

NOTES ON THE EARLY HISTORY ALONG THE CONOCOQUEAGUE CREEK
IN ANTRIM TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

March 25, 1998
Calvin E. Bricker, Jr.

Martins Mill, John Kennedy, Cornplanter Town, Henry Pauling Tavern,
Cross' Fort, John Kennedy's Town, Potomac Canal, Rush Run Mill,
Martins Mill Bridge, Rev. John Ruthrauff Grist Mill

MARTINS MILL

Martins Mill was located on the southwest corner, at the junction, of Weaver Road and the East Branch of the Conococheague Creek. According to the 1868 map of Montgomery Twp., the grist mill and saw mill was located on the south side of Weaver Road, next to the western end of Martins Mill Covered Bridge, which is still standing today. Water that powered the mill was provided by a dam across the creek, about 100 yards, above the bridge and a race carried the water through a culvert under Weaver Road to the mill. The map lists S. and N. Martin as owning the mill. Today the remains of the race are the only visible signs of the old grist mill. I have found no photographs or information to give a physical description of the old mill. I suspect the grist mill burnt down, or was torn down, in the late 1800's.

For the last three years I have been researching the old grist mills, of Montgomery Township. A lot of my sources contain information on Martins Mill, because the western section of Antrim Township, area west of the Conococheague Creek, was part of Peters Township when it was formed, from Antrim Township, in 1751 and this section became part of Montgomery Township when it was formed, from Peters Township, in 1781. The eastern section of Montgomery Township was transferred back to Antrim Township, in 1872. Cumberland Co. was formed from Lancaster Co. in 1750 and Franklin Co. was formed from Cumberland Co. in 1784.

The 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment Records, of Montgomery Twp., Franklin Co., PA., list Dr. Robert Johnston owning a stone grist mill 40x40 ft., saw mill, barn part stone 74x28 ft., log house 25x18 ft. and 210 acres. His closest neighbor was John Kennedy.

Dr. Robert Johnston was born July 26, 1750, to James and Elizabeth Johnston, in Antrim Twp. The Johnston family was one of the most prominent families in this area during the revolutionary war period. He studied medicine in England and began practicing medicine, in the East Conococheague Community, before the Revolutionary War. He served, as a surgeon, in the Continental Forces throughout the Revolutionary War and was an associate and personal physician of General Washington. After the war, Dr. Johnston purchased great quantities of ginseng, a medical herb, highly prized in the orient. He sailed to the orient and sold his cargo of ginseng. This business

venture made him a wealthy man and upon returning to his home, he resumed his medical practice. Dr. Johnston owned numerous properties, in the area, and built a large estate south of Greencastle. President George Washington traveled down the Cumberland Valley, in October 1794, while leading the army to western Pennsylvania, to put down the whiskey rebellion. On October 13, 1794, President Washington stopped at Dr. Johnston's house, south of Greencastle, to visit his old friend. He and fellow officers and friends, Henry Knox, Alexander Hamilton and Richard Peters were treated to a substantial dinner. After dinner, President Washington and his party continued to Williamsport, MD, where they encamped that evening.

Franklin County was formed from Cumberland County on September 9, 1784. According to its first tax assessment records, in 1786, Dr. Robert Johnson was taxed, on 200 acres of land and 2 mills, (grist and saw mill), in Montgomery Township and was taxed, on 250 acres of land and 2 horses, in Antrim Township. In 1794, Dr. Johnson paid taxes, on 213 acres of land, one grist mill and one saw mill, in Montgomery Township and paid taxes, on 448 acres of land, 1 servant, 7 Negroes, 2 stills, 4 horses, 10 cows, and 12 plates, in Antrim Township. Dr. Johnson paid taxes, in 1796 on 200 acres of land, 1 grist mill and 1 saw mill, in Montgomery Township and 1,500 acres of land, 1 grist mill, 1 saw mill, 4 horses, 10 cows, 1 servant and 4 Negroes in Antrim Township.

It is interesting to note, that Dr. Johnson paid taxes for 2 stills, for only a few years, and then it appears, the bulk of his operation was devoted primary to farming and the operation of his 2 grist mills and 2 saw mills. I have noticed, while researching the grist mills, of Montgomery Township, that the highest percentage of mills built, (four), were built between, a 10 year period, from 1788 to 1798. The reason, I think, so many mills were built during this period, was the development of safe and dependable navigation, on the Potomac River.

In 1785, the Patowmack Company began improving river navigation, on the Potomac River, by clearing channels and digging skirting canals around major areas of rapids. These improvements made the Potomac navigable, from Cumberland to Georgetown, by the end of the 1780's. River boats were poled up the Conococheague, from Williamsport, to the confluence of the branches of the Conococheague Creeks and loaded with flour, whiskey, lumber, hides, grain and other products for the eastern markets at Georgetown, Maryland and Alexander, Virginia.

In 1791, the United States Government imposed a excise tax on distilled whiskey. The settlers, in Western Pennsylvania, protested and resisted paying this tax. They felt the tax was unfair, because the only way to get their surplus grain to market was to distill it, into whiskey, making it easier to transport. There resistance to paying the tax led to the whiskey rebellion and the reason George Washington was in our area, and visited Dr. Johnson, in Oct. 1794.

The ease of transporting bulky products, to the eastern market, and to avoid paying excise taxes, on whiskey, I believe was the primary reason for the construction of more grist mills and the increased production of flour, in our area, during the 1790's. Dr. Johnson had such a large operation that he, probably, hired river boats, to come up the Conococheague, to his mill, to be loaded with flour and lumber. One hundred and sixty, two hundred pound, barrels of flour, (16 ton), could be loaded on one river boat and floated, to Georgetown, within 2 days, a remarkable achievement, during the time when roads were extremely poor and there were very few bridges.

Dr. Robert Johnston sold the 213 acre farm, containing the grist mill, to Jacob Brosius, on January 18, 1802, for the sum of 2,000 pounds, (deed book 5, pg. 387). According to this deed, James Cross obtained a patent, for 213 acres of land, on April 12, 1769. This tract of land and mills, in Peters Twp., was bounded, on the East, by the Conococheague Creek. James Cross sold the property and mills, to Peter Righter, on September 1, 1769. The executors of Peter Righter sold the property to Robert Crawford and James Armstrong. The property was then sold, at sheriff sale, to Jacob Geaff, of Lancaster, who sold the property to Dr. Robert Johnston. Dr. Robert Johnston died November 25, 1808.

According to the tax records, of Montgomery Twp., Peter Glegley paid the taxes, on the mill property, in 1805 and then the property was transferred, to Peter Shara, in 1806. Peter Shara paid taxes, on the property, from 1806 to 1832. In 1826, Peter Shara, (miller) paid taxes on the following property, 200 acres of land valued at \$3,000.00, 1 grist mill \$2,000.00, 1 saw mill \$200.00, 1 distillery \$150.00, 2 horses \$70.00 and 4 cows \$32.00. The property was transferred, to Irvin Miller, in 1832 and he sold the property, to Samuel Martin, on April 5, 1853, (deed book 31, pg. 260).

Samuel Martin owned the grist mill, in the later part of the 1800's. The covered bridge, built at this site, in 1849, was named for his grist mill, (Martins Mill Bridge). The county commissioners, who owned the bridges, refer to them by the name of the nearest property owner, in most cases, a grist mill, in the 1800's. The 1850 Road Docket Records identified the bridge with Irvin Millers Mill, in Montgomery Twp.. According to the 1860 U.S. Census, Montgomery Twp., Samuel Martin owned the grist mill and George Wise and David Talhelm operated the grist mill.

U. S. Census, Montgomery Twp. 1860

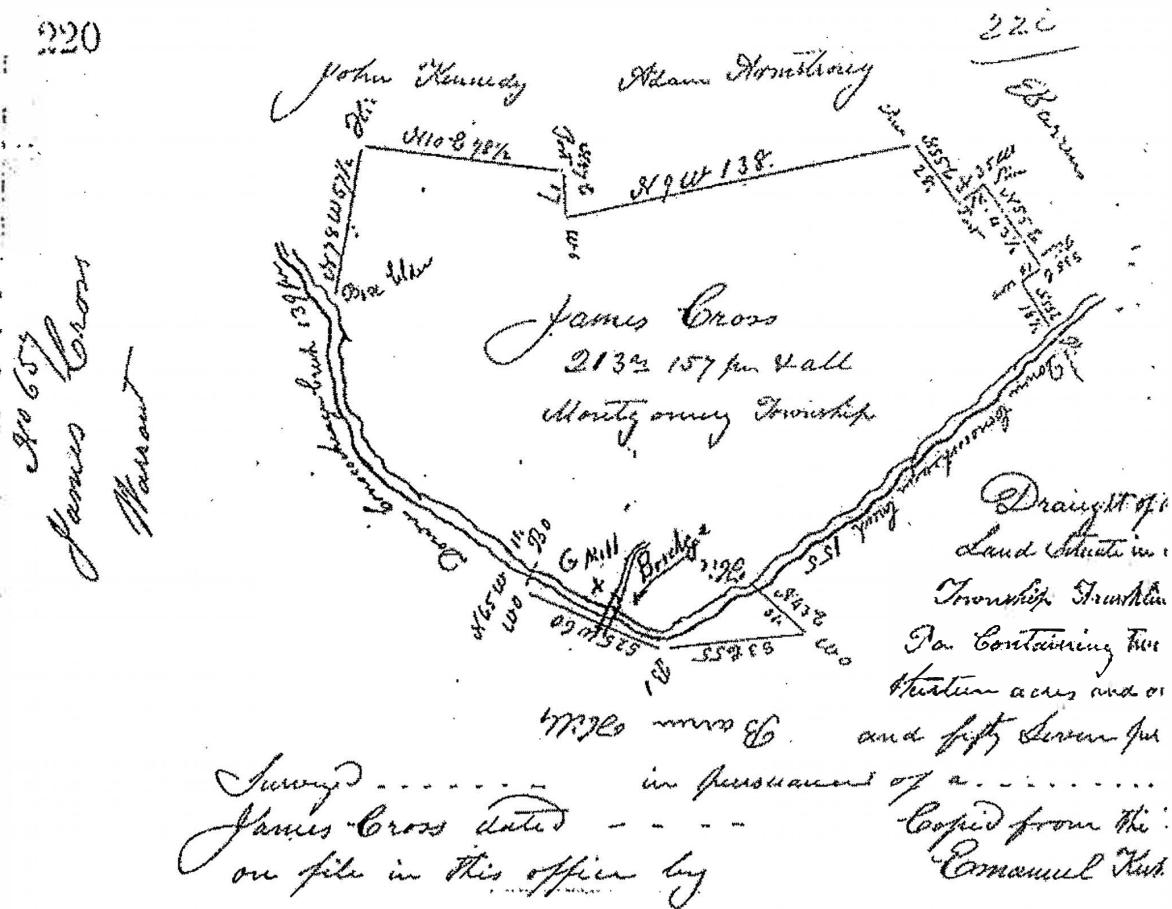
House No. 2152; Samuel Martin 57, Farmer, value of real estate \$4,800, Value of person estate \$1,000, Wife Catherine 37, Samuel 8, Anna 6, David 4, George 3, William 1, and Mary A. Crunkleton 24

House No. 2153; George Wise 24, Miller, Value of person estate \$25.00, Wife Hannah 23, Edward 1, and Mary 2/12

House No. 2154; David Talhelm 28, Miller, Value of person estate \$40.00, Wife Elizabeth 24, James 5, Harriet 3, Georgianna 2 and Gerrilla 5/12

The 1768 tax records, of Peters Twp., Cumberland County, lists James Cross owning 2 mills, 2 horses, 2 cows and 100 acres of unwarranted land, with 20 acres cleared. The 1769 tax records lists James Cross as owning 2 mills, 1 horse, 2 cows, 200 acres warranted land, with 20 acres cleared. The 1770 tax records lists the land and mills being owned by Peter Right. I believe James Cross built the grist mill and saw mill, in the mid 1760's, at the end of the Indian Wars. This grist mill was one of the earliest grist mills, erected in present day Antrim Twp., and constructed of stone, similar to other early mills built in the area. Rankins and Shinham's Mill are two early stone grist mills built, in Antrim Twp., about the same time.

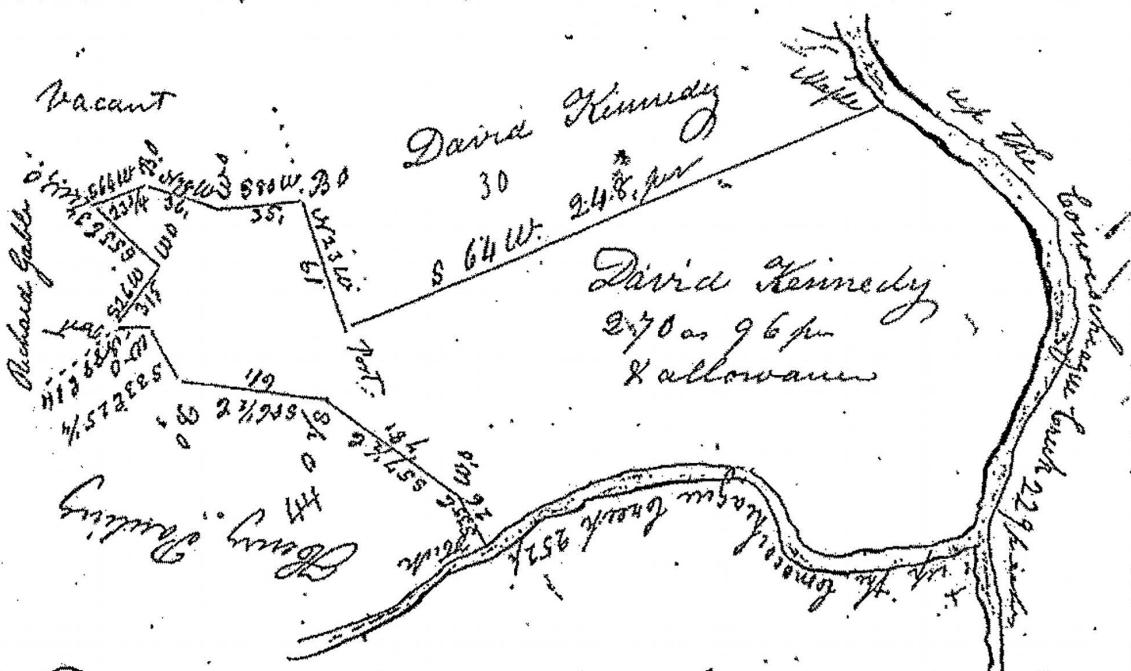
James Cross's land was surveyed in 1769, and a patent was issued to him in that year. According to the survey of James Cross's land, (Survey Docket Book 3, pg. 220), his land is bordered, on the east, by a large bend in the Conococheague Creek and John Kennedy owned the land south of his tract.



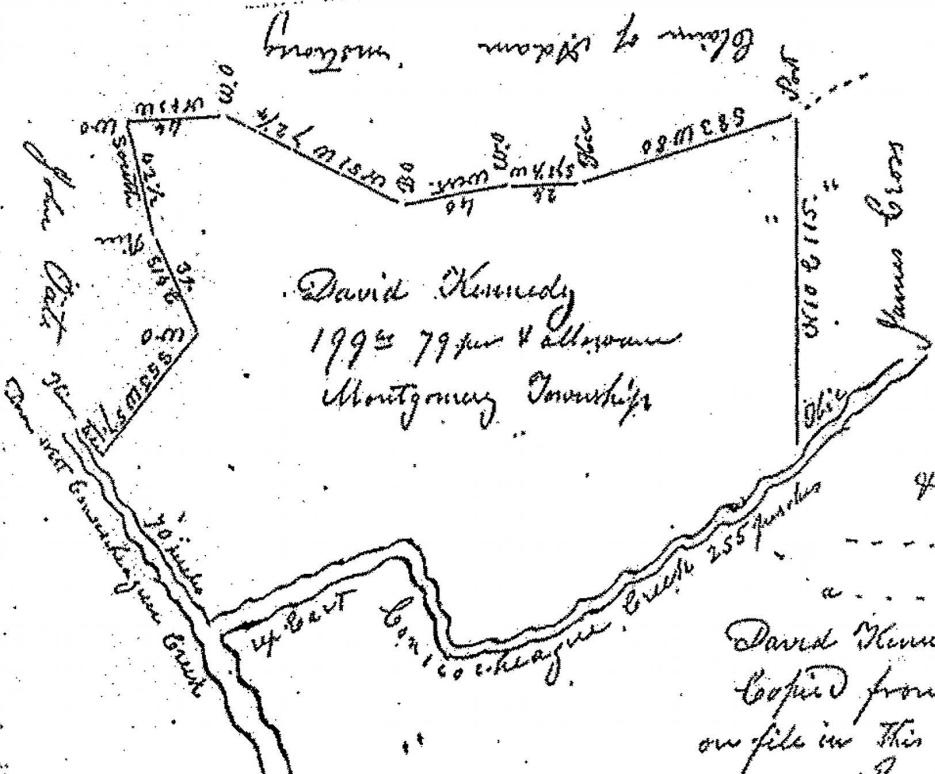
Survey is on a line on Right Side



and thirty one acres and one hundred and twenty one
perches and allowance Surveyed - - - in pursuance
of a Warrant granted to David Kennedy dated November
9th 1741. Copied from the Original Survey on
file in this office by Emanuel Fischer C.S.



30
Draught of a tract of Land Situate in Shire Township
Franklin formerly Lancaster County Pa Containing
270 acres & 96 perches and allowance Surveyed - - -
on two Warrants granted to David Kennedy one for
50 acres dated June 14th 1740 and the other for 100
acres dated November 9th 1741. Copied from the
original Survey on file in this office
by Emanuel Fischer C.S.

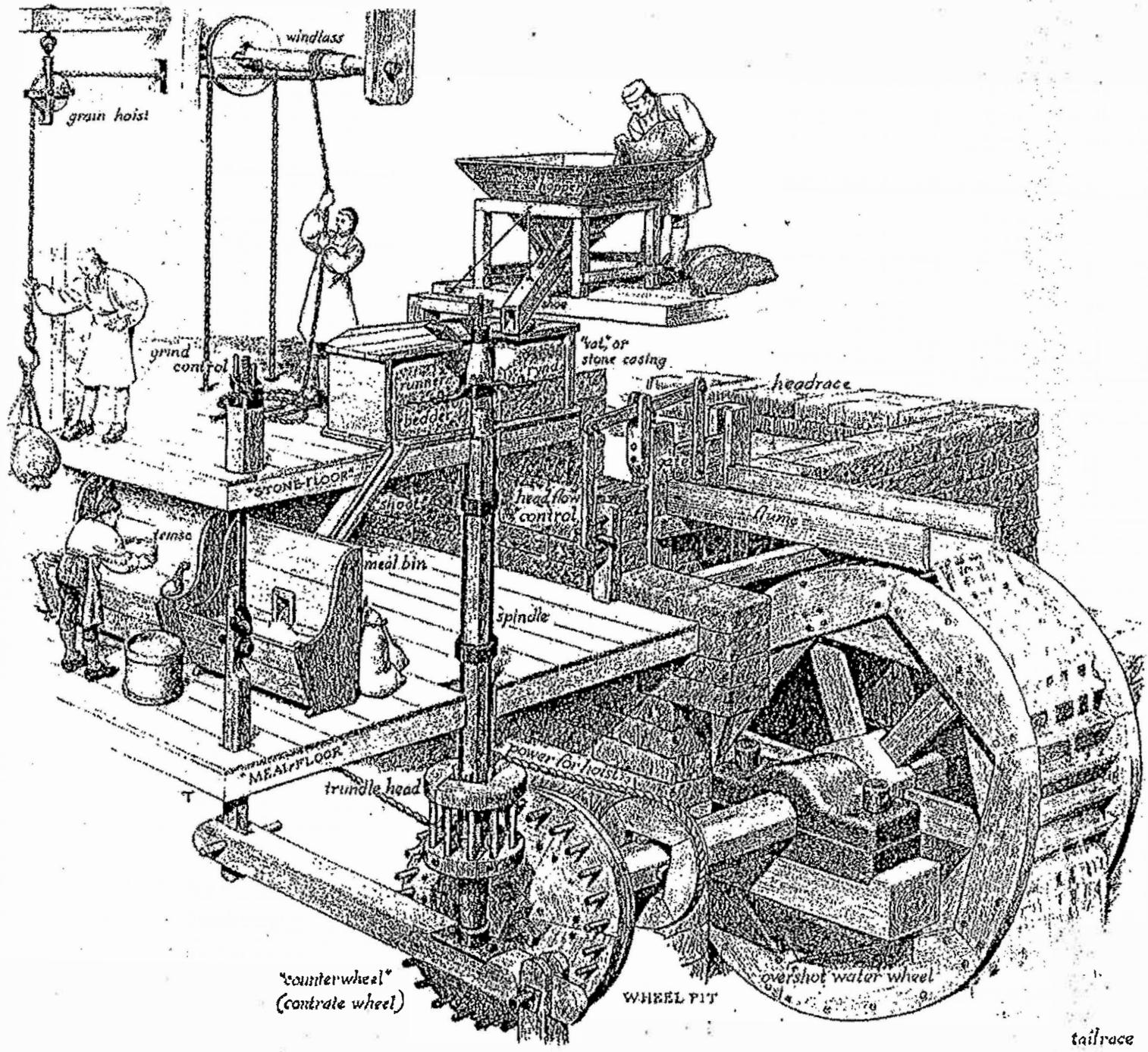


Surveys of land patented to David Kennedy
 Survey Docket 3, page 235, Clerk of Courts Office,
 Franklin County Courthouse

This survey was made before the death of David Kennedy in 1768 and before James Cross sold his property in 1769. The deed to the property was not made until after Franklin County was formed in 1784.

Amos and Marcelle Martin, the current owners of this land have in their possession, an old deed written on parchment, (sheep skin) dated February 18, 1796. This deed states that John Kennedy, oldest son of David Kennedy owns this tract of land by a judgment on May 26, 1770 in Orphans Court, Cumberland County, whereas John Kennedy paid each of David Kennedy's surviving children, their share of the property. David Kennedy paid the previous proprietors of Pennsylvania for this tract of land. The deed states there was a warrant for land, dated January 30, 1739. It did not state whose name the warrant was in. There is no patent listed for this tract of land, in David Kennedy's name, found in the index of land patented in Franklin Co.

The Seneca Iroquois established a winter village, on the land between the confluence of the Conococheague Creeks, in the 1670's. This site was used by the Seneca and other Indians until the end of the French and Indian War in 1760.



The mechanism of a country gristmill, driven by an overshot water wheel.
The hopper platform would normally stand on the "stone-floor" inside the mill
instead of floating in the air over the millrace, as it does here.

It is put where it is for compactness and clarity.

From Colonial Craftsmen
Written and Illustrated
by
Edwin Tunis

JOHN KENNEDY

According to the "1878 Historical Sketch of Franklin Co., PA" and the "1887 History of Franklin Co., PA", John Kennedy was one of the first settlers in Antrim Twp. He and his wife, Elizabeth settled near the confluence of the East and West Branches of the Conococheague Creek, in 1731. John Kennedy listed "Corplanter", an Indian chief, as his nearest neighbor. John Kennedy purchased from Cornplanter 400 acres of bottom land, extending a mile and a half in length, along the east side of the creek. He obtained a warrant for this land in 1741. Cornplanter build his wigwam on land north of the junction of the East and West Branches of the Conococheague Creek. Both Kennedy and Corplanter chose the lowlands at this site, because of the superior fishing. For a quarter of a century, the old chief and Kennedy lived in friendship. Later John Kennedy obtained 200 acres, of land between the confluence of the Conococheague Creek, and in 1787 tried to establish a town. This endeavor failed. He had constructed a wharf and warehouse on this property and his son, David became a boatman, on the Potomac River.

John Kennedy died in 1805 at the age of 70. Therefore it was impossible for him to be the original settler in 1731. According to an index of early land warrants, for Franklin County, David Kennedy, was granted 2 warrants, in Antrim Township, the first on June 14, 1740, for 270 acres adjacent to Richard Gabriel and the second on November 9th, 1741, at Conococheague, for 231 acres situated at the mouth of Rush Run about 1 mile from other plantation.

There are 3 surveys of land patented to David Kennedy, John Kennedy's father, (survey docket book 3, pg. 30 and 235). First tract of land containing 270 acres; located in Antrim Township, on the east side of the Conococheague Creek, opposite the confluence of its east and west branches. The second tract containing 231 acres, lied on the east side of the Conococheague Creek, south of the first tract of land. Rush Run flows through the center of this property and empties into the Conococheague Creek. Rush Run drains the area south of Greencastle and crosses Worleytown Road west of Worleytown below the present sewage facilities, before connecting with the Conococheague Creek. Both of these tracts of land were surveyed and patented in 1740 and 1741. The third tract of land, according to the survey, was located in Montgomery Township, Franklin County and contained 200 acres located between the East and West Branches of the Conococheague Creek. James Cross was a neighbor. Apparently, the survey was made while David Kennedy was still alive and before James Cross sold his property in 1769, but was not recorded until after Montgomery Township was established in 1781 and Franklin County in 1784.

The Scotch Irish began settling this area in the late 1720's, but the Penns did not purchase the land, from the Indians, until 1736. Most of the area comprising Franklin County today, was Antrim Twp., Lancaster Co., in 1736. Cumberland Co. was formed, from Lancaster Co., in 1750 and in 1751, Peters Twp. was formed from Antrim Twp. It comprised all former lands, of Antrim Twp., west of the east branch of the Conococheague Creek.

CORNPLANTER'S TOWN

The first settlers, in the Cumberland Valley, encountered numerous Indians, living and trading, in the area until the beginning of the French and Indian War in 1754. Tradition says that an Indian Village was located, on the land owned by John Kennedy, between the confluence of the East and West Branches of the Conococheague Creeks. An Indian Chief, named Cornplanter, was, associated with this village.

According to the early tax records, of Cumberland County, David Kennedy owned land in only Anttrim Twp. until 1763 when his son, John Kennedy, was listing as owning 100 acres of warrant land in Peters Twp. Apparently, David Kennedy didn't acquire the land between the confluence of the Conococheague Creeks until the beginning of Pontiac's War, in 1763. At that time there were no Indians living in or claiming land within the present boundaries of Franklin County.

To understand the history of the Indians living, within the Franklin Co. area, at the time it was being settled, I'll give a brief history, of the Indians associated with central Pennsylvania, at the time Europeans discovered America. The Susquehanna were the predominant tribe located in central Pennsylvania, at the time the Europeans discovered North America. They were a strong and powerful tribe that made contact with white man, in the early 1600's. Their allies were the Delaware Indians, of eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. After Europeans made contact with the Indians, in the early 1500's, they began trading with the Indians for furs. This trade led to fierce competition between the different Indian tribes, for control of lands, to acquire furs, to trade with the Europeans. This fierce competition led to the Beaver Wars in the 1600's.

The Susquehannas traditional enemies were a group of Indians, centered in New York, who formed a strong Confederation, known as the Iroquois, about the time Columbus discovered America. The Seneca tribe, of western New York, was the largest and most powerful of the five nation confederation. The combined political and military strength, of the Confederation, enabled the Iroquois to conquer and subdue or annihilate numerous tribes, in eastern central North America, during the Beaver Wars of the 1600's. After a long war, the Iroquois conquered and annihilated the Susquehannas in 1675 and forced their allies, the Delaware, into submission. The Seneca tribe was given control of the Susquehanna lands. By the early 1700's, when Europeans began settling North America in large numbers, the Iroquois controlled an extensive territory and were the most powerful and feared Indians, of Eastern North America.

William Penn founded his colony, of Pennsylvania, in 1681. As the colony grew from its base, in Philadelphia, along the Delaware River, it acquired lands from the Delaware Indians. This forced the Delaware to move west. The Iroquois gave them permission to settle on lands they controlled, in Central Pennsylvania. The Iroquois also gave the Shawnee permission to relocate, from the south, to their lands, in Central Pennsylvania, in the 1690's. The Delaware and Shawnee were the principal tribes living in Central Pennsylvania, at the time it was being settled by Europeans, but the Iroquois owned the land.

During the French and Indian War, from 1754 to 1759, the Indians around the Great Lake Regions and Ohio Valley were allied with the French. The Iroquois Confederation were allied with the British Colonies. During this war the Delaware and Shawnee Indians, who lived in Western and Northern Pennsylvania, decided to break from the Iroquois and allied themselves with the French, after British General, Braddock, and his army were defeated, while attempting to take the French Fort, at present day Pittsburgh, in the summer of 1755. This event led to massive Indian attacks, on the settlers of Pennsylvania, by the Delaware and Shawnee Indians, from 1755 to the end of 1758. The British defeated the French, in North America, by 1760 and there was peace, for a few years, in Pennsylvania with the Indians until Pontiac's War erupted, in 1763 and 1764. During Pontiac's War, the Iroquois Confederation was divided, the Seneca joined with Pontiac and the other Indian tribes attacking the settlers on the frontier.

(Hayes R. Eschenmann, "Indians Indians!", 1992) "John Kennedy lived at the confluence of the east and west branch of the Conococheague Creek, in Antrim Township. On June 24, 1757, Kennedy rode out to hunt some horses on his grazing land and was attacked by Indians about a mile from his home and wounded in the thigh and shoulder. He was able to hide in a fallen tree along Rush Run and being a skilled marksman kept them at a distance. When night fell he made his way to Cross' Fort about a mile distant".

I found an undated article, in the local library, written by Harry A. Grove, titled, "The Red Men of the Conococheague Settlement". Mr. Grove was born in 1888 at Welsh Run and died in 1953. He was supervising principle for the Greencastle Public Schools for many years. I assume he written the article with the intentions of it being published in the school annuals. He stated, "At the confluence of the east and west branches of the Conococheague Creek, on the David Kennedy farm, which was taken up in 1736, there was a village of the Seneca, who moved North every year after the spring fishing and returned again in the fall to remain during the winter. David Kennedy was an adventurous spirit, who attracted by the quantity of game and fish to be found, located upon a hill near the confluence of the stream. He found there an old Indian named Tonquas, surrounded by a small remnant of a tribe, very few in number, and built his cabin near that of the chief. They were supposed to be Delaware, but there is no certainty in establishing that fact." Mr. Grove also mentioned the incident of John Kennedy being attacked by the Indians during the French and Indian War, he added that "Kennedy sent word to the Seneca Chief, who come to him and demanded to know what Indians had fired upon him, which question Kennedy could not answer. The chief remarked that the Shawnee were bad Indians and that he would drive them away. Traditions tells that a battle was fought about a mile north of the Shawnee's village". He stated that a Shawnee Indian Village was located, on the east side of the Conococheague Creek, one mile above the Maryland Line. He also mentioned another village of the Seneca tribe was located, on the west branch of the Conococheague Creek, about 2 miles north of the Kennedy farm, and they were supposed to have been a part of the tribe located at the confluence of the streams. Mr. Grove stated that this information was given to him by Dr. F. A. Bushy, of Greencastle, whom these facts were communicated to

by Mr. Lazarus Kennedy, who had received them from his father, David. Lazarus Kennedy was born in 1806, one year after his grandfather, John Kennedy had died. Lazarus Kennedy was 18 years old when his father, David, died in 1818. Lazarus probably heard the stories of his grandfathers adventures, with the local Indians, from his father numerous times. Dr. F. A. Bushy was a renown Civil War doctor and veteran. I believe Mr. Grove's stories contain historic facts.

Local Historian, Mr. Hayes R. Eschenmann, published a booklet in 1997 titled "Two Hundred and Fifty years along the Indian Portage From Conococheague to Conodoguinet 1632-1882." Mr. Hayes stated, "A collection of original documents, known as the "Calvert Papers" the work of the Honorable Philemon Lloyd (1672-1732), entitled "Patowmeck Above Ye Inhabitants" and now the property of the Maryland Historical Society, contains a memoranda and map, #1035, drawled in the year 1721. The memoranda refers to the "Land Carriage of About Eight Miles only" connecting the head of Conococheague Creek with a branch of the Susquehanna River. The map shows this eight mile carriage connecting a point on the upper reaches of the Conococheague Creek, northeast of Chamberburg, to where Herron's Branch flows into the Conodoguinet Creek, Northwest of Shippensburg, and thence into the Susquehanna River."

The water trade route between the Seneca Iroquois of Western New York and the Maryland and Virginia Colonies, was down the west branch of the Susquehanna River to the mouth of the Conodoguinet Creek, across from present day Harrisburg, up the Conodoguinet Creek to the Herron's Branch, northwest of Shippensburg. From here the Indians carried their belongings across the eight mile Conococheague Portage to Red Bridge, where Route 11 crosses the Conococheague Creek northeast of Chambersburg, from here they canoed down the Conococheague Creek to the Potomac River, which connected to the waterways of Maryland and Virginia. This water path was the shortest and easiest trade route between the Iroquois and the Maryland and Virginia Colonies. By using the Conococheague Portage, the Indians avoided the major rapids on the Susquehanna River below Harrisburg and the stormy wide waters of the lower Susquehanna and the upper Chesapeake Bay. This route also bypassed the, Susquehanna Indian Fort, located along the Susquehanna River in Lancaster County.

The Indians used canoes made from birch, elm or hickory bark, but the dugout canoe, made from large logs of poplar, sycamore or walnut trees, were used for heavy transports, their version of our pickup trucks. The canoes were too heavy to portage, so when they could no longer float their canoes, they used rocks to sink them in the creek, to hide and preserve them, for use on their return trip.

The use of the Conococheague Portage, by the Iroquois, greatly increased after they signed a peace treaty with Maryland in 1674 and their conquest of the Susquehanna the following year. The Seneca Iroquois were given control of the Susquehanna land and lucrative trade with the Virginia and Maryland colonies. The opening of this trade route increased competition, for Indian trade, between the French traders of Canada and the English colonies of the eastern seaboard, leading to better deals for the Iroquois furs and trade goods.

It makes sense, for the Seneca Iroquois, to establish a winter camp at the confluence of the Conococheague Creeks. Besides the excellent fishing, this camp was centrally located, to conduct trade and diplomatic excursions, with the Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania Colonies. The site lays beside the main trail leading, from the Susquehanna, to the ford, on the Potomac, at Williamsport, Maryland. A trail, following the west side, of the west branch of the Conococheague Creek connected this site, to trails leading, into Western Pennsylvania. The presence of Seneca Iroquois, reinforced the Iroquois claim and control over the territory, with the Shawnee and Delaware Indian tribes, who were living here, under submission, to the Iroquois.

The Indians looked for three things in choosing a village site: a good water supply, good drainage and warmth for the winter. They liked their houses to be near a navigable stream, facing the sun on gently sloping river bottom lands. This description describes the topography of the land between the confluence of the east and west branches of the Conococheague Creek.

When David Kennedy arrived at the confluence of the Conococheague Creeks, to settle in the early 1730's, he probably observed an Indian Village containing one or two long houses, built near the creek, for use by the Seneca during the winter months. Two sweat lodges constructed beside the creek at opposite ends of the village, one used by the women and the other by the men and fish dams built across the creek to aid in trapping fish. I believe this site was also used as a summer village by a group of Delaware Indians. Probably a half dozen Delaware Indian houses, wigwams, were constructed beside their cultivated fields; scattered over the gently rolling hills. A larger ceremonial house, called the big house, probably was constructed near the creek, for use as a communal house for religious rituals and sing and dancing by the Delaware families. The Delaware probably cleared five acres, for each family, to plant corn, squash, pumpkins and beans for their use and to be traded with the Seneca. The Indians cleared out junk trees and encouraged the growth of valuable nut and fruit trees. They also encourage the growth of numerous berries, sunflowers and herbs.

Indian villages were not permanent residence. The Indian population varied with the season. During midsummer most of the men went hunting, in the wilderness, while the women cultivated the fields. They returned in time for harvest. During winter, whole families left for weeks or months at a time to their hunting and trapping lodges. All returned in time for fishing and in early spring moved to their sugar camps, near Burnt Cabins in Fulton Co., to make maple syrup. They returned in late spring for planting. During the winter months, when the Seneca were encamped at the site, David Kennedy probably observed the greatest amount of activity at the village.

Besides the excellent hunting and fishing, I believe David Kennedy chose to settle along the Conococheague Creek near the Indian Village, because of the fertile bottom lands. Bottom lands that were easy to clear, because they were recently farmed by the Indians.

Note:-

Glen Camp local historian and genealogist had researched the David Kennedy family. The Kennedy family research states that David Kennedy came into the area with Benjamin Chambers in the 1730's. He was a wagon master for Benjamin Chambers and settled at the confluence of the East and West Branches in the mid 1730's. Family tradition states he married an Indian maiden and that the small group of Indians living at the confluence were probably his in laws.

David, in a jester of good will, purchased the land from the Seneca Indians. After all, they were in the process of selling the Cumberland Valley to the Penns. Settlers began moving into the area in greater numbers after the Penns purchased the valley in 1736. During the same time the Indians moving west, by the time of the French and Indian War in 1754, very few remained. Although, I believe the Seneca regularly used their camp, at the confluence of the Conococheague Creek, for trade and diplomatic missions until the beginning of Pontiac's War in 1763. During that war they were not welcome, because they were allied with Pontiac's Indians attacking the English settlers. It was at this time that the Kennedys acquired the land between the confluence of the east and west branch of the Conococheague Creek, according to the Cumberland County Tax Records.

During the Revolutionary War, the Iroquois Confederation was again split. The Seneca tribe were allied with the British fighting against the thirteen fires, the American Colonies. During the war a Seneca War Chief, named Cornplanter, acquired the reputation as the most capable, daring and feared war chiefs, in the Seneca tribe. After the war, the British abandoned their Seneca allies and Chief Cornplanter was forced to sign a Peace Treaty with the United States. From then on, Cornplanter, tirelessly promoted peace and good will between the United States and the Indians until his death in 1836, at around the age of 100. Because of his efforts, he was a respected and trusted friend of the United States.

Dr. John Ewing, in May of 1784, traveled through our area from Philadelphia to western Pennsylvania, to finish surveying the boundary between Pennsylvania and Virginia. Mason and Dixon did not survey the entire Pennsylvania border in the mid 1760's, because the western area was in dispute, being claimed by Virginia. Dr. Ewing kept a journal of his travels to western Pennsylvania. In the journal he recorded the conditions of the roads he traveled on, gave a description of the topography of the areas, noted the streams and mountains and listed the towns he passed through and the places he stayed and visited. His journal can be found in the Colonial Records, 6th Series, Vol. XIV. On May the 14th, 1784, part of his entry reads as follows, "Five miles farther, we came to Gordons Tavern and about ten miles farther we came to Colonel Allisons, Cornplanters town is about seven miles from this tavern. Lodged all night with Colonel Johnson about a mile from Gordon's Tavern." Apparently Dr. Ewings wagon train stayed at Colonel John Allisons Tavern, in the recently laid out town of Greencastle. Dr. Ewing back tracked and stayed at Colonel Johnsons residence near Gordon's Tavern. While Dr. Ewing was at Allisons Tavern and Colonel Johnsons residence, he heard stories of the Seneca Indian Town at the confluence of the east and west branches of the Conococheague Creek. In 1784 the Seneca were known as Chief Cornplanters Indians and the village or town was probably referred to as Cornplanters Town. Thus Dr. Ewing made a quick reference to Cornplanters town being seven miles from Allisons Tavern. Since Cornplanter was not mentioned in Mr. Groves article, I believe that the tradition of Cornplanters town arose, from the fact that Chief Cornplanter was the main chief associated with the Seneca Indians during the late 1700's and early 1800's.

The confluence of the Conococheague Creek was bisected by major trading trails and was a center for trade and commerce during the 17 and early 1800's. A trail followed the west side, of the West Branch of the Conococheague Creek, to Blacks Trading Post, (Mercersburg, PA), in the 1700's. This trail connected the main trail down the center of the Cumberland Valley to trails leading west over the Turcarora Mountains. The colonial government upgraded the Virginia trail that connected the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers, shortly after the French and Indian War, to a wagon road. This road known as the Kings Highway, followed present Route 11 and the Williamsport Pike. To access the eastern markers, the county built, a bridal trail and wagon road, from Mercersburg to the Maryland line at Emmitsburg, in 1768. This road connected with a road leading to Baltimore, today present route 16.

HENRY PAULING TAVERN

According to the article, "The Coachman's Horn is Heard no More", by W. P. Conrad, in The Kittochtinny Historical Society, Volume 17, Henry Pauling build a tavern, in the 1740's, at the intersection of Milnor Road and the Williamsport Pike. This tavern was a popular stopping point for pack trains traveling up and down the Cumberland Valley. The packs trains heading west followed a trail along the stream beside the tavern, (Rush Run), to the Conococheague Creek and cross the creek at the confluence to connect to the trail leading to Blacks Trading Post. The British army, in July of 1755, rested at Pauling's Tavern during their retreat up the Cumberland Valley after there disastrous defeat in Western Pennsylvania. During the French and Indian War Pauling's Tavern was called the limit of safety on the western frontier.

In early March of 1765, a wagon train loaded with trade goods for the Indians arrived at Paulings Tavern. Here the trade goods were transferred from wagons to seventy packhorses to be carried across the mountains to Ft. Pitt. The local citizens became extremely alarmed when it was learned that warlike materials were among the trade goods heading west to the Indians. A group of 50 men under the leadership of William Duffield, from Welsh Run, tried to persuade the traders to store their combatant trade goods at Ft. Loudon until an official peace treaty was signed by the Indians. The traders refused their request. Two days later, James Smith and a group of his black boys attacked the pack train on Sidling Hill Mountain and burnt their trade goods. This incident led to hostilities between the British authorities and local citizens of the Cumberland Valley which climaxed with the siege of the British Garrison at Ft. Loudon, by 300 armed local citizens in November of 1765.

Henry Pauling constructed a mill along the stream that flows through his property, but the tavern was his primary business. Henry Pauling, Jr. continued to operate the tavern after his fathers death in 1761. He replaced the early log building with one constructed of stone. Henry Pauling, Jr. died in 1794 and was childless. The 200 acre farm, containing the tavern was given to his sister, Eleanor, the wife of Dr. Robert Johnston, who at the time owned the grist mill at Martins Mill Bridge. Today there are no visible reminds of the mill or tavern.

CROSS' FORT

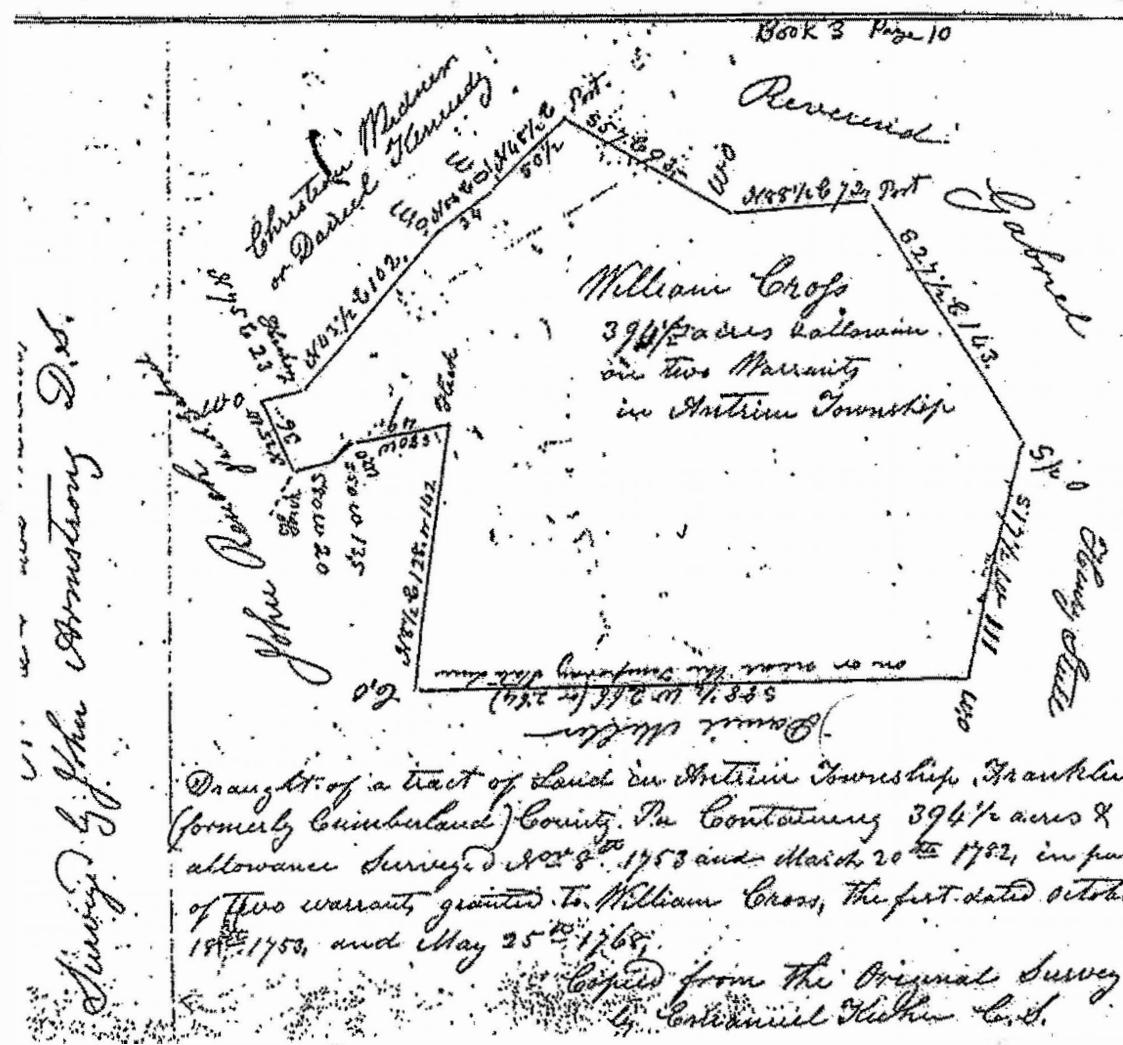
The settlers who didn't flee the valley during the massive Indian raids, at the time of the French and Indian War, congregated around local forts and block houses, to organize resistance to the Indian invasion. The local population spend their nights at the fort during times of Indian threats and returned to their farms in the day time, to take care of their animals. Numerous farms were burnt and great numbers of livestock were killed by the Indians during the war.

William Cross, the father of James Cross, maintained a fort in southwestern Antrim Twp. Most articles I've read locate the fort northeast or directly east of Martins Mill Bridge. On June 24, 1757 John Kennedy was attacked by Indians about a mile from his home and wounded in the thigh and shoulder. He was able to hide in a fallen tree along Rush Run and being a skilled marksman kept them at a distance. When night fell he made his way to Cross' Fort about a mile distant (this is the best information to be had as to the location of Cross' Fort).

On the survey of David Kennedy's 231 acre tract of land, located in Antrim Twp., on the east side of the Conococheague Creek and south of the confluence, shows Rush Run running through the center of the property and lists William Cross owning land south of this tract of land, (Survey Docket Book 3, pg. 30). William Cross owned 394 acres of land in Antrim Twp. and according to the survey of this land, (Survey Docket Book 3, pg. 10), the survey was made November 8, 1753, the southern border of the property lies on or near the temporary state line. The survey lists Daniel Kennedy, (David Kennedy) owning land to the northwest and John Rensch on the west. William Cross land was not bordered by the Conococheague Creek, but his neighbor John Rensch's land does. It is roughly 2 miles from the mouth of the Rush Run to the Maryland line and I figure William Crosses land lies in the area of Pleasant Hill Church and Coseytown. The fort probably was located near a large hollow north of the Pleasant Hill Church and south of Scar Hill Road. There appears to be numerous springs in the hollow. William Cross would have built his homestead and fort near a source of water.

William Cross' Fort was probably a typical block house similar to Fort Marshal in Montgomery Twp. An eye witness description of Fort Marshal is as follows: "The old fort was about sixteen by twenty-one feet. The logs were hewn and about ten inches thick and fifteen inches wide, and dove-tailed at the corners. Portholes, four inches square, two at each side, two at each end. Blocks were there to fill the portholes. Roof slants were so steep that burning material from arrows would roll down".

Two boys were taken by the Indians near Cross' Ft. on July 8, 1757. William Mason and a son was killed by the Indians, near Crosses Ft. on August 15, 1757. Alexander Miller was killed by the Indians and two of his daughters were taken prisoner near the Conococheague on June 24, 1757. Alexander Miller was the father of Jane Miller, the wife of James Cross, who built the grist mill at Martins Mill. This is the only information I've been able to find concerning the Indian attacks near Crosses Fort. I'm not sure if Jane Miller, Cross was one of the Miller daughters taken prisoner by the Indians.



Survey of a tract of land warrant to William Cross in 1753

Survey Docket Book 3, Page 30, Clerk of Courts Office
Franklin County Courthouse

JOHN KENNEDY'S TOWN

David Kennedy died in 1768 and a letter of administration was granted, to his oldest son John, on January 6, 1769. (Orphans Court, Cumberland County Courthouse, Book A, Page 77).

John Kennedy filed a petition in Orphans Court, (Docket 2, Page 114), stating that he wished to pay his brother and sisters their share of his father's plantation because he felt the plantation could not be divided without injury to or spoiling the whole. On May 26, 1770, Orphans Court granted John Kennedy his petition. It found that the plantation and the land was valued at 400 pounds, of which 133 pounds, 6 shillings and 4 pence was awarded to the oldest son, John Kennedy and that John Kennedy was to pay each of the surviving children, of David Kennedy, Mary oldest daughter, Alice second daughter, Agnes third daughter and David second son, 66 pounds, 13 shillings and 4 pence. There was no mention of, or record of a widow of David Kennedy.

On November 21, 1772, John Kennedy, administrator of the estate of his father, David Kennedy, sold to Christopher Weidner of Frederick County, Maryland, a tract of ground in Antrim Township, containing his father's plantation, bordered by the Conococheague Creek and containing 241 acres and 65 perches for the sum of 454 pounds and 10 shillings. This tract of ground was bordered by William Crosses claim, therefore I assume this was the tract of land David Kennedy had acquired in 1741 that has Rush Run flowing through the middle of it.

On the 1st of September, 1787, Mr. John Kennedy advertised through the Carlisle Gazette that he had laid out a new town at the forks of the east and west branches of the Conococheague Creek. The town containing 226 lots. Each lot was 82 1/2 ft. wide and 165 ft. deep. The streets were to be 60 and 80 feet wide, two of which were named, "Water Street," (East and West). These lots were to be disposed of by lottery on the 13th of November, 1787 and the annual quit rent on each lot would be three bushels of merchantable wheat. Each lot must be enclosed with a rail fence within three years. A house of brick, stone, frame or log at least 22 ft. sq., with a chimney of brick or stone, must be put up within 5 years. On March 29, 1787, James Chambers of Chambersburg disposed of 200 lots by lottery. Both Kennedy and Chambers gave a glowing description of the country and the advantages of locating at their respective places. Kennedy stated that the Conococheague was a better place for locating than the Potomac. Chambers spoke of the advantages of the Conococheague. Chambers stated that the opening of the Potomac now affords a ready water communication within the edge of this county, which at a very inconsiderable expense can be extended into Chambersburg. This added convenience would make Chambersburg one of the most promising inland trading towns west of the Susquehanna.

The reason John Kennedy attempted to form a town, at the confluence of the Conococheague Creeks and the advantages of the Conococheague Creek spoken of, by James Chambers, was the formation of the Potomac Company in January 1785. This company was chartered by

Maryland and Virginia to improve the Potomac River for navigation. By 1787, the Potomac River was made navigable by riverboats from Cumberland to Great Falls. John Kennedy constructed a warehouse and wharf on his property. Wheat and other grains were purchased and floated down the Conococheague in boats to the Potomac, and by that river to Georgetown, which was then the principal market for the products of this region. At that time this was the fastest, easiest and cheapest way to move farm products to the eastern markets. John Kennedy's son, David became a boatman on the Potomac. For years riverboats were organized along the Conococheague Creek below Martins Mill Dam. This activity continued until mill dams were built across the Conococheague Creek below the confluence, blocking river traffic in the early 1800's.

The cost of constructing locks, to lift and lower riverboats, over the ever increasing number of mill dams, constructed across the Conococheague Creek and the improvement of roads and the construction of turnpikes made river traffic obsolete, on the Conococheague, by the early 1800's. The unnamed town, John Kennedy, laid out at the confluence of the Conococheague Creek failed. Any buildings erected at the site were eventually moved to other locations. The commerce center of the area shifted to Greencastle which was laid out, at the intersection of two major roads, in 1784.

John Kennedy was taxed on 50 acres of land and a bridge in Antrim Township in the mid 1790's. Apparently the Kennedys had built a bridge across the creek near their property, probably a private toll bridge. This bridge was the only bridge crossing the Conococheague Creek in the area at that time. The stone bridge on Route 16 was not built until 1815. The county built a cast iron Pratt Truss Bridge over the East Conococheague Creek near Kennedy Ford in 1877.

The United States, 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment Records of Montgomery Twp., Franklin Co. PA, (window tax), lists John Kennedy owning 396 acres containing two groups of buildings. Number 1 was occupied by John Kennedy, containing a 19x42 ft. one story log house with 5 windows and 35 lights, 20x18 ft. log kitchen, 10x10 ft. log smoke house, 10x10 log spring house, a 57x20 ft. log barn, a 16x16 ft. log grainery and a 20x20 ft. log stable. Number 2 was occupied by Margaret Phillips, containing a 28x30 ft. 2 story log house with 16 windows and 174 lights and a 20x20 ft. log stable. The large size of this house and the fact that it was not occupied by John Kennedy, or any of his children, leads me to believe it was being used as an inn. The 1798 tax records for Montgomery Twp., Franklin Co., lists a Henry Phillips, innkeeper, paying a small tax. Neither Henry or Margaret Phillips appears in the tax records in the early 1800's, which leads me to believe that Henry and Margaret Phillips operated an inn on John Kennedy's property and apparently Henry Phillips died in 1798 between the recording of the county taxes and the U.S. Federal Taxes. I'm not sure where the log inn was located.

John Kennedy died in January 1805, his wife's name was Elizabeth. According to his will, he had three surviving children. He left his oldest daughter, Mary Baker and his youngest daughter, Elly Lowry, the plantation they are now living on plus \$600.00 each.

He gave to his grandson, Allen Heiroh Campbell, 100 pounds in the hand of the executors of the Reverend Thomas McFerrson Estate. His other grandchildren, he gave from 50 to \$100.00 each. The rest of his property and plantation he gave to his son David with the exceptions of his two slaves.

His two slaves, a black man and woman named Dick and Dinah, are to be freed one year after his death and a house to be built for them where the cellar is now dug at the east end of the place the well and cellar to be walled with stone and a stone chimney to be built in the middle of the house and boards to be provided for flooring the house above and below. He allowed them to have permission to clear the meadow and as much upland on the south side of the house as my executors think necessary.. They are to be allowed sufficient living timber for fencing and dead for firewood. They are allowed to have the use of a plow and horse whenever my executors thinks he needs. It was John Kennedys intentions to allow his two slaves the use of his land only during Dicks lifetime and if he became unable to earn a living, his executors are requesting to give him from 28 to \$40.00 a year. His son David Kennedy and William Allison were executors of his last will and testament.

PATOWMACK CANAL CO. (POTOMAC CANAL)

Getting surplus farm products to market was an extremely difficult and expensive ordeal in the seventeen and early eighteen hundreds. Most roads were bridal trails and roads that were wide enough for wagons, were impassable most of the year due too mud and high water. Few bridges were built across streams. Grain was ground into flour or distilled into whiskey, to make a compact valuable commodity, that was easier to ship to the markets. This was the reason so many grist mills were erected, so early, in our area, Martins Mill being one of the earliest.

Products were also floated in boats, rafts or canoes down the Conococheague Creek and Potomac River to the seaports; at Georgetown, Maryland or Alexander, Virginia. Areas of rapids and water falls made this a very risky and dangerous venture. To improve river traffic on the Potomac, in the late 1780's, miles of riverbed were channeled, fish pots were removed, skirting canals and locks were built around major rapids and falls, by the Potomac Company. The companies founder and first president was George Washington. Due to these improvements, the Potomac was made safely navigable from Cumberland to Georgetown.

Hundreds of boats floated down the Potomac in the late seventeen and early eighteen hundreds. A variety of boats were used on the Potomac Canal. These included dugouts, rafts, batteaus, and sharpers. Batteau (French for boat) was a common type of riverboat used in the South and West. There were keelless, flat-bottomed boats, with ends tapered, built of planks, from 45 to 60 feet long, seven to eight feet wide, and 1 1/2 to two feet thick. Long steering oars at one or both ends, and poles, were used to navigate batteaus.

Sharpers (shown), were the preferred riverboats used on the Potomac. They were constructed similar to the batteau, but were longer and thinner. Sharpers were approximately 75 feet long, 6 to 7 feet wide, flat bottom keelless boats with ends tapering to points. They could carry up to 20 tons of goods and had a draft of 18 inches. A crew of 3-5 men use poles and a sweep oar (a rudder-like device) to maneuver the sharper. Rivermen standing near the front and on the

sides of the boat used long poles to push the boat away from rocks and other obstacles in the river, while one man manned the rudder. A tarp was sometimes stretched

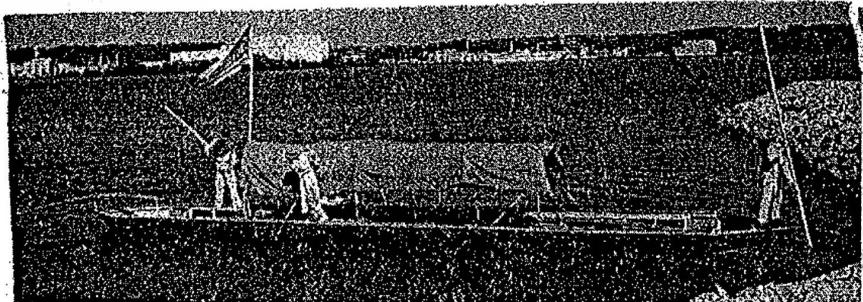


over bent poles like a Conestoga wagon to keep the cargo dry. The rivermen tied their boats next to the banks and islands at night to camp. The boats, carrying light loads were, pulled or poled back upstream with great difficulty. Depending on water levels, it would take 1-2 days to float a Sharpie from Martins Mill to Georgetown and a week to pole it back upstream. Rafts, about the same size as the sharpers were floated down the Potomac and were sold at the end of the trip for lumber or firewood.

The Potomac Co. improvements made the Potomac boatable throughout most of the year, but the extremes of high and low water made the river dangerous or impassable for months. Even then it took skill and courage to ride a 20 ton load through the rapids, at the water level required to make the trip to Georgetown. This was still easier and faster than using pack horses carrying 200 pounds each or freight wagons carrying a couple of ton. Boats used on the Potomac were licensed by the Potomac Canal Co. and tolls were collected at intervals along the river. The cost of shipping a 200 lb. barrel of flour from our area to Georgetown was \$1.00.

Boats continued floating the Potomac, in our area, until the construction of the C and O Canal and railroads reached Williamsport in the early 1830's. Williamsport was the major commerce center for our area until the construction of railroads from Harrisburg to Hagerstown through the Cumberland Valley in the early 1840's.

According to Hayes Eschenmann, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in 1826, had the Conococheague and Conodoguinet Creeks examined for the construction of a canal connecting the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers. This proposed canal was never realized because of the failure to obtain right of ways.



Above is the Lord Chesterfield, a replica of a James River batteau.

Sharps the preferred riverboats used on the Potomac were constructed similar to batteaus, but were longer and thinner.

NOTICES FROM THE CHAMBERSBURG WEEKLY ADVERTISER
compiled by
Mrs. Virginia Shannon Fendrick

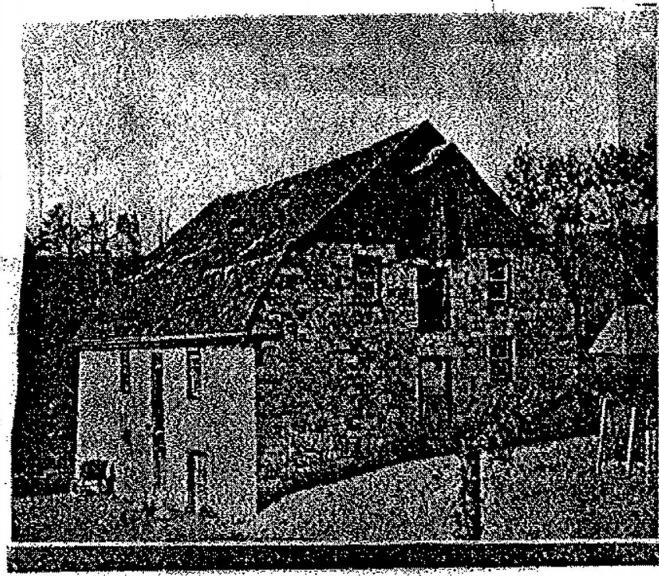
October 16, 1794--A pair of boots found on the road from Kennedy's bridge to Greencastle, on the 2nd of October, 1794.-- Thomas Ireland.

August 26, 1794--MICHAEL TICE, of Antrim Twp., having a Mill in complete order, known as Rush Runn Mill, situated contiguous to the Boatable Waters of the Conococheague proposes Grindling, Bolting, and Nailing at 2s per barrel--also takes charge of flour, & transports it Safely to George Town or Alexandria &c &c.

Note: Rush Run connects with the Conococheague a short distance below the confluence of the east and west branch. I have seen other advertisements in the local papers in the early 1800's, advertising for cargo, for a boat being made ready on the Conococheague, west of Greencastle, to be floated downstream to Georgetown. At the present time I can't relocate them.

RUSH RUN GRIST MILL

Rush Run Mills was known as Worley's Mill in the late 1800's. The grist mill and saw mill was located on the north side of Worleytown Road at the junction of Rush Run, about three quarters of a mile west of Worleytown. A dam, across Rush Run, about 100 yards above Worleytown Road furnished water to power the mill. The grist mill was a two story stone structure. Today the washed out remains of the dam are still standing.



Worley's Mill

MARTINS MILL BRIDGE

The largest covered bridge built in Franklin County was built across the Conococheague Creek at Martins Mill in 1849. Franklin County Road Docket Records only go back to 1849. The only records I found in the Dockets pertaining to the bridge, at Martins Mill was listed under Montgomery Twp. in 1850 requesting final inspection of the bridge. The reason the bridge was listed under Montgomery Twp. was because the citizens of Montgomery Twp. petitioned the courts to have the bridge built so they would have easier access to Greencastle. The petition was probably made in the mid 1840's.

Franklin County Road Docket Records, Orphan Court, Franklin County Courthouse, 1849 to 1863 volume, page 29. January Sessions, 1850-On the petition of Jacob Shirk setting forth that a contract made by him with the commissioners of Franklin County for the erection of a bridge over the Conococheague Creek at Irvin Millers Mill, in Montgomery Twp., that said bridge has been built according to the contract and is completed, and praying the appointment of viewers to inspect said bridge and make report according to law, the court appoints Joseph Holler, Thomas McCauley, Samuel Fisher, Henry Bushey, John Rowe Esq. and Adam Bohn.

The viewers appointed by an order of this Court of January Session, 1850 to view a bridge at Irwin Millers Mill and report thereon being first duty swore according to law due report that in pursuance of the written order we proceeded to view the bridge within mentioned. The masonry, we believe to be done in a good substantial manner, also the carpenter work so far as our power to see, but as the bridge viewed was according to the article of agreement between the commissioners and Jacob Shink to be like and conform with the bridge built at Claylick Hall in the said county, and the undersigned not finding an opportunity nor believing it then duty to examine the Claylick Hall Bridge for satisfaction of the commissioners. Annex the following descriptions of the timbers used in the erection of the bridge viewed at Millers Mill. The bridge is 205 ft. long, 13 ft. 3 in. high, 16 ft. wide in the inside, plank used in the lattice work 3x10 in., upper cord 3 in. by 8, second cord 3 in. x 10, lower cord 3 in. x 12, lower beams 5 in. x 12, and so far as we have been able to gather information from the Articles of Agreement between the commissioners and said Jacob Shink, not having as above stated the plans and specifications for the timbers to be used; we believe the bridge to be built in a substantial and workman like manner exception of painting and white washing.

The 26th of January, 1850 confirmed by the Court.

REVEREND JOHN RUTHRAUFF GRIST MILL

Reverend John Ruthrauff was born in York County in 1763. He came to Greencastle in 1795 to serve as pastor of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Greencastle and served as its pastor until 1833. Reverend Ruthrauff was the main Lutheran Pastor in Southern Franklin County in the early 1800's and founded most of the Lutheran Churches in the area. At that time the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations erected and owned church buildings and burial grounds jointly. All sermons were preached in German. Reverend Ruthrauff organized the St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mercersburg in 1800 and served as its pastor until 1827. He also organized the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Waynesboro in 1800 and served as its pastor until 1825. Reverend Ruthrauff served as pastor of the Lutheran Church of Grindstone Hill from 1795 to 1815.

Reverend John Ruthrauff's wife was Martha Hamme also of York County. They had seven sons-John, Samuel, Frederick, George, Jonathan, Henry and David-and one daughter. Reverent Ruthrauff died in 1837 and his wife died in 1842. They are both buried in the Lutheran graveyard in Greencastle.

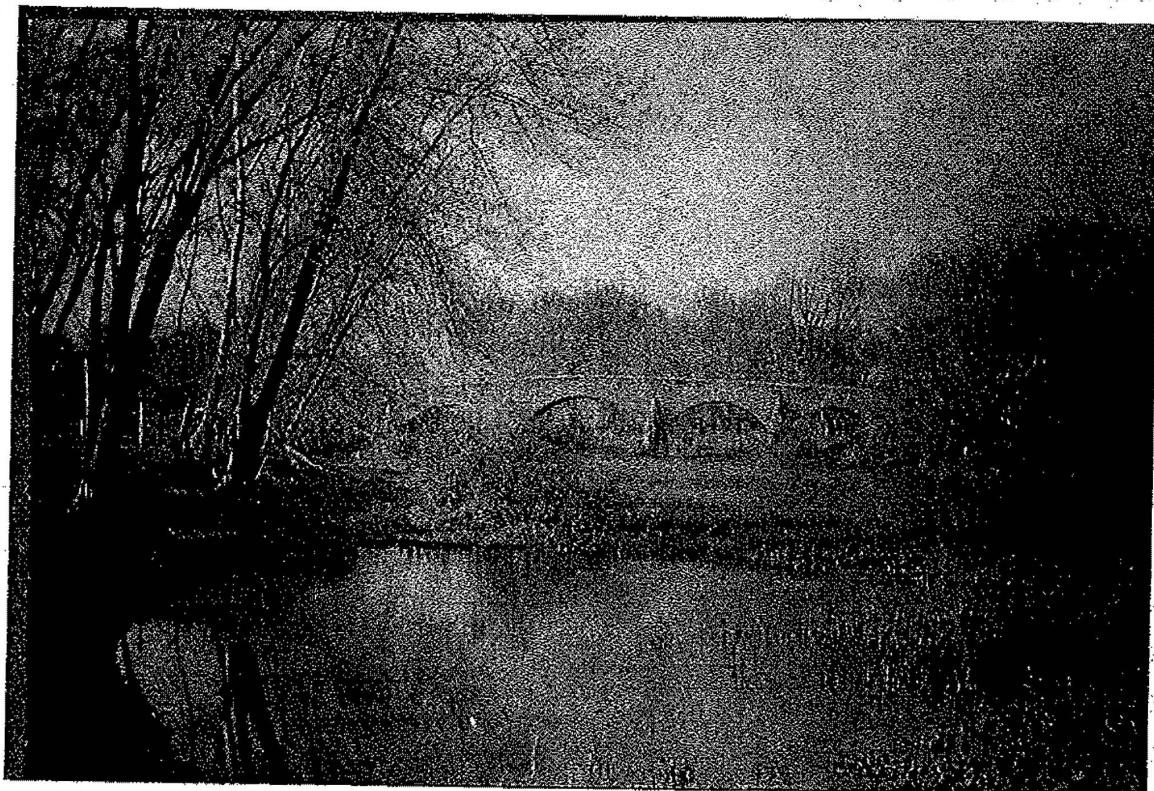
Reverend Ruthrauff bought 200 acres of land from Adam Hoffman, on Nov. 23 1802 (deed book 6, page 265). The land lying along the west side of the Conococheague Creek, in Montgomery Twp., at the stone arch bridge, 1 1/4 mile west of Greencastle. According to the tax records of Montgomery Twp., he built a saw mill on the property in 1812. The saw mill was valued at \$800.00 in 1813. In 1815, he built a grist mill. It was completed by 1816 and was valued at \$5,000.00. His son, Samuel operated the saw mill and grist mill until a few years before the farm and mill was sold to Jacob Boyer on November 11, 1833. According to the 1868 map, the grist mill and dam was located about a 1/4 of a mile downstream from the stone arch bridge. The 1860 census list the property and grist mill being owned by Jonathan Keefer. The grist mill was located south of the farmhouse and barn on the west side of the Conococheague Creek. The dam was located a short distance upstream from the mill. This grist mill and Martins Mill was not listed in, T. B. Wood's 1923 List of Old Mills of Franklin County nor was there a photo of either mill in his, Views of Old Mills in Franklin Co.. Apparently the grist mills were not standing at that time and both had been gone for years.

The old abandoned mill site was a popular swimming and picnicking area for the residents of Greencastle during the late 18 and early 1900's. It was at this site in August of 1902 that 50 to 60 "old boys" had a picnic along the Conococheague Creek, being the first Old Home Week celebration of the Greencastle Community.

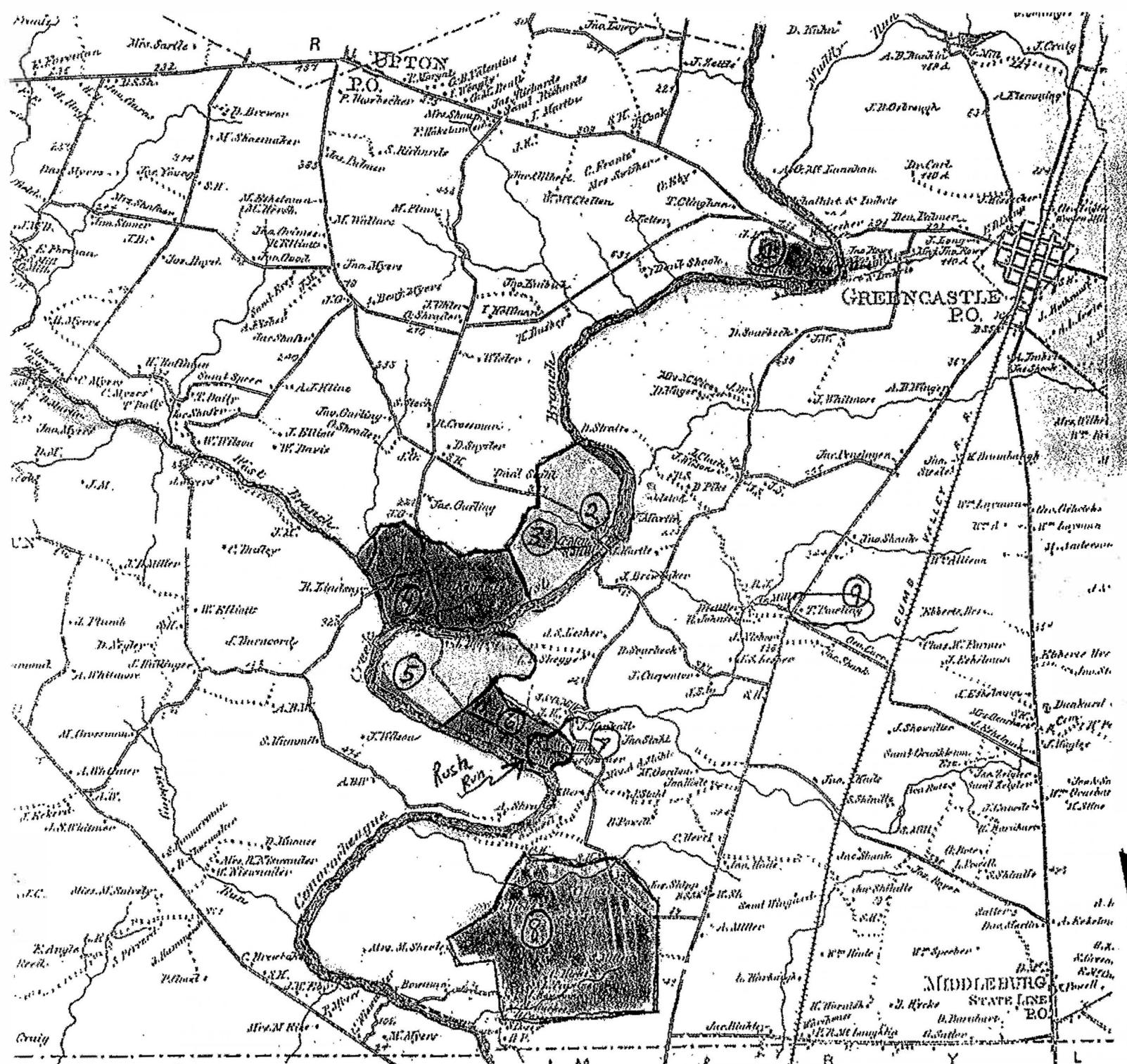
The grist mill burned down in 1827. At the time Reverend Ruthrauff was preaching a sermon in the church at Greencastle. A gentleman came into the church and walked up to the pulpit and told him his mill was on fire. In reply, he quietly remarked that, "He supposed he would let it burn," then continued his sermon until

completion. Most preachers would have cut the sermon short and tried to save the mill. It is said that the congregation, impressed with his earnestness and devotion, contributed more than sufficient to rebuild the mill.

It is interesting to note that Reverend Ruthrauff built his grist mill one year after the completion of the five arch stone bridge across the Conococheague Creek, a short distance above his house and farm. The convenience in crossing the creek by way of this bridge would have increased local traffic from the Greencastle and Montgomery Township area making this an ideal spot to conduct a grist mill business. Traffic on the road increased even more when this bridge was incorporated into the Waynesburg, Green-Castle, Mercersburg Turnpike Company in the early 1820's. A tollhouse was located a short distance east of the stone arch bridge. The turnpike company was organized in 1816.



Five arch stone bridge across the Conococheague Creek at
Reverend Ruthrauff Mill
T. B. Wood Collection, Kittochtinny Historical Society



1868 MAP.

Antrim Twp. east of Conococheague Creek (right)
Montgomery Twp. west of Conococheague Creek (left)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Rev. John Ruthrauff-Grist mill | 6. David Kennedy-land 1741 |
| 2. James Cross-land 1768 | 7. Rush Run Mills |
| 3. Martins Mill and Bridge | 8. William Cross-land 1753 |
| 4. David Kennedy-land 1763
(Seneca Indian Village) | 9. Pauling Tavern |
| 5. David Kennedy-land 1741 | |

Note: Land boundaries are approximate, not drawn to scale.