origin of the name may have been similar to that of Loyalsock, but translated in this case. The village of MIDDLEBURG had been laid out in 1798 by John Swineford and known locally as **Swinefordsteadtle;** about 1825 it became Middleburg from its location on Middle creek and being near the centre of the valley.

Likewise CENTERVILLE took its name from Centre township, having at first been **Weirickstеadtle** for the founder.

CENTRE COUNTY, which was organized in 1800 from territory which had practically all been within the bounds of Northumberland county at some previous time, was named because of its geographical situation in the State. However, the name had already been applied to the region some years previous. As early as 1791 building was started on an iron furnace called **Centre Furnace,** which was placed in blast, May 2, 1792, by the firm of Miles, Patton and Miles. This was between the present towns of State College and Lemont and was the first iron furnace in this region and the first use of the name Centre.

AUGUSTA

Among the original townships of Northumberland county, one of the first to be named and whose bound-

aries were defined, was Augusta. As then laid out it embraced all the territory east of the Susquehanna and south of the North Branch eastward to the old Berks-Northampton line, which crossed the North Branch near the present site of Bloomsburg.

AUGUSTA township was plainly named for Fort Augusta, which had been erected sixteen years before, the most important point in the new township and the designated place where the first courts of the county convened.

Fort Augusta was built during the summer of 1756 by the Augusta Regiment under Col. William Clapham It was named for the Princess Augusta, of Saxe Gotha, at that time the widow of Frederick, Prince of Wales, who had died in 1751. She was the mother of George III against whose dominion in these parts, this fort named for his mother played a very important part during our War for Independence. Augusta county in Virginia received its name also in her honor, and likewise West Augusta, the district so long in dispute between Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Augusta township was divided in 1846 into UPPER AUGUSTA and LOWER AUGUSTA townships. AUGUSTAVILLE was named when still within this township.

SUNBURY

Sunbury was organized as an incorporated town from 1803 to 1858. However, I have given the origin of the name at the beginning of the article.

BLOOM

Bloom township was organized in 1798 from a portion of Briar Creek township, and which until the previous year had been within the bounds of Fishing Creek township.

A few years later, in 1802, a town was laid out, on the land between Fishing creek and the North Branch by Ludwig Eyer, which began its early existence under the name of **Eyersburg** or **Oyertown**, and sometimes **Eyerstaedel.** When this town had achieved sufficient prominence to warrant the establishment of

a post office, sometime about 1810, popular sentiment led to demand a new name which it was thought would enhance the dignity of the town, hence BLOOMSBURG took its name from Bloom township.

In 1870 Bloomsburg and Bloom township were together merged and organized into "the town of Bloomsburg," which today is the only incorporated town in our State.

As to the origin of the name of BLOOM TOWNSHIP, I must admit I have sought an answer from every conceivable source, but none of the various origins given me are convincing.

The most common story which is also given by Espenshade is that it was named for Samuel Bloom, a county commissioner. Well, Samuel Bloom, of Augusta township, was a commissioner of Northumberland county from 1813 to 1815, but the township was named fifteen years previous to this and I can find no other connection of this man with the present county seat of Columbia county.

It was also stated by the late Samuel Neyhard, an authority of that section, that it was named by early travelers along the river, who came by boat during the summer, when the hills were covered with the bloom of laurel.

Since neither of these explanations are very convincing, especially when considered along with the origins of the names of all the other early townships, I feel that the local historians of Bloomsburg can do a real service by tracing down the true facts concerning the origin of the name of that town.

DERRY

Derry township was formed in 1786 from Turbut and Mahoning, and still exists, altho reduced in area, in Montour county.

Its name is derived from Londonderry, Ireland, whose ancient Celtic name was DERRY. It probably came to our county by way of Derry township, now in Dauphin county, which was organized in 1729, the same year the ancient weather-beaten log church was built

which can be viewed within its protective glass house in the very modern town of Hershey. The Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who settled this part of Old Northumberland no doubt brought the name of their old home into the new region, where the new township and a new church received the name.

Of the seven townships named for famous men, two for natural features, and the four whose names are of varied origins, it is worthy of note that it was almost impossible to name them for the stream draining the area. Of these Potter, Haines and Hartley were drained by Penn's creek, while Turbutt, Augusta, Bloom, Point, Mifflin and Washington were along the river with no predominant tributary stream in their area.

It is quite evident as we have gone along that there is indeed a lot of history tied to the names of the townships of Old Northumberland County.

The Names of Present Day Townships of Northumberland County

Their Origin and Significance

By CHARLES FISHER SNYDER

Presented Before The Society March 17, 1936

At the present time there are twenty-four townships within the bounds of Northumberland county. The names of these townships can be classified as follows:

Indian Names

Shamokin
Lower Mahanoy
Upper Mahanoy
Little Mahanoy
East Chillisquaque
West Chillisquaque

Named for Prominent Men

Washington
Jackson
Turbutt
Rush
Lewis
Jordan
Rockefeller
East Cameron
West Cameron
Gearhart

Named for Natural Features

Point
Coal

Named for Streams

Delaware
Zerbe

Miscellaneous Names

Upper Augusta
Lower Augusta
Ralpho
Mount Carmel

INDIAN NAMES

The origin of the names of those six townships which bear Indian names have all been discussed in the previous article.

OTHER TOWNSHIPS NAMED FOR STREAMS

There are two townships which are named for streams, in addition to those having Indian names. DELAWARE township, erected in 1843 from Turbut township, received its name from Delaware run, which drains a large portion of its area, and which in turn took its name from the Delaware Indian nation which predominated in these parts.

ZERBE township, erected in 1853 from Coal township, took its name from Zerbe run which drains part of that area. Its name is that of one of the pioneer families who were of Huguenot origin.

TOWNSHIPS NAMED FOR NATURAL FEATURES

There are two townships named because of natural features that are peculiar to them. The origin of the name of POINT township has been taken up in the previous article. COAL township was organized in 1837 from Little Mahanoy and Shamokin townships. At that time its area also included the present townships of East and West Cameron, Zerbe and Mount Carmel, in addition to its present extent, or the entire coal producing area of our county, so that the name was very well chosen. In 1838 a post-office was established, designated by the name **Coal,** which was changed to Shamokin in 1840.

TOWNSHIPS NAMED FOR PROMINENT MEN

There are ten of the present townships which perpetuate the names of prominent men or families.

Two of these were named for Presidents of the United States, WASHINGTON, formed in 1856 from Jackson and Upper Mahanoy, and JACKSON, formed in 1836 from Upper Mahanoy and Lower Mahanoy.

Five of the townships bear the names of men who served as judges of Northumberland county.

TURBUT, named for Col. Turbutt Francis, landowner, and one of the justices of the courts when the county was erected in 1772.

RUSH, erected in 1819 from Shamokin township, was named for Jacob Rush, president judge of the county from 1791 to 1806.

LEWIS, erected 1843 from Turbut township, was named for Ellis Lewis, who was president judge from 1833 to 1843.

JORDAN, erected in 1852 from Jackson and Upper Mahanoy townships, was named for Alexander Jordan, the first president judge of the county to be elected by the people. His term was from 1851 to 1871.

ROCKEFELLER, erected in 1880 from Lower Augusta township, was named for William M. Rockefeller who was judge of the courts at the time of its formation, his term having been from 1871 to 1891.

Three townships were named for prominent local families. EAST CAMERON and WEST CAMERON were formed by the division of Cameron township which had been erected in 1851 from Coal township. Cameron township had taken its name from the Cameron family, William Cameron, landowner, and his distinguished brothers, Simon Cameron, who was Secretary of War in Lincoln's cabinet, and Col. James Cameron, the first officer of his rank to be killed in the Union Army during the Civil War.

GEARHART township, erected in 1890 from Rush township, was named for the Gearhart family, early pioneers and landowners in that locality who have always played a prominent part in that region.

It is of interest to be here noted that there are several other townships beyond the bounds of Northumberland county which have been named for men who were judges of those counties and were at the same time judges of our county when both were part of the same judicial district. These are CHAPMAN township in Snyder county, named for Seth Chapman, who was president judge of our county from 1811 to 1833, and also ANTHONY township, Montour county, named for Joseph B. Anthony, who was president judge from 1844 to 1851.

NAMES OF MISCELLANEOUS ORIGINS

There are four townships whose names can only be grouped as being of various other origins than those already mentioned.

UPPER AUGUSTA and LOWER AUGUSTA were formed by the division of Augusta township in 1846, and the origin of this name has been considered in the previous article. However, at the time of the division the name of **Porter** had been suggested for the southern portion.

RALPHO township was formed by the division of Shamokin township in 1883, the eastern portion taking this name which had been the first name given to Shamokin township back in 1788, as mentioned before. The only known origin for this name is that it had been named for Rapho township in Lancaster county which had been organized in 1741 and named for the Parish of Rapho in County Donegal, Ireland.

MOUNT CARMEL township was erected in 1855 from Coal township. This name is one of the most interesting township and borough names in our county today. The name can be traced back to about 1812 when Richard Yarnell had a tavern along the Centre turnpike at the present site of the borough of Mt. Carmel, which he called the **Mount Carmel Inn.** As to the origin of the name beyond this point, I have never heard, nor would I venture an opinion.

Northumberland County Historical Society

Officers for 1936.

President	Frederic A. Godcharles	Milton, Pa.
First Vice President	J. Simpson Kline	Sunbury, Pa.
Second Vice President	John H. Carter	Trevorton, Pa.
Third Vice President	George H. Neff	Sunbury, Pa.
Fourth Vice President	Miss Elizabeth D. Grant	Sunbury, Pa.
Treasurer	William C. Hill	Sunbury, Pa.
Secretary	Heber G. Gearhart	Sunbury, Pa.

Committee on Publication for 1936.

Miss Elizabeth D. Grant, Chairman	Sunbury, Pa.
Thomas J. Silvius, Editor-in-Chief	Sunbury, Pa.
George H. Neff	Sunbury, Pa.
Charles F. Snyder	Sunbury, Pa.
Heber G. Gearhart, Secretary	Sunbury, Pa.

Table of Contents

Page

Bear Gap, Early Life in the Vicinity of,
By J. Mettler Pensyl 160

Cannon, The Old Fort Augusta,
By Heber G. Gearhart 62

Centre Turnpike, The Old,
By Chester D. Clark 114

Centre Turnpike, Presentation of Mile Post No. 63,
By Warren Van Dyke 127

Church, The Himmel,
By John H. Carter 67

Dewart Family, The,
By Lewis Dewart 181

Duel, The Last in Pennsylvania,
By Heber G. Gearhart 168

Edison's Experiment in Sunbury,
By Heber G. Gearhart 176

Fisher's Ferry, The Stone House at,
By Heber G. Gearhart 40

Fithian's Journal, Philip Vickers,
By T. Kenneth Wood 44

Iron T. Rail in the World Rolled at Danville, The First,
By Heber G. Gearhart 191

Lower Northumberland County, Tales that Were Told in,
By George E. Deppen 172

Morrison, Rev. Hugh,
By Miss Anne E. Welker, ...111

Table of Contents

[Continued]

Page

Music of Northumberland County,
By Irvin W. Rothenberg 98

Officers for 1936 251

Pollock, Governor James,
By Frederic A. Godcharles 5

Publication, Committee on, for 1936 251

Taverns, Early, Along the Centre Turnpike,
By Carl Rice 131

Township Names of Old Northumberland County,
By Charles F. Snyder 195

Township Names of Present Day Northumberland County,
By Charles F. Snyder 245

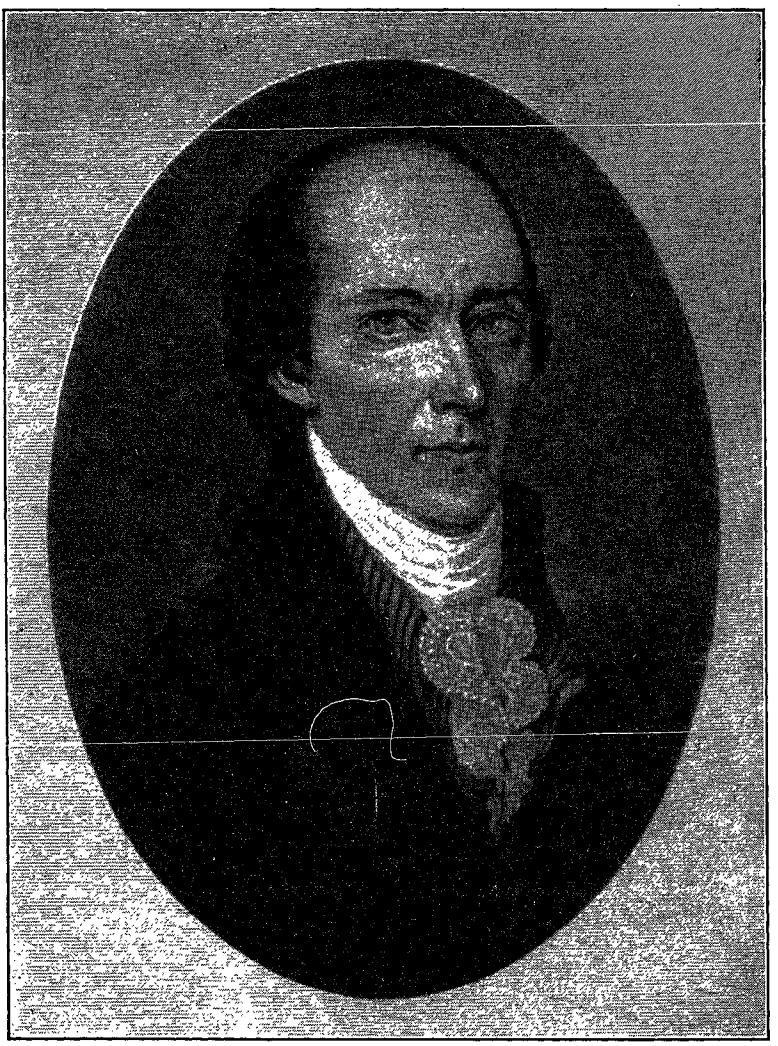
Illustrations

Page

Cannon, Old Fort Augusta 65
Centre Turnpike at Bear Gap 115
Centre Turnpike, Mile Post No. 63 127
Centre Turnpike, Mile Post No. 71 127
Dewart, Lewis 181
Dewart, Home of William L. 177
Fisher's Ferry, Stone House at 41
Himmel Stone Church and Cemetery 67
Himmel Church Pewter Communion Set 67
Himmel Church Pipe Organ 99
Kriegbaum's Grist and Saw Mill near Bear Gap 161
Leisenring's, Jacob, Stone Tavern at Bear Gap.....131
Morrison, Rev. Hugh, and Wife, Gravestones of 111
Pollock, James .....Frontispiece
Pollock, Inauguration of Gov. James, 1855 17
Priestley Piano 99
Quaker Meeting House and Log School House 161
Sunbury and Northumberland, Fithian's Map of 61
Township Map 195
Weaver's, Martin, Stone Tavern near Stonington ...131

A000015527943

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM PENNSYLVANIA, 1789–1791.

(FROM THE ORIGINAL MINIATURE.)

The

Northumberland County

Historical Society

INCORPORATED MAY 21, 1928

PROCEEDINGS

AND

ADDRESSES

VOLUME IX.

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

MAY 1, 1937

SUNBURY DAILY ITEM PRINT

LIBRARY
PENNSYLVANIA
COLLEGE

B974.821
N21p

Copyright 1937
The Northumberland County Historical Society
All Rights Reserved

This Volume is

Respectfully Dedicated

to

WILLIAM MACLAY

First United States Senator

From Pennsylvania

Surveyor, Soldier, Statesman

Patriot, Land Agent, Judge

First Prothonotary of Northumberland County

Member of the Supreme Executive Council

Journalist of the First U. S. Congress

and

Leader of the Opposition from which

Developed the Democratic Party

Born Chester County, Pennsylvania

July 20, 1737

Died Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

April 16, 1804

In Commemoration of the

Bicentennial of his Birth

1963152

William Maclay, City Planner

BY A. BOYD HAMILTON

Presented Before the Society September 24, 1935

One of the great books of the Bible, a work of marvellous revelation, is known to many, many people because of experiences Jonah had with a whale. It is most regrettable that a man of such varied talents and such great service to commonwealth and republic as William Maclay should be judged by a personal diary kept during a brief two year term as the senior Senator in commission from Pennsylvania in the first Senate of the United States. This eminent Pennsylvania set down from day to day for his own perusal and with candor characteristic of him observations and comments on men and events. I doubt sometimes whether he ever intended that it should be printed. But in any event his service in that famous body was but two years. William Maclay lived sixty-seven years. Almost fifty years were spent in some form of public service. At the age of nineteen he left his studies to take up arms at the call of his native Commonwealth. He died just as he completed a term in its Legislature.

While pre-eminently a man of affairs and responsibilities, William Maclay had a human side, to which I shall refer, but I want to more especially emphasize his work as a city planner. You are familiar with the services rendered by William Maclay to Northumberland county and its vicinity and his part in laying out your county town of Sunbury through the researches and excellent paper of Heber Gearhart, Esquire. We in Harrisburg lay claim to this statesman and acknowledge our debt to his wisdom and faith. I would add to Mr. Gearhart's study the observation that the family came to Pennsylvania from Ireland just about two centuries ago with a migration of folk who gave to this Commonwealth many persons who

rose to prominence in Central Pennsylvania and in the southeastern counties. It is not necessary to go into the Scottish or Irish backgrounds that extend to Normandy and beyond.

What has impressed me in the life of Maclay were his prodigious industry, his careful weighing of questions and estimate of consequences, habits of intensive study and determination upon a course to which he adhered. Throughout his life he manifested a most excellent business judgment.

As his parents wished him to learn the people of his native county he was sent when quite young from the homestead in Lurgan, now Franklin county, to the Blair school in the vicinity of the country in Chester county where he was born in 1737. His first advanced instruction was in arithmetic in which he must have been thoroughly grounded as is demonstrated in his work as a surveyor. Many of his maps have been checked time and again and found correct, one of the State's foremost authorities on land grants tells us. In fact, they are at the base of land titles in half a dozen counties today. Some of his maps are in the Department of Internal Affairs Land Office.

It was at this school he developed that precise handwriting so indicative of the painstaking nature of the man and likewise that once his mind was made up he was hard to change. There he learned that clear English marking his writings and utterances all his days, which must strike anyone who has read his comments upon the proceedings of the first Senate of the United States.

No one need be surprised that he left his studies when the horrors of Indian warfare spread into our Blue Ridge country in 1755 and that he went into the army being formed for defense of the frontier so near where we are tonight. It was bred in him from the Highlands—for Maclay means son of the sword—and the ancestry goes back to the vikings. Nor is it surprising that his Scotch Irish youth thoughtfully provided himself with letters assuring him of a commission. General Hugh Mercer, veteran of Culloden and Fredericksburg, chum of Washington, must have been taken by the letters and the

appearance and intelligence of the six feet three farm lad. He quickly put him in the line and more than once during Forbes' expedition he was in charge of his company.

There is a tradition that Maclay was wounded at the battle of Loyalhanna, but if he was it did not stop him. I have been at the site of that fight near Ligonier and the country affords a fine idea of what was encountered by the men who turned Fort Duquesne into Fort Pitt and saved an empire for the Anglo-Saxon.

How like Maclay to find him studying law in the midst of this terrible frontier experience. On his furloughs when weather halted active service and he could go home across the mountains after doing his garrison duty, he studied day and night. It is said he was required to be in Carlisle much of the time after Forbes had pacified the frontier or military work, but he found time to go to York and Lancaster to follow up legal studies and his beloved surveying work, which was to make him so widely known. Pontiac's conspiracy and the organization at Carlisle of Colonel Bouquet's expedition to clear the frontier once and for all interrupted Maclay's inquiries into the law and he threw himself into military duties with ardor, foreseeing that unless hostile tribesmen were subdued and French machinations ended development of Pennsylvania beyond the Alleghenies would be a hazard. He had observed enough with Mercer to realize the tremendous possibilities. While at Carlisle, Maclay received a taste of staff work under Bouquet, drilled a company and learned the intricacies, the disorder and the responsibilities of the quartermaster's end of an Indian fighting expedition, which was to stand him in good stead in the War for Independence. All the while he was travelling about the country at every opportunity and at that time may have formed his idea of the limitless possibilities of the Susquehanna Valley in the transportation of the years to come when with the savages driven away it was to blossom with towns and homes.

It is significant that Maclay got into the thick of that remarkable battle in the woods at Bushy Run, so momentous in its consequences to American history. Bushy Run and Fort Niagara settled the control of a continent just

as much as Clapham's march from Harris' Ferry and the building of Fort Augusta clinched the control of the Susquehanna Valley. The historical consequences of these two marches offer a fascinating study and deserve more than they receive in Pennsylvania school books. Maclay did some engineering work while with Bouquet and during the period of garrison duty keeping open the supply line where the Lincoln highway runs its miles today.

Military experience undoubtedly developed Maclay's aptitude for surveying and while he completed his law studies and is generally believed to have been admitted to the bar at Carlisle and York, henceforth he is to be known as an authority on land. Mr. Gearhart has told of his survey of soldiers' lands in 1769 and of his distinguished services in negotiations with Indian sachems settling disputes of generations which eventually led him to leave his Cumberland Valley homestead and enroll among the makers of your community. I think that many have overlooked an important factor in Maclay's life in his knowledge of the Indians and his skill and tact in handling them. He spent months in garrison in Indian country and some not pacified at that, but there is no record of attack upon him or of serious altercation. A man as well-known as Maclay, particularly at the time of his surveys in the Susquehanna Valley, would certainly have been referred to if ever molested.

Success of the surveys brought Maclay into public notice and he is commonly believed to have had something to do with the petitions for erection of a new county out of Berks for the plea of "convenience and justice," while in general use in the county forming period, sounds in certain respects like the eloquence of the petitions for erection of Dauphin county. These petitions are referred to in the Minutes of Assembly, much of the material for which is being gone over again in the State Library. As Maclay had become well and favorably known to the proprietors it is not difficult to see him associated with Lukens in the lines for the new county of Northumberland and its county seat. The seven days devoted to the Sunbury survey indicate the hustling character of the man especially

when he made his return on July 4, the day after the completion of the layout.

While the plotting of Sunbury was along conventional lines, much like William Penn's "green towne" of Philadelphia, one can not escape the fact that when Maclay laid out Harrisburg for his father-in-law, John Harris, he copied the square almost to the same dimensions and left the space from the house line on the river front highway free to the Susquehanna's brink—a good 120 feet—very much like yours.

While Maclay probably gave some good engineering advice and service as a member of that Provincial Commission of 1771 to undertake the task of improving navigation of the Susquehanna, it is of note that when he rose to wide influence he displayed little interest in the project. One of the most dangerous rocks in the Susquehanna at Harrisburg was almost in front of the house he built and it has been within my years that it was blown apart and a channel made. In passing I may say there are people in Harrisburg who are today wrestling with the venerable scheme which engaged the thought of Maclay and other Susquehanna Valley men back in the days when George III was liege lord. Maclay believed roads were the best means of transportation and it is not hard to understand John Harris' reference in his announcement of 1784 of a new town on the Susquehanna that it would be on the "main road across the continent." The highways laid out by Maclay carry cars from every State.

Minutes of the Assembly of Pennsylvania in the State Library at Harrisburg indicate that William Maclay's service as a member of the State lawmaking body was active. There are continual references to his appointment as a member of committees to draft bills and to serve in various ways for the orderly consideration of legislation. He does not appear to have presented many petitions or communications, but it is to be noted that he was present and voting on almost every roll call. Undoubtedly he took his legislative work seriously and it was at a time when governmental affairs were disturbed by the controversies over the authority and aggressiveness of the Board

of Censors, for it should be remembered he was a legislator when the Commonwealth was laboring under provisions of the Constittuion of 1776, brought forth in revolution and framed with certain definite policies in mind. There was one legislative body with no governor as such. The Supreme Executive Council, on which Maclay had served, and the Board of Censors did not always see eye to eye with the Assembly and the history of those legislative years is strenuous and possibly Maclay had his share of controversy. Then, too, it should be remembered he sat when Northumberland was vastly concerned over the Wyoming country and the movement for erection of the county of Luzerne was under way. It was the start of that time of new county drives and legislative service was not all a matter of answering roll calls and drafting bills. How well he came through is attested by the lack of criticism.

There was probably plenty of romance in Maclay's life. He was a frequent visitor to Harris' Ferry and places in the Cumberland Valley and even as far as Reading while he was surveying. It should not be forgotten that his visit to London not only profited him greatly by his impression on the Penns as a man who knew their province but established him in the eyes of Pennsylvanians as a man of affairs. He knew the arteries of traffic, the Juniata lands and the country beyond the mountains.

There are all sorts of legends about courtships at Harris' Ferry and it is not difficult to understand how Maclay with his family connections and his standing with the proprietary family should be well received at the home of John Harris and win the heart of Mary McClure Harris. She was the first in the family of the lord of the manor of Paxtang to wed and her honeymoon was partly spent on surveying tours with her husband. From her parents and her grandparents she had inherited sturdy qualities and hard sense and throughout a married life of thirty-five years she was a helpmate no matter where her husband's manifold activities happened to take him. The mere coincidence of that wedding date with the survey of the soldiers' lands tells much of the spirit of this nineteen year old bride of 1769.

There is somewhere in Harrisburg, and in any event quoted by the late Doctor William H. Egle in Pennsylvania Geneologies, a memorandum in the hand-writing of Maclay that tells where his children were born. It indicates the nature of the life the pair led. The first, a son, was born on the Juniata. Three daughters were born at Paxtang or Harris' Ferry and four in Sunbury, although he notes Eleanor was born "at Fort Augusta." The youngest son and namesake was born in Sunbury in 1787, just a few years before the family removed to Harrisburg. This son died when only 26 years of age but never displayed any of the energy that so notably characterized both of his parents. Senator Maclay named Adam Boyd to be his guardian and it has come down in the family that the second William suffered indifferent health and was more devoted to books than politics or business, although a good judge of horses.

There is reason to believe that there was a very close connection between families in Sunbury and Harris' Ferry, for Mrs. Maclay found an aunt and other relations here. Maclay was frequently consulted about lands by John Harris and it is not hard to believe that the plan for a town Harris talked over with visitors in 1770 was drawn by his son-in-law. This plan was laid aside when the rumblings of the Revolution began to be heard, but it is the foundation of a very interesting story. The second John Harris, who founded Harrisburg, is said to have told some friends from up the river that he had determined to lay out a town and to carry out his father's idea that it would some day be the Capital of Pennsylvania. He was going to donate ground for a State House. That conversation is said to have taken place in 1771. The plan was revived in the negotiations with the Assembly in connection with the new town in 1784 and Maclay put the four acres in the plan in 1785—the basis of Harrisburg, capital of Pennsylvania since 1812. Neither Harris nor Maclay lived to see the consummation of this great desire.

The Bennamite disturbances, the early expressed belief that a republic composed of all the colonies would result from the oppressive and short-sighted policy of the British Crown, the break of the long business relationship

with the Penns and the service as councilor, army commissary and infantry officer in the War for Independence, called for the best that was in William Maclay. He was a man of unusually strong attachments and devoted to his family and home. How many weary trips he made to Philadelphia and what journeys about the countryside for provisions for the troops no one knows.

It is not often mentioned that when the call went up State in the fall of 1777 for men to march to back up Washington's army in its projected winter dash on British posts in New Jersey, that Maclay in his forties and with big responsibilities at home marched with his fellow associators from the Susquehanna to the Delaware and was in the terrible snowy campaign of Trenton and Princeton. It was in the engagement near Princeton that his old French and Indian War commander, General Hugh Mercer, received his death wounds, something that must have saddened Maclay for there was a warm attachment. But he came home to meet even more severe war experiences and his letters on the flight of the people to Harris' Ferry at the time of the Wyoming Massacre are amazing in their stark recital of the horrors of that disaster. One of his daughters was born not long after that flight to Harris' Ferry in open boats.

Independence found Maclay one of the substantial citizens of Central Pennsylvania with wide and influential connections and interest. The people of Northumberland county had honored him and he was looked to for guidance in the formation of stable government. He had been a useful member of the Assembly and was discussed as one of the leaders of thought.

Just at this period when he was cementing the friendships formed in surveying, county development and in war time events turned him toward Harrisburg. John Harris had decided in 1783 to lay out his new town and to make it the seat of government of the new county for which people were petitioning with so much insistence. Maclay had been in the Assembly when new counties had been erected and he knew how. He spent much time at Harris' Ferry and at Philadelphia, making plans and drawing up

agreements at the former and urging favorable consideration of the project in the State metropolis and capital. He had staunch and active friends and when in the early days of March, 1785, after many discouragements the act erecting Dauphin county was finally framed the men who made the motion to put the county seat "near Harris' Ferry" were his old friends, General Anthony Wayne, the Chester county legislator, and George Wood, Bedford county statesman.

This friendship with Wayne is one of the outstanding ones of Maclay's life. It began in the days before the Revolution for Maclay was a Chester countian and knew many of Wayne's kin. During the War he had been keenly interested in Wayne's Pennsylvania troops and appreciated the fine points of the fiery chieftain. When Harrisburg was laid out Maclay gave a lot near the Mansion he built to General Wayne. It remained in the Wayne family for years and was bought by the late Doctor William R. deWitt, once State Librarian. The ground is now occupied by Pine Street Presbyterian manse and is across a narrow street from the Governor's mansion.

In connection with this act to erect Dauphin county there were some differences with Northumberland Maclay had to iron out. Certain Lancaster people opposing division of their county suggested bringing the Northumberland line down to the Wiconisco, leaving the rest of what is now Dauphin still in the bosom of Mother Lancaster. Another scheme was to give Dauphin a slice of Northumberland above the Mahantango. Those were only a few of the things occupying Maclay as a county builder. He had a difference with Harris and declined to put into the new town some 200 acres immediately adjoining it on the north. He laid out his own town and called it Maclaysburg and it stayed out of Harrisburg until 1838.

It is of Maclay as a planner of a capital city that I wish particularly to speak. Harris had well defined ideas about using Philadelphia names for streets. All his associations were with Philadelphia and they are reflected in Harrisburg today. He left the details of planning Harrisburg to Maclay. Market street and the river front, eighty

foot wide streets, highways just right with the compass, squares and lots mathematically correct and titles going back to William Penn's sons characterized the new town. The king's highway from Ephrata and Lancaster and Carlisle and the great road from Reading met streets in the layout and the road to Sunbury was along Broadway as our Front street was once called.

Maclay's maps of Harrisburg have been preserved. They are models of draftsmanship and accuracy. In themselves they reveal the adherence of their maker to principles.

But while Harrisburg's original plan is remarkable for its foresight and taking advantage of natural conditions it is what he called Maclaysburg that illustrates his vision and initiative, his faith in his judgment and his confidence in the future. He laid out in what was called Maclay's swamp, full of rocks and runs, a street 120 feet wide and called it State street and he marked out on a briar clad knoll with land so poor that it could not be used for pasture for goats a site for a State Capitol. He did this in 1785 and he had been dead eight years before the Capital was moved to Harrisburg or rather Maclaysburg in 1812. It is a striking example of the way a man's works live after him. Joseph M. Huston, architect of the present State Capitol towering majestically above Harrisburg's business district, told me the rotunda was where Maclay planned the center of the State House to be—right in the center line of State street and the highest point of the hill. State street now throws its magnificent distances full six score feet wide as Maclay planned it right across Harrisburg and the splendid memorial bridge built by the Commonwealth to honor its soldiers and sailors in the World War marches for a part of it.

Maclay foresaw the river front street of Harrisburg as a boulevard and not only built his house but planted trees along it, objecting to any buildings on the river bank; through a policy he helped lay down the capital city has an unrivalled highway for five miles. He destined Second street to be a through highway for travel and Third to be a business thoroughfare, which they are con-

spicuously today. It might be observed that he was in no particular haste to sell lots in Maclaysburg, preferring to await the development of Harrisburg by which time his own land would be needed, a thought abundantly borne out in profits to his descendants.

There is a part to Maclay that few know about and that is interest in education. He is believed to have been one of those who influenced his father-in-law to set aside a certain part of the proceeds of the ferry, which was the foundation of Harrisburg itself, to be used for establishment of an academy in Harrisburg. And his name appears in the subscription list of 1786 as one of the contributors to the same object, the Harrisburg Academy of today. He served as a trustee of the Academy for years.

You are familiar with the service of Maclay in the first Senate and of the efforts he made to secure the national capital for the banks of the Susquehanna rather than the Potomac. As to his position on grave policies about which one hears so much now and then, I will merely remark how again characteristic of the man was his observation "No one else coming forward," meaning that he alone spoke what was in the minds of many of his colleagues. Whether we are in accord with some of Maclay's ideas of the fundamentals of government or not the fact remains he created a wholesome opposition party at the time it was least expected.

About 1790 Maclay having become more and more identified with State affairs, the booming town of Harrisburg and required to be at the meetings of the Congress, determined to build the stone mansion whose original building is still standing at Front and South streets in Harrisburg. It was at the southeast corner of his own domain, a block away from the Governor's Mansion and three blocks from the State Capitol he foresaw. It is beside the river he loved so well and while much altered by the late William Elder Bailey, whose family owns it today, it is an object of much interest to Harrisburgers and visitors, the second oldest house in Harrisburg.

This house was occupied by Senator Maclay from about 1791 until his death in 1804. Mrs. Maclay lived in it for

five years after his death when she joined him in the great beyond. His daughter, Mrs. Eleanor Maclay Wallace, wife of William Wallace, first president of the Harrisburg National Bank, and her family occupied it for a time after her death. After a few periods of tenancy it was sold to the trustees of the Harrisburg Academy and was the residence of the principal until 1910. The Academy itself, in which Maclay was so much interested in his life time, occupied the upper part of the lot.

The mansion was a spacious one and its original rooms were high with plenty of light. Indeed I often thought on visits to it in my days at the Academy that Maclay was ahead of his time in having so many windows.

In view of the discussion of the Federal Constitution much has been said lately about the influence of the Harrisburg Conference in 1788 on those who prepared the first six amendments to the national organic law. Neither Maclay nor Harris attended that meeting of such important consequences, but General John A. Hanna, also a son-in-law of Harris, was its secretary. However, in the last few weeks I have turned up in a newspaper file in Philadelphia a reference to a summons for consideration of certain changes in the constitution by Maclay as secretary. Unquestionably he was somewhere in the movement and it is odd that he does not appear except in this inconspicuous way. It is of interest that even then he was not in accord with some of the leading spirits on national issues.

Much has been made of the fact that Maclay did not entertain George Washington when he visited Harrisburg, October 3, 1794, on his way to Carlisle to take command of the army marching to suppress the Whiskey Insurrection. Neither did John Harris' family and yet Harris was one of Washington's most ardent admirers. The truth of the matter is that Harrisburg, then nine years old, was buzzing with politics and Washington not desiring to disturb things nor to minimize the excellent effect of the address of the burgesses took up his quarters at one of the many taverns in the town. Maclay did not leave town; he stayed and helped welcome Washington.

Four years after his retirement from the United States

Senate Maclay was induced to get into politics again and was elected a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives without opposition to speak of. He had served for Northumberland in the old single chambered legislature and there is only one reason that I can find for again entering into the laborious duties of a lawmaker, and that was the movement to have Harrisburg made the State Capital. As Harris had set aside four acres of what is now Capitol park for a State House Maclay let it be known he would give some of the knoll. In 1787 William Findlay, later Governor and the man who laid the corner stone of the first State Capitol, presented a resolution in the Assembly for drafting of a bill to move the Capitol to Harrisburg. It was the beginning of the movement and Maclay went to the House seven years later to help it along. The net result was a compromise between Philadelphians and the folk in the Highlands, as we were called, and the western members in favor of Lancaster.

Next year Maclay having had another taste of politics was chosen a presidential elector and did not vote for John Adams. There is a continuous record of activity thereafter. He was frequently named on views, to make surveys, as an arbitrator in disputes and was the dominant figure in administration of the estate of John Harris. In the original "lot book" of Harrisburg in which Harris recorded his sales there are frequent entries in Maclay's handwriting. He was a big investor in Dauphin county real estate and owned possibly the area of two wards in the present Harrisburg, while his holdings in Northumberland county continued to be extensive.

Yielding to requests of neighbors he ran for associate judge of Dauphin county at the turn of the century and held that place for two years, resigning to accept another nomination to the House of Representatives. It was felt the time had come to secure the State seat of government for Harrisburg and he entered into the election with vigor and into legislative work with that end in view. It was his last public service. With Robert Harris, his brother-in-law, he organized a committee which effectively prosecuted

the movement for Harrisburg, but he was not to see his dream realized.

Much of the year before Senator Maclay died he spent directing farming in what is now the residential part of Harrisburg. His home was the visiting place of every soldier of the Revolution who came to town and many were the men he helped financially. In fact, it was said that all turned to Maclay in time of trouble, his old comrades most of all. While he never practiced law he was the counsellor of his neighbors and his advice was sought in many matters. When his friend of many years, Adam Boyd, was elected one of the first two burgesses of Harrisburg in 1791 he is said to have worked out with Maclay a plan of local government which lasted for years and Maclay is said to have been the man who located the site of the county almshouse, built during the Boyd term as director of the poor.

Maclay took an active interest in old Paxton Presbyterian church and is said to have been one of those who declined to unite in the movement for a church in Harrisburg. He had married Mary McClure Harris in Paxton church and to that he adhered all his life. Incidentally, it is interesting to note how April figured in the lives of these two people. They were married April 11, 1769. Mrs. Harris was born April 13, 1750. Maclay died April 16, 1804 and his wife April 20, 1809.

The sunset of William Maclay's life was spent with his family at his home on the river front in the town he laid out and in the portion to which he had given his family name. On summer evenings it was his custom to sit on the high steps with Mrs. Maclay and his daughters and their swains about them and meet neighbors. He had a habit of walking up and down the river front but always within the limits of his own land. George Washington Harris, a nephew, has written of his fine figure in a white suit strolling along the river front, the observed of everyone and most people being a little in awe of him.

Harrisburg's foremost citizen, his end came rather suddenly with his family about him and his neighbors sorrowing. He was laid at rest in old Paxton churchyard