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June 27, 1816, sold the land and buildings at Mahlon Carver's tavern for \$52,000 to John Baptist Sartori, of Trenton, agent for himself and for James Vanuxem, of Philadelphia. The deed was acknowledged September 13, 1816, before Jacob Radcliff, Mayor of New York; Peter T. Marselis and Theophilus Marselis, witnesses.

Bucks county has had the honor of numbering among her citizens, both in former and in more recent times, men of distinction in arms, brave defenders of their country's rights among whom a high place should be assigned to Gen. Jean Victor Maria Moreau.

The Claim of Connecticut to Wyoming.*

BY REV. D. K. TURNER, HARTSVILLE, PA.

(Pipersville Meeting, July 19, 1892.)

Important events in the settlement of any portion of our country are interesting to every patriot. The original occupation of most of Europe by the ancestors of the present inhabitants took place many centuries ago, and the dim haze of antiquity enshrouds it. Many transactions of great significance in those remote ages have been lost in oblivion, or are so indistinctly traced on the historic page that they awaken little curiosity.

But when we contemplate the infancy of the States of our own land, especially of our own Commonwealth, scarcely anything unusual or remarkable fails to excite lively attention. In the early history of Pennsylvania much dispute and some bloody strife existed between that Colony and Connecticut in regard to the proper ownership of the region in which is the valley of the Wyoming. It was all at one time included in the bounds of Bucks county, and on that account the struggle for its possession has a peculiar claim to our study. In 1683 among the acts of the First Provincial Assembly was the division of the domain granted to Penn into three counties, Philadelphia, Chester and Bucks. The boundary line of the last began at the

* The Pennsylvania German, Vol. 7. pages 223 and 308 contains a paper on "Connecticut's Claim in Wyoming Valley," by Prof. D. Montfort Melchoir. The "Historical Register," edited by Dr. William H. Egle, Vol. 2, page 1, also contains an interesting paper on the same subject by Stuben Jenkins.

Poquessing creek, "taking in the townships of Southampton and Warminster and thence backwards," as the language employed is, which gave jurisdiction to the authorities of this county over all the territory northwest of what is now Montgomery county, the latter being subsequently taken from Philadelphia county.

A grant of land in America was made by King James of England, in 1620, to the Great Plymouth council, extending from 40° to 48° north latitude, and from sea to sea, or from the Atlantic to the Pacific, however far this might be—a distance which was then not accurately understood. The privilege was also given to sell or dispose of portions of this allotment to settlers or associations. In 1628 the Plymouth company ceded to the Massachusetts Colony a part of their grant about Massachusetts Bay, and between the Charles and Merrimack rivers. This also was to stretch from the Atlantic ocean to the South sea, or the Pacific. In 1630 the Plymouth council deeded a tract to Lords Say and Seal, and Brook, with royal approval, which is described in equivalent terms as extending westward to the Pacific and northward to the southern line of Massachusetts. When it was partly settled it was bought by an association of persons called the Connecticut Colony for £16,000 sterling, which would be equal at the present day to at least \$200,000. In 1662 King Charles II. issued a charter to this Colony, in which the territory is spoken of as part of the old Plymouth grant, and bounded on the west by the South sea. In all these documents, given under the direction of Kings of England, it will be observed that the western limit was the Pacific ocean.

It has been said by some, that the continent was in those times supposed to be narrow, and that the British cabinet was not aware of its immense breadth; that if it had been familiar with the facts, its bounty would have been more restricted. But one writer affirms, that at the period of the Connecticut charter the width of the continent was referred to in state papers as about 3,000 miles; and it is scarcely to be imagined, that the English rulers, who were deeply interested in navigation, would have been, nearly 200 years after the discovery of America, ignorant of the general dimensions of a country, in which they manifested so deep a concern. It was their policy also to lay claim to as much of this hemisphere as possible, and to make their possess-

ions reach to the farthest point, that their title might be fortified the more against the pretensions of other nations.

In the Plymouth charter it was provided, that it should not apply to land, that was "actually possessed or inhabited by other Christian Prince or State, or within the bounds of the Southern colony heretofore granted," meaning Virginia. Though this exception was not particularly mentioned in the Connecticut charter, yet it was understood to be applicable and as the Dutch had already planted themselves in New York and claimed to the Delaware river, the Connecticut people were obliged, in tracing what was conceded to them, to leave out all between that river and the Hudson. But to the region west of the Delaware they asserted they had a clear right, south of the 42d degree of latitude, which corresponded to the lower line of Massachusetts, and extending southward one degree, or about 70 miles, the lowest point of Connecticut being on the 41st parallel. These limits, if prolonged westward indefinitely, would embrace not only Wyoming, but most of 28 counties of Pennsylvania and the northern part of Ohio, and a vast tract still further toward the setting sun. After the war of the Revolution, Connecticut released to the United States all her property in that part of the country with the exception of 3,666,000 acres along Lake Erie, which was often termed the "Western Reserve" or "New Connecticut." In 1800 this was yielded to Congress to be sold in the same way with other public lands, but for the benefit of Connecticut, and from the proceeds of it that State obtained her magnificent school fund amounting to more than two millions of dollars. A similar course was pursued by Virginia with reference to her possessions in Ohio, and by these proceedings the Congress of the United States recognized the genuineness of the title of those states to territory west of the Allegheny mountains.

From these facts there can be no doubt that Connecticut had a substantial claim to the region of Wyoming by grant from the sovereigns of England. It may be said, however, that William Penn received from King Charles II in 1681 a concession, which embraced all that section, as it extended from 12 miles north of New Castle to the beginning of the 43d degree of latitude, and from the Delaware five degrees westward, and some have inferred that the right of Connecticut to Wyoming was thereby

abrogated. But in the compact with Penn, which was 19 years later than that with Connecticut, nothing is said about annulling or restricting the latter grant, and as Connecticut was obliged to leap over the lands occupied by New York, so it would appear just that Penn's charter should be so construed as to leave out that which had been ceded to the other colony. The interval between the two edicts was not so great that the particular conditions of the first would be forgotten, and being on record, they could be easily consulted. It could not have been the intention of the King to diminish the extent of the grant made to Connecticut, otherwise the alternation would have been specially mentioned.

In 1753 an association was formed in Connecticut, called the "Susquehanna Company," consisting of 840 persons, afterwards increased to 1,200, which comprised nearly all the principal men of the Colony, whose purpose was to buy from the Indians the right to the soil of a tract along the Susquehanna river. Commissioners met the chiefs of the Six Nations at Albany, while a Congress of all the colonies was held there, and a purchase was effected for £2,000, of the lands between the 41st and 42d parallels of latitude, and running from a line ten miles east of the Susquehanna two degrees west. Subsequently another association of Connecticut called the "Delaware Company," bought of certain Indian chiefs the land between the Delaware river and the Susquehanna purchase. Thus the rights of possession of the natives were extinguished by open and equitable treaty with representative men of the tribes that assumed to own it.

The sale to the Susquehanna company excited the indignation and alarm of the delegates at Albany from Pennsylvania, and they endeavored to persuade the chiefs to retract it. Not succeeding in this, some of those tribes were induced to go to Philadelphia a year and a half after, in 1755, and unite in a statement that the Susquehanna deed was obtained by improper means, and was destitute of binding force; and some of the chiefs declared that neither the Connecticut nor the Pennsylvania people should have the lands; that they would reserve them as a place of retreat for themselves and their friends. Strenuous efforts were made by the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania for a long period to win from the Six Nations their consent to pronounce the former sale invalid and to part with the tract to them. But 13 years passed

away before their exertions were crowned with success. In 1768 sachems of those clans at Fort Stanwix agreed upon a treaty with the Pennsylvania authorities, by which the latter should have the same territory that had been surrendered before to the men from New England. There was so much doubt, however, as to the soundness of this agreement and the power of the chiefs present to make it, that in 1775, commissioners from Pennsylvania asked the Indians again to disavow the sale to the Susquehanna company, and some of them were finally prevailed upon to do so.

It has been said on the part of the Pennsylvanians, that in 1736 the Six Nations granted to them the right of preemption to all lands within the bounds of their charter; and therefore the sachems were not authorized to sell to anyone else. To this it has been replied that those tribes then and long afterwards supposed the claim of Mr. Penn not to extend beyond the Blue Mountains in a direction towards Wyoming.

They were disinclined also to treat with the Pennsylvania Proprietaries, because the latter ignored their assertion that the Delawares had been subdued by them, and made compacts with their subject as an independent people. For this one reason the northern tribes were disposed to favor the projects of the Yankees. Both by charter and by purchase from the aborigines the priority in time is to be awarded to the Connecticut companies.

It is important now to notice by whom the Wyoming valley was first settled. In 1670, eight years after the date of the charter of Connecticut, some persons from that Colony located at the Minissinks, leaping over the territory of New York, which indicates that they regarded the title to the lands west of the Delaware as genuine by royal permission; but as the Indian claim had not been satisfied, they soon withdrew.

In 1755, the next year after the Susquehanna purchase, a committee of that company, consisting of Phinehas Lyman and others, presented a petition to the Connecticut Assembly, representing that they had bought the land under consideration from the natives, and asking their consent to apply to the king for a charter, that they might be erected into a separate colony or plantation. The Assembly cordially approved the plan, but the war with France coming on, no settlements were effected at that

time. Two years later the Delaware company founded a village at Coshutunk, which in 1760 had thirty houses, a grist-mill, saw-mill, and a block-house for defence.

In 1762 a party of emigrants came from Connecticut to the valley of the Wyoming near Wilkes-Barre, and after sowing grain returned for their families. The next spring they came back, bringing their stock, farming utensils, household furniture and probably all their property, with the intention of fixing there their permanent home. No more beautiful locality could be found anywhere. The rich soil, abundant streams of pure water and delightful climate held out pleasing anticipations of large rewards for their labors. But their fair prospects were soon blotted out by a dreadful catastrophe. On the 15th of October a body of savages without the least warning suddenly attacked them and killed and scalped about twenty men. The remainder, with the women and children, unable to defend themselves, fled, and amid indescribable hardships and sufferings endeavored to find their way through dense forests and over mountains to their former abodes.

But the effort to occupy the region of the Wyoming was not abandoned by the hardy pioneers of Connecticut. A meeting was held at Hartford in 1768, in which it was resolved to apportion on the Susquehanna five townships of five miles square to 40 settlers for each, or about 500 acres to each family, on condition that they would take up their residence there and defend their rights against all intruders. It was feared the Pennsylvanians might endeavor to expel them. The Susquehanna company appropriated £200, or \$667, to provide farming implements, arms and ammunition to those who needed assistance, and proceedings were instituted to occupy five townships in the heart of the Wyoming valley, viz.: Wilkes-Barre, Kingston, Plymouth, Hanover and Pittston. Subsequently three other townships on the west branch of the Susquehanna were allotted to 40 settlers each. A considerable number of persons had already located above the Blue mountains, on the Delaware, in a district which now embraces Stroudsburg, who sympathized with the Eastern colonists.

But the Pennsylvania Proprietaries were not indifferent to the question who should possess that most valuable territory.

They had bought it of the Indians, though chiefs of the same tribe had sold it to the Yankees several years previously, and they were anxious to secure hold upon their purchase. They determined to prevent the New Englanders from occupying it, even if necessary by force of arms, and the latter were as resolute in the maintenance of what they believed to be their just rights. Hence arose a struggle, which was often denominated "The First Pennymite War." The authorities at Philadelphia raised several companies of individuals who were to take up land at Wyoming on condition that they would defend it against strangers, and leaders were selected, among whom were Charles Stewart, a surveyor, Captain Amos Ogden, a military officer of experience, and John Jennings, Esq., who was to be the civil magistrate. These three were to manage affairs as a supreme directory. They and their men arrived on the ground in January, 1769, and found, at the confluence of Mill creek with the Susquehanna, near Wilkes-Barre, a block-house and several huts which were built by the massacred settlers of 1763. Of these they took possession and fitted them up as a shelter from the colds and storms of midwinter. About three weeks after, Feb. 8, the first party of Yankees reached the place, expecting to find the buildings in which their friends had been murdered or from which they had been driven away, empty. But being occupied by an enemy, they immediately invested the block-house, cut off all communication with the surrounding country, and prevented Captain Ogden from obtaining wood or provisions. Then they demanded in the name of Connecticut the surrender of the premises and peaceable possession of the valley. Ogden had expected reinforcements, but none came, and as he had only 10 men and his opponents numbered 40 he concluded to try negotiations. He sent a polite note to the commander of the besiegers, asking for a friendly conference on the merits of their respective titles.

His proposal was favorably received, as the Eastern claimants were confident they could prove their cause was just. Accordingly they deputed three of their party to go and argue the case. As soon as they were within the block-house, Sheriff Jennings clapped a writ on them and said, "In the the name of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, you are my prisoners." Though astounded by such a trick, which was worthy of their Indian

neighbors, they concluded to submit for the time, and made no resistance to being marched off 60 miles to Easton jail. Captain Ogden guarded them, and the 37 left of the 40 accompanied them without making efforts for a rescue. But immediately after being locked up, persons in the town who sympathized with them, gave bail for the appearance of the prisoners for trial; they were released, and the whole Yankee company returned to Wyoming and seated themselves in the valley, of which they had now possession, having performed no act of violence. As had been said, "They had lost nothing by defeat, and Ogden had gained nothing by victory."

Sheriff Jennings, ashamed of the result of his scheme, and mortified by the turn events had taken, summoned a large number of men in Northampton county, and repairing to Wyoming with several magistrates captured 30 of the settlers, and put them under arrest. Trained to great respect for the civil law and for a magistrate's warrant served by a sheriff, they made no resistance to being marched away to Easton and put in confinement. But they were at once liberated on bail, and went back a second time. In going and coming twice, they must have traversed on foot 240 miles, through dense forests, over snow and ice, in the midst of winter.

In April others came from Connecticut and increased the number of able-bodied men to two hundred and seventy or eighty. They assembled on the ground, where Wilkes-Barre now stands, built a fortification called Fort Durkee, after their commander, and engaged in agriculture, delighted with the level plains already cleared of timber, and the fertility of the soil. But their circumstances did not relieve them of apprehension.

Captain Ogden having recruited his forces in Northampton county appeared before the fort in May. Finding it too strong and well defended to be attacked with safety, he withdrew to the southward. A military company in showy uniform under Colonel Francis Turbot, from Philadelphia, reached the spot in June, were likewise disheartened and retreated below the mountains to await reinforcements. During the summer many more emigrants arrived from New England, but this did not deter the Pennsylvanians from efforts to expel them as intruders. Another expedition was organized by the Proprietaries, consisting of

about 250 men, well armed and equipped, under Sheriff Jennings and Captain Ogden, and sent to the scene of contention in September. A four-pound cannon also was forwarded on a boat from Fort Augusta, now Sunbury. This was the first piece of ordnance ever taken so far up the Susquehanna. In some way they found opportunity to seize Captain Durkee and despatched him in irons to Philadelphia, where he was put in prison and held for some months.

The Yankees, when their leader was captured, and the formidable cannon was brought to bear on them, despaired of victory and entered into articles of capitulation, by which three or four of them were to be retained as prisoners, 17 were to remain at Wyoming to gather the harvest, and the rest were to leave the valley immediately. Private property was not to be disturbed. When they had gone, Ogden, in total disregard of the terms of surrender seized the cattle, horses and sheep and everything else he could dispose of, and sent them to places on the Delaware to be sold. The 17 left to harvest the crops, now without means of sustenance, were compelled, with sad hearts and in extreme destitution, to trace their way through the woods back to Connecticut. Thus ended the struggle of 1769. The Pennsylvanians, having dislodged the Yankees three times, were in undisputed possession of the valley.

Hoping that their opponents would be discouraged and make no more attempts to locate there, Jennings and Ogden left ten men in the fort to guard it and care for the property, and went themselves to Philadelphia to spend the winter. But in February, 1770, while enjoying the luxuries of city life, they were startled to learn that a company of 40 persons from Lancaster county, Pa., and 40 from Connecticut had obtained a township of land from the Susquehanna company, repaired to Wyoming, driven off the garrison from the fort and planted their standards on its walls. Captain Ogden collected 50 men with all the speed possible and hastened to the arena of strife. When he found the stronghold in the hands of the strangers and too well defended to be easily subdued, he took up his quarters at Mill creek, about a mile distant, and proceeded to fortify the old block-house, while waiting for reinforcements. Help was not easily obtained. Many of the people of Pennsylvania disliked

the Proprietary government. They knew that the Proprietors employed surveyors to set off most of the rich land for themselves, and their feelings were enlisted with those who were actual settlers. Governor Penn, experiencing great difficulty in raising troops, applied to General Gage, Commander-in-chief of His Majesty's forces in North America, then in New York, for assistance in repressing what he termed a lawless and unprincipled invasion. The general replied: "The affair in question seems to be a dispute concerning property, in which I cannot but think it would be highly improper for the King's troops to interfere." The Connecticut people soon attacked Ogden, and after varying fortune, with the aid of the cannon, compelled him to surrender and retire from the vicinity. Then fearing that their adversaries might return with larger forces and occupy the Mill creek fortress again, they set it on fire and burned it to the ground. All was now quiet along the banks of the smiling Susquehanna. The New-Englanders, relieved of annoyance from their southern neighbors, applied themselves to the labors of the farm and to the more agreeable employment of catching shad, which came up the stream in such large multitudes in the spring that with the rudest nets of bark and long grape vines a boundless profusion was taken.

But Governor Penn was not disposed to abandon the contest. He issued a proclamation forbidding all persons making any settlement at Wyoming without the authority of himself or his agents, and then raised the largest armed force he could muster and commissioned it under his intrepid assistant, Ogden, to expel the Yankees. The plan of this active officer was to march with the utmost secrecy and celerity, and surprise them. Taking an unusual route by the old warrior's path, which passed through the Delaware Water Gap, he descended suddenly from the mountains upon them, as they were scattered in small parties busily at work on the cultivated plain. A considerable number were captured and the remainder fled to Fort Durkee. This post, though bravely defended, Ogden soon took by storm; the leaders were imprisoned in Philadelphia, the rest in Easton, and their property became the spoil of the victors.

The triumphant partisan was now confident, that, after being four times driven away from the contested ground, the hated

Yankees would not dare to appear there again. A company of 20 men was left to guard the fort and vicinity during the winter, and with glad hearts the main body of the Pennsylvanians sought their homes. But the quiet that rested upon the valley, was not to remain long unbroken. On the 18th of December Captain Lazarns Stewart with 20 men from Connecticut, swooped down unexpectedly upon the garrison, (who in careless security had not even stationed a sentinel,) and put them to flight. The pertinacious adherents of the Susquehanna company were once more in possession of the coveted prize. With the commencement of 1771 the second year of the contest expired, and all efforts to banish the Eastern adventurers permanently had proved abortive. But the Proprietaries were not discouraged. With great exertion they soon secured 100 volunteers and in 30 days from the time Ogden's force had been expelled, he himself with his new command was near Fort Durkee. His first care was to provide shelter for his men from the inclemency of the weather. As the old fort at Mill creek, besides being in ashes, was too distant, they set about building one only 60 rods from the enemy. At this they worked with such unflagging industry that in three or four days it was nearly completed. Then Sheriff Hacklein, acting as a civil officer, advanced to Fort Durkee, and demanded its surrender in the name and by the authority of the government of Pennsylvania. Captain Stewart, standing with four or five others upon an elevated spot, answered, "That he had taken possession in the name and behalf of the Colony of Connecticut, in whose jurisdiction they were; and in that name and by that authority he would defend it."

In thus assuming to act in behalf of Connecticut he transcended his authority, for neither the Executive nor the Assembly had officially sanctioned the warlike proceedings of its citizens in that region. But it had deeded the land to the Susquehanna company, in which many of the principal men were pecuniarily interested, and all the people espoused their cause. Hence it is not strange that for effect its name should be employed in the refusal to surrender. The sheriff withdrew to the new block-house, called Fort Wyoming, which was put with all dispatch into the best possible state of defence. Everything

being in readiness, Captain Ogden, accompanied by his brother Nathan and most of his troops, advanced to Fort Durkee, and after receiving a denial to a summons for surrender, began to fire. The besieged returned it promptly, and at the first volley four of Ogden's men fell, among them his brother, a noble young man, who in a few moments expired. This sharp repulse induced the attacking party to retire, taking with them their wounded and dead.

Captain Stewart, aware that the Proprietaries were peculiarly exasperated against him, and that this battle would arouse their anger to a still higher pitch, concluded it would be most prudent to put himself out of their reach. Accordingly during the night, after the conflict, with 20 or 30 of his most experienced soldiers, he abandoned the fort, leaving about 20 behind, who were less exposed than himself to the ill will of the enemy. The next day Ogden seized the place and sent the garrison to jail at Easton. This was the fifth time the Yankees had been forestalled in their attempts to make the valley their own. They still, however, persisted in their determination to occupy it.

In the spring of 1772 Captain Zebulon Butler and Captain Stewart, with 150 men, arrived from Connecticut and laid siege to Fort Wyoming. So closely was it invested that the inmates could obtain no provisions, and could send out no messenger with a call for succor, and they were soon reduced to the verge of starvation. Captain Ogden, seeing that he could hold out but little longer, unless relief was obtained, determined to leave the fort himself, though at the risk of his life, and carry tidings of his extremity to Philadelphia. The mode in which he accomplished his perilous task is thus narrated:

"A little past midnight on the 12th of July, when all was quiet, one of the Yankee sentinels saw something floating on the river having a very suspicious appearance. A shot awakened attention, and directed the eyes of every other sentinel to the spot. A volley was poured in, but producing no apparent effect; the thing still floated gently with the current, the firing was suspended, while the wonder grew what the object could be. Captain Ogden had tied his clothing in a bundle, and fastened his hat to the top; to this was connected a string of several yards in length, which he fastened to his arm. Letting himself noiselessly into the water, swimming so deeply on his back so as only to allow his mouth to breath, the whole movement demanding the most extraordinary skill and self-possession.

sion, he floated down, drawing the bundle after him. As he had calculated, this being the only object visible, drew the fires of his foes. He escaped unhurt, and when out of danger, dressed himself in his drenched clothing and hat, perforated with bullets, and with the speed of the roebuck was in the city on the third day, having accomplished one hundred and twenty miles, through a most rough and inhospitable wilderness."

His statements of the danger in which his men were, awakening intense interest in Philadelphia, a considerable force was raised and forwarded to relieve them. But Captain Butler pushed on the siege, and after several had been wounded and hostilities had continued four months, the fort was surrendered to him and the ground was left in the control of the Yankees.

The war had lasted nearly three years. The New Englanders had foiled the schemes of their opponents to compel them to forsake a region they believed to be within the limits of the colony, to which they owed allegiance. The settlers multiplied, and for some years enjoyed peace. In 1773 the General Assembly of Connecticut sent a commission to Philadelphia to confer with the Governor and Council upon the claims of the two colonies, but no satisfactory result was reached. The Eastern people having formed a settlement on the West Branch at Muncy, the Proprietaries in 1775 sent Colonel Plunket with a company of troops against it. Little resistance being offered, he took the men prisoners and placed them in jail at Sunbury, and sent the women and children to Wyoming, where many of them had friends. After this no further attempts were made by Connecticut to plant her citizens on the West Branch.

During the war of the Revolution the people at Wyoming passed through fearful sufferings from Indians, the actual loss of life being probably 300, or one in ten of the inhabitants, exceeding one-third of the adult male population at the commencement of the struggle. All the United Colonies at the same ratio would have lost 300,000.

Soon after the contest with Great Britain was virtually closed. In 1782 Congress, at the request of Pennsylvania and Connecticut, appointed a court of five gentlemen from different states to try the validity of their claims to the territory in dispute. After a session at Trenton, N. J., of 41 days, they arrived at the conclusion that the civil jurisdiction and pre-emption belonged to Pennsylvania. To this decision, which was a

source of great surprise to multitudes, Connecticut cheerfully submitted, though it entailed the loss of a splendid domain, for which her citizens had been long contending at the cost of much suffering and great expense. Upon the events which followed in the subsequent history of Wyoming and which were of a most stirring and memorable character, time forbids us to enter.*

* Ex-governor Henry M. Hoyt has very ably presented the controversy between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, in a paper read before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania November 10, 1879, entitled "Brief of a Title in the Seventeen Townships in the County of Luzerne; A Syllabus of the Controversy between Connecticut and Pennsylvania."

General Andrew Pickens.

BY REV. D. K. TURNER, HARTSVILLE, PA.

(Meeting at Sharon, near Newtown, July 21, 1896.)

Among those to whom we are indebted for rescue from the oppressions of the mother country, was Gen. Andrew Pickens. He was born in Bucks county, September 13, 1739, and it is well for the Bucks County Historical Society to call from the past, receding and growing more dim, his patriotic services, which aided in imparting life to the nation when in its younger days it was in danger of being overwhelmed by the tyranny of an unnatural parent. The exact spot that gave him birth is lost in oblivion, the name of his family not being found in either the register's or recorder's office of this county. He was of Huguenot descent, his ancestors having been driven from France by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, which deprived them of the privilege of worshipping God in their own way. They first went to Scotland and after a period, with thousands of others, to the north of Ireland. Even there religious liberty was denied them by the Ecclesiastics of England, and after the lapse of a generation or two they came across the wide Atlantic to Pennsylvania, which was opened by Penn as a refuge for the persecuted and oppressed of all nations.

In this colony they remained till about 1745 or 1750, when Andrew's father was attracted by reports of the fertility and beauty of the valley of Virginia. Gathering into an available form his limited means, he took his young family in a rude wagon or on horseback through the wilderness to the neighborhood of the Shenandoah river, and located not far from where the town of Staunton was afterwards built. But his stay there was tem-