

A Surveyors House in Paradise Township Lancaster County PA?

- by Dennis L Oberholtzer, Dec 2011 Paradise PA author,
concerning the home owned by Jerry & Liz Thompson

The year of 2010 was the 300th anniversary of the first German Settlement in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. There has been monthly activities in which to celebrate the first major group of Europeans who were willing to make the sacrificial journey from their familiar homelands to an unknown territory only known as a "wilderness". The dangers of unfamiliar Indian tribes as neighbors, the old time superstitions they brought along from Europe, the erratic weather at the end of the Little Ice Age, and multiple countries mingling together as they competed for "new lands", all played an integral part in the emotional struggle in which the settlers had to struggle and survive.

In studying this phenomenon of which at least nine of my ancestors were a part, it was brought to my attention that little to nothing is known of just how this trek was propagated. Who were the instigators behind getting a group of foreigners to come to an unknown land? How was each step of the process initiated? It was only as I answered some of these questions that I realized there were people going ahead of the settlers, setting up the process needed to make this journey a success. The following is a short chronology of events which led to the eventual settlement of Conestoga (later to be called Lancaster County):

1672	William Penn is given rights to what would be called Penn's Woods
1677	William Penn took a journey up the Rhine River, seeking prospects for the journey to the New World
1681	William Penn settled the first group of Welsh immigrants on the west side of the Schuylkill River from the Manayunk Fort.
1682	The first group of German settlers, both Quakers and some Anabaptists, immigrated to Germantown PA
16__	The establishment of the Land Office in Philadelphia.
1699	December 3, 1699 landing of the Canterbury ship, with William Penn, James Logan, and Thomas Story on board.
1700	By 1700 the population of Penn's Woods was about 21,000.
1701-1702, Jan 10	Edward Pennington was Surveyor General of Penn's Woods
1704-1708	The Swiss land seekers Mitchell & Graffenreid arrive from Berne Switzerland.
170?	The Minqua Path from Christiana to Indiantown is mapped.
1707-1708	Thomas Chalkey journeyed up the Rhine River Valley seeking emigrants for America
1708, June 29	William Penn was concerned about Peter Bizational and the Swiss explorer Mitchell looking for mines.
1708	Thomas Story takes out the first Warrant for land in the Conestoga wilderness
1709	Rev Hans Herr & homestead buyers come to America to choose property in Conestoga, then return to Germantown for the winter.
1710	Thomas Chalkey returns to America with Lancaster Counties' first German settlers.
1717	Jacob Taylor was Surveyor General of Penn's Woods; Isaac Taylor creates Survey Map Sadsbury Township is organized.
1718	William Penn died.
17_?	The Copper Mine begins to be quarried, later called Nickel Mines Quarry Wolf Rock Road is created to bring the copper wagons to the Minqua Path.
1720	Thomas Story turned over a 940 acre tract to Pennsylvania Land Company of London
1721, Aug 25	Free Society of Traders to be sold for payment of debts
1724	Only one wagon per neighboring farmers - <i>Rupp's History of Lancaster County, 1844</i>
1732	Thomas Penn arrives from England
1733	James Logan invented the Conestoga Wagon, and produced it in Lancaster County
1737	John Fothergill, worthy friend of Thomas Chalkey, is returning to England on a ship with Chalkey after his 3rd visit to America.
1738	John Taylor was surveyor
1741/2	John Jones, a primary land developer for the Free Society of Traders, died
1762, July 1	John Fothergill sells off a Pennsylvania Land Company tract, with buildings on Wolf Rock Rd ¹

The East Conestoga Tract in Question

The tract of land which is presently owned by Jerry & Liz Thompson had an unusual legal beginning. Thomas Story, an ancestor of Liz, bought land on the north side of the Minqua Trail, which follows the present day Strasburg Road also known as Route 741. *See map of 1711.* Thomas Story bought 768 acres in Chester County, in present day Lancaster County, having a date of warrant on November 29, 1708. (*Deed Book D-82-124*) This property was bought as a real estate investment, rather than to buy as a homestead. Throughout the 18th Century the land was subdivided.

In 1712 Story had a survey taken of this property which was enlarged to about 1000 acres. (*Thomas Story p961*) In these early days surveying was still an inexact science. Modern instruments which give degrees of variation were not put to use in Conestoga until about 1725, and then only for roads. To compensate buyers, there was a stipulation entered as "Allowances" after the measured acres. A 1720 deed indicated that the Pequea property of Story consisted of 940 acres. Whether or not there where some land sold to get less than the thousand acres, or that the 940 acres was the finalized amount cannot be determined. The additional acres to the original tract had come up for question in legal proceedings, but the case was never resolved. In 1720 Story turned the property over to the

Pennsylvania Land Company, "for which he had become treasurer. The vast bulk of his holdings sold for the astronomical sum at that time of 9000 Lbs." The land that had been added to the original 768 was on the south side of the Minqua trail, from present day Wolf Rock Road east to McIlvaine Road, and as far south as the woodland base of the hillside. This addition included the Thompson property of today.

The Early Conestoga Land Merchants

The following listing of people and events are brought into this discussion in order to reveal some of the Free Society of Traders, and how they were an integral part of the five decades of ownership in the property currently owned by Jerry & Liz Thompson. It is through the documents left by these traders that I hope to show how the Thompson property was originally designated as a base for the surveyors, in what would become Lancaster County. This property was not surveyed until June 10, 1741, even though it had prior owners. And each of the names recorded owning this property until its sale in 1762 were part of the Pennsylvania Land Company.

William Penn made a trip up the Rhine River Valley in search of immigrants for his new land called Penn's Woods in the year 1677. He would begin to set up his government, starting in 1682 with his trip to Philadelphia. But the Free Society of Traders would go ahead with a deal a year before, purchasing 20,000 acres in Penn's Woods on March of 1681. The Charter granted the traders Manorial rights, exempting them from all quit rents. This allowed the traders to hold onto the land as long as necessary to bring in an initial population of immigrants, without making the cost so high for the traders that the plan would not succeed. William Penn originated from Welsh territory, so it was only natural for him to turn to his fellow countrymen to build an organizational team.

Thomas Lloyd was made the head of the Society delegation in the Pennsylvania Provincial Council. Great results were anticipated by the Traders. But while their actions were pertinent to the development of Conestoga, the power and influence of the Society gradually diminished during the first half of the 18th century. Thomas Lloyd was Deputy Governor in 1697 when his daughter Elizabeth set sail with Thomas Chalkey, and would rise to Governor of Pennsylvania in 1727.

Thomas Story was a single minister, born about 1662 in Justicetown, Cumberland England. He set sail from the Isle of Wight on the ship Canterbury with William Penn and the youthful James Logan on September 3, 1699 and landed at Philadelphia on December 3, 1699. (*Wikipedia: Canterbury Ship*) He purchased 34 acres of land in the Welsh tract on the west side of the Schuylkill River from Philadelphia. (Map from the time of Governor Thomas Mifflin.) His property was just west of Thomas Holmes Jr, and two places east of James Logan. Mr Story was one of the several members of the Free Society of Traders, a group of people aligned by William Penn to create a real estate company in which his land would be parceled out to immigrant families from Europe. He returned 500 acres in Chester County in October 27, 1700, as noted in *PA Archives Survey D-82-74*.

James Logan was the son of Patrick Logan who was born in East Lothia Scotland and died in 1702. James was born on October 20, 1674 in Lurgan Ireland. James Logan was of Scottish descent, and was only 24 years old when he arrived at Philadelphia on December 3, 1699. (*Back in the 17th Century*) William Penn was so impressed with the character of Logan, that he made him Commissioner of Property and Receiver General, which was documented on November 30, 1711 in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. James Logan would later become Surveyor General, and sign many of the Township maps of Lancaster County under that title. James was also a member of the Free Society of Traders, investing in large tracts of land to be divided amongst immigrants.

An interesting twist took place near the end of the first decade of the 18th century. Edward Shippen was another early settler of the Welsh tract. His daughter Ann became the girlfriend of James Logan. But a fellow colleague in the Board of Property, Thomas Story, was a traveling minister. Prototyping this vocation reveals a person with a way of words that is very persuasive. And the minister swept Ann Shippen into his arms, and they married in 1706. The couple lived on the 34 acres west of the Thomas Holmes Jr tract, and only two plots away from Story lived James Logan on 50 acres and 128 acres. This created much tension between business partners, and may have had something to do with the return of the Conestoga tract of property during that time. Story died June 23rd 1742, and buried on the 26th. (*Thomas Story p956, and the editors of Story's Journal, p965*)

Israel Pemberton Sr was another member of the Free Society of Traders. Born in Bucks County on February 20, 1684 a son of Phineas & Phoebe (Harrison) Pemberton and grandson of Ralph Pemberton of Radcliffe-bridge, Lancashire England. Israel was acquainted with John Fothergill and William Armistead, two later members of the Free Society which would take on the name of the Pennsylvania Land Company of London. Israel Pemberton Jr was born May 10, 1715, and was a cousin and friend of the second son of James Logan. William Logan was born in Philadelphia on July 14, 1718, the son of Sarah Read and husband James.

Israel Sr also bought land in Conestoga, just east of Thomas Story's property. He took out a

warrant for 1000 acres on November 22, 1711, only to return it on December 20, probably the following year. This land is adjacent to the property being discussed for this article. The return was probably due to his marriage to Rachel Read about the same time, being about twenty-five years of age. In forthcoming years Israel also purchased several large areas of other property. A 333 1/4 acre tract in Philadelphia was purchased in 1719. And on October 1, 1723 he took out a patent in Conestoga Manor for 300 acres. Israel Sr would pass away on January 18, 1754. Rachel passed away on February 24, 1765 at 74 years.

His son Israel Pemberton Jr bought and later returned 248 acres in Paxtang in 1768, in present day Dauphin County. Israel Jr would pass away in Philadelphia on April 22, 1779.

Another important figure in this investigation is that of John Churchman, born in Nottingham Township, Chester County Pennsylvania on the 4th day of month six in 1705 A.D., the son of John and Hannah Churchman, Quakers who were closely tied to the Free Society of Traders. John would grow to become a close friend of Samuel and Susanna Fothergill of Scotland, very likely relatives of John Fothergill who was the signer of the Pennsylvania Land Company sale of property on Wolf Rock Road in Paradise Township, Lancaster County PA in 1762.

John Churchman met John Fothergill in 1736 at the Merion Meetinghouse. In Spring of 1737 John Churchman went to Sadsbury Township "to settle a boundary of land." This is a clear sign that Churchman had his fingers in the Pennsylvania Land Company, even though he did not own property. The evidence that Fothergill & Churchman are tied together in a Sadsbury property, in which the Thompson house at that time was still in Sadsbury Township, gives a bit of credence to the idea of a surveyors house in the area.

In summer of 1751 John Churchman was in Kelso Scotland and met Samuel Fothergill. There was a good relationship between John and Sam. They traveled together "down the Thames River to Margaret Bay." They landed at Wilmington, New Castle on September 24, 1754 in the morning, then went to Philadelphia. By November 1754, Sam Fothergill & John Churchman traveled "toward Lancaster" to do some business. Here again there is an implication of real estate matters in the area between Chester County and Lancaster. The Thompson House is again in the crosshairs. It is difficult to ignore the fact that there were two locations within twenty miles of each other named London Grove. The small stream running past the Thompson house is part of a series of connecting streams in the valley called Londonland Run. And in the 1800's the house was a tavern with the name of London Grove Tavern. The title did not come from nowhere. Is it possible the tavern was resurrected from a previous time at the same location?

In 1756 Churchman again would meet with Samuel Fothergill in America. This is just six years prior to the sale of the property by Sam's relative John Fothergill.

John Churchman died on the 10th of the third month 1777, and buried at Falls' Quaker Meeting-house on the 12th. - Joseph Gillingham, clerk.

THE JONES FAMILIES

The Jones family played an strategic part in the establishment of William Penn's territory. The picturesque Jones cottage just west of Wynnwood is a landmark building. It is said that William Penn stayed there during visits to Merion Meetinghouse, a Quaker church in the 40,000 acre tract of Welsh land. - *US History.org, Old Conestoga Road*

Edward Jones & Company were the first group of Welsh settlers in Pennsylvania. They consisted of 17 families, and took up 5000 of the 40,000 acre Welsh tract bought from William Penn. They settled on the west side of the Schuylkill River from German Township, present day Germantown PA on September 16, 1681. (*Lower Merion Historical Society, Thomas Holme 1687, 88K map; Welsh settlement of PA, Wm J Campbell, 1912 pgs 46-48*) The Welsh Purchase of 40,000 acres was documented on the Warrant Register of Chester County in 1684, and surveyed by Edward Pennington, Surveyor General on December 4, 1700/01. *Survey D-69-170 PA Archives Old Rights Index W12*

This is Dr Edward Jones Sr, born in 1645 and died December 26, 1737 at 92 years. He was a barber and surgeon, and was the first purchaser of the Welsh tract in Penn's Woods. Ed Senior was married to Mary Wynne, also a Welsh native. - *Merion Friends Meeting*

1-1 Dr Edward Jones Sr 1645 - December 26, 1737 92 years m Mary Wynne

2-1 Jonathan Jones March 11, 1680 - June 30, 1770 at 91 years

Came to America in 1682 as still an infant son of Edward Jones Sr.

2-2 Edward Jones Jr was born on the Welsh tract October 17, 1683 and died on July 1, 1732, five years before his father.

2-3 John Jones

3-1 Rebekah Jones 1710 - February 24, 1739 d/o John, grd/o Dr Edward Jones

- *Merion Meetinghouse Cemetery*

Another family surnamed Jones came along to the original Welsh tract.

- 1-1 Jonathan (called John) Jones Sr ap Thomas & Katherine
 - 2-1 Jonathan Jones Jr 1687 - December 30, 1774 87 years - *Joseph Price Diary*
m Sarah (?) Jones - d April 15, 1763
 - 2-2 Thomas Jones b Wales bef 1682 - August 6, 1727 s/o John ap Thomas
 - 2-3 Evan Jones - d December 31, 1697 s/o John ap Thomas & Katherine
- *Merion Meetinghouse Cemetery*

And then there was another John Jones:

- 1-1 John Jones - d 1741/2 buried *Merion Meetinghouse Cemetery*

He is the cousin of Robert Jones of Gwynnedd (North Wales)

John was a member of the Free Society of Traders. The group was very heavily invested in the purchase of Penn's lands, later selling their holdings to the new settlers who would arrive from Europe.

Thirty years after the Jones family settled in Philadelphia, John Jones bought the land in Paradise Township which may have housed the surveyors during the early years of settling Lancaster County. He paid tax in 1722 on land in East Conestoga, and is listed as a "Landholder". - *Chester Co Tax Lists*. It was in that year that Conestoga was divided into West and East for tax keeping records.

Charles Burkett took out a warrant on May 13, 1741 in Lancaster County, for 58 acres. The reference is Paradise Township H-H-246, property number 4 in the Warrant Book. This property was then patented on December 1742 to Charles Burkett. (C-89-146; C-206-24) John Jones *et al* (and elsewhere, and others) is listed as the originating land owner of this property. The Burkett properties sat just to the south of the property in question, which has as present owners Jerry & Liz Thompson.

Burkett was a multiple land owner. He previously bought a property of 123 acres on the west side of H-H-246 on July 18, 1738 warrant. That is presently owned by Charles Rohrer, long time Pequea Valley School Board member. To the west of Burkett's land was 161 acres warranted by John Bishop. But he did not live there, as a Wendall Trout is documented on the land survey A-45-258. Wendall's son or grandson George Trout patented the land on Nov 12, 1802. John Bishop also may have been a real estate investor.

Burkett also owned 150 acres in Frankford, Chester County, having a date of Warrant on July 18, 1738. There is no date of return, but 23 acres of the Frankford land was returned. Whether Charles Burkett was a member of a real estate company is not known, nor his purpose for buying these two properties.

The implication of the above original land purchasers is that Burkett and Bishop could have been part of the John Jones *et al*, even though there are late dates of 1737 and 1738. "After William Penn's death in 1718, no land titles could be granted in Pennsylvania until estate litigation was settled. During these years, the Provincial Government issued tickets that would serve as the basis for drawing up patents when the regular land office reopened." Burkett & Bishop very well could have been part of the group of John Jones families which purchased the real estate. By the time the land was divided into parcels, William Penn's litigation had already begun, and the warrants and patents could not be recorded until after litigation settlement. During those years, and continuing on up to 1765, property requests were written on a scrap of paper or listed with other requests originating from the same geographic area, and carried to the land office by a representative. (See *RG-17 III Warrant Applications, and Warrant Application Transcript Books 1732-1774*, also *Penn's Land Applications Vol 1, East Side Applications 1765-1769 Kenneth D McCrea, PA Chapter, Palatines in America, 2002 Strasburg PA*)

Properties 2 and 3 in Paradise Township:

John Jones *et al* is also listed as the original owner of property number 2 of Paradise Township in the *Warrant Maps of Lancaster County*. On survey date of Oct 25, 1716, 50 acres were returned by John Ferree, who's relative Daniel Ferree *et al* (which *et al* included John Ferree) bought it as part of 2300 acres by a warrant on September 10, 1712. The land was not surveyed at that time. The 50 acres were patented as *A-10-492*.

Property 3 was purchased on November 12, 1729 by Thomas Falkner as *C-89-146*. On the document is a curious "Thomas Falkner 50 acres since John Jones". The property went to John Fierre as a patent on April 23, 1750, after being warranted on May 13, 1741 & surveyed on June 10, 1741 as *H-17-154*. There is another Patent known as *A-7-319*.

Another reference to John Jones *et al* is in the PA Archives *A - 1-152 Patent Book*. A side notation states "to try Negroes". Rather than a statement for judging, I believe this quote meant a sale of land to people of color as a trial run, to see whether a colony of colored people could exist within Penn's Holy Experiment. Since no such place exists, I suspect the effort failed.

Additional properties owned by the Jones Families:

John Jones also bought land as a "Landholder" in Conestoga in 1724/5 (Pg 33), and in 1725 (Pg 6).

He owned more land than any other early investor, including the land where the Northumberland Courthouse would be built. Other Jones family members also bought land very early in Conestoga:

Charles Jones	Landholder	1719/20	Pgs 11, 25
David Jones	Landholder	1719/20	Pg 11
Morgan Jones	Landholder	1718 Englishman	Pg 19

- *Chester County Tax Lists*

Circumstantial Evidence for a Surveyors House:

Thomas Holme became the first Surveyor General on October 14, 1688. The office of Surveyor-General was one of the most important in the province. Thomas Pearson was his Deputy General. Holme bought 80 acres on the north side of the 428 acre tract awarded to the Society of Traders, within the Welsh tract. But his tenure was short lived, as he died in Spring 1691 in Dublin Township, Philadelphia County.

The Jones families were heavily taught the trade of surveying for generations. Surveyor Samuel Jones came along at a later time, during the late 18th Century, surveying lands along the Allegheny River and the Pennsylvania/Maryland border. (*Survey Book D-45, pgs 141-200*) It is a natural progression to have someone from land speculation have a son who takes up the role of surveyor, in a time when the trade is only coming into vogue.

Cartographer Felix Jones (England 1813 - 1878) was a famous mapmaker of the 19th Century. I note these two personalities as additional justification for the circumstantial evidence toward a surveyor's house in East Conestoga. The surveyors of Lancaster County would certainly needed a headquarters nearby, since even by horse it would have taken too long to travel day by day to and from the unpopulated wilderness lands.

There are several reasons for placing a surveyors headquarters on or near the Thomas Story property. Copper was found as early as 1704 on the top of the Wolf Rock. William Penn acknowledged that mines were already searched for in Conestoga. (*Early Court Records*) Copper mining was likely taking place as early as 1718 at the future Nickel Mine Quarry. Yet the mine tract was not surveyed until 1746 (*B-3-127 Survey P 237, 1746*). The first road to and from the copper came down the hill now known as Wolf Rock Road. At the intersection of Wolf Rock Road and the Minqua Path, the land has no obstacles, and yet the road bears to the east to intersect the Indian path. This evidence leads one to the conclusion that wagons of copper were already being transported to Christiana by the time of the first mapping in the 1700's. Even though the present Thompson property has dwindled in size from 58 acres to about three, the overall design of the 58 acre tract remained the same on maps for three centuries. (*The Warrant Maps of Lancaster County* by Geri Gilbert, 1899 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Lancaster County*, Fox Chapel Publishing, and *Metro Street Atlas of Lancaster County in Pennsylvania*, 3rd Edition Page 3281) A corner property with water source, halfway between Christiana and the first German settlement was an ideal location for a merchant store, and/or a surveyors headquarters, and was protected by being far enough away from any possibly hostile Indian settlement along the Susquehannah River.

It is worthy to note, from checking known maps of Conestoga in the 18th century, there are no roads or acknowledgment of existence of any of the mines and quarries. This includes the Nickel Mines quarry (which began as a copper mine), the Pequea Silver Mine, the Slate quarry south of Pequea, the Christiana soapstone quarry used by the Native Americans, as well as the Cornwall Iron quarry and Thomas Rutter's Bloomery & Furnace at Coolbrookdale in Chester County. Such a decision to omit these features from maps must have come from the governing bodies in secret, in order to keep thieves and hostel entities at bay. History books still do not record the Nickel Mines quarry as to have ever been a copper quarry, although it is on Joshua Scott's 1824 map which by then copper deposits were depleted. The quarry is now designated as such on the 20th century construction of the Lancaster County warrant book. This type of revelation also gives some credence to why no fanfare was given to a building being used as a surveyors house, which highly likely held the only working legal documents of Lancaster Counties' property rights for a decade between William Penn's death in 1718 and the resumption of warrants and patents in 1728.

Matthias Slaymaker Sr ..settled on land originally surveyed to the Pennsylvania Land Company of London; now included in Paradise Township in 1710, 1000 acres of which was acquired in fee by the Slaymakers when the London Company closed out in 1760. In Alexander Harris' *Biographical History of Lancaster County*, the author indicates that "Mathias built a log house or cabin close to a large spring in Paradise Township". This house needs to be located. It is not likely on the land of the White Chimneys along route 30 west of Gap, for this is in Salisbury Township. A second Slaymaker house sets on a hillside, and has no spring close by. Another option is near the Thompson house.

Thomas and Marie (Ferree) Faulkner

"By summer of 1713, Phillip Ferree had arrived and brought with him his bride, the former Leah DuBois. In 1715, her 4 year older sister Marie Ferree married Thomas Faulkner." The 185 acre tract in the northeast segment of the Ferree land was inherited by daughter Marie. "Because the Faulkners were moving elsewhere, she sold her land to Phillip." Ninty-two acres of that tract was sold by the Faulkners in 1746 to Phillip Ferree, "who in 1748 confirmed it to his son Joel Ferree.." (*Paradise Our Heritage Our Home*, 1997 Robert C Denlinger)

Thomas Faulkner owned at least five other properties. One is on the 40,000 acre Welsh Tract in Chester County. And in 1729 he owned the present Thompson property. In Salisbury Township he owned two properties dated from 1734 warrant to 1749 patent. (*PA Archives* Tract #69 Survey C-48-77, and Tract #70 Survey C-48-77) He also owned 50 acres surveyed in October 1716 where the present day Amish Schoolhouse sits at the corner of Belmont Road and Strasburg Road Route 741. That property is noted on the land survey as "Since John Jones". (*PA Archives* Survey page 258) The Thompson property and the Amish Schoolhouse property only connect by touching corners. The land to the west and south respectively of these lands was listed as vacant land at least until the 1750's.

Thomas Faulkner and John Jones were listed in 1729 as Surveyors for the London Land Co. (*Warrant Book*) Here are two key players both designated as owners of the Thompson property prior to 1730, and both having surveying capabilities.

Another Faulkner by the name of Daniel was a Saxon attorney. He sold 100 acres in Germantown PA to Swiss gunsmith Johann Rudolf Bundeli (born 1684). Interestingly enough is that on the earliest survey of the Thomas Story property, Rudolf Bundeli *et al* is listed on the west side of the Story property. That was the property that the 1711 Huguenot pioneer Ferree family settled. Bundeli evidently was the go between in the purchase of the Ferree's from William Penn. Bundeli also invested in a tract in the 1710 German settlement, which was split between Anton Weber and another family.

Thomas Chalkey, a key player

In 1710 Thomas Chalkey sailed through the Rhine Valley seeking emigrants to America. He came along to America with the first German Settlers bound for Conestoga. He owned a house in the Welsh Tract, in which his wife remained there while Chalkey journeyed throughout the Atlantic Ocean regions for much of his life. In 1723 Thomas Chalkey Jr, his 10th child died, all 10 dying in infancy. Two years later, in 1725/6, Thomas Chalkey was in Gwynnedd (North Wales) during another sailing trip. Then he came back in 1727 Thomas Chalkey to be named Governor of Pennsylvania. His influence with the Germanic peoples who came to Conestoga has been greatly overlooked. I believe this played an important part in his acquiring of the governorship, at a time when Lancaster County had yet to be established. Chalkey was a major long term bridge between the language barriers of English and German speaking peoples.

Fothergill's sale in 1762

The Indenture on July 1, 1762 of John Fothergill italia to Robert Macklewain has brought up several unanswered questions. (*Deed Book H, Vol 1 p90*) Fothergill was part of a group known as the Pennsylvania Land Company. Members of the group had changed over the years, and now Fothergill was given the power of attorney to sell the property to Macklewain.

The group of members consisted of Fothergill, a Doctor of Physics, Daniel Zachary, gentleman, Thomas How a goldsmith, Devereux Bowly a watchmaker, Luke Hinde a stationer, and four others who were merchants. Mr Hinde's vocation caught my attention. A stationer was one who recorded deeds, and other legal transactions. Fothergill was a chemist, thus he could tests soils for metal & mineral content. Merchants could easily transport goods for sale to a heavily traveled rest stop. This group is a perfect combination for having a general store and surveyors headquarters, as well as a place for chemists to test the grounds around the Nickel Mines area. Since the German settlers were Anabaptist conservatives, there was no real need for an Inn which sold alcohol. The Thompson house is a perfect fit for such a place.

Less than two months after the Pennsylvania Land Company sold the property, it was sold again. It was on deed *DD Volume 2 page 320 Aug 12, 1762* that buildings are mentioned. A house, barn, blacksmith shop, and a wheelwright shop already existed on the land. When these buildings were built is the subject of this study. We do know that the stone addition to the "house" did not exist at this time. On August 12, 1762 Macklewain (today spelled McIlvaine) sold 19 1/2 acres to Daniel Slaymaker, a yeoman.

Also existing on the property sold to Slaymaker was an orchard, and a water course. Need I ask, why was a land company holding on to a property since at least 1742 that had an orchard, a blacksmith and wheelwright shop, as well as a commercial "house". Here again are all the ingredients of a general store and wayfarer's inn.



London Grove Tavern 2011

Picture Courtesy of Herb Fisher, Paradise PA. Herb removed the telephone pole in front of the house.

Evidence from the Log House of Thompson's

Jerry & Liz completely renovated the structure when they purchased it. The building had sat empty and left to ruin for quite a number of years. During the renovation process, Jerry found that the rear of the building originally was only one story. At some later date, the roof was removed and a second story was added. This may have occurred during the time it was called the London Grove Tavern in the 19th Century. Two bottles dating to the couple decades prior to the Civil War were found in the basement mud. *(Bottles dated by the author from online pictures and information.)*



My investigation of Jerry & Liz Thompson's house revealed several defining points. There is a stone addition to the building which has no basement, only a craw space. This is well known to have been added at a later date. The foundation of the earlier building has a full basement under the log section of the house, and continues undivided throughout the rear section of the building. This is crucial evidence that the building was quite large from its initial construction. There is a huge walk-in fireplace at the end of the rear section. It includes a bee-hive bake oven on the left, and a curved and steep staircase on the right (which was added when then second story was constructed). To the right of that on the side wall, there is an original staircase going from outside to the basement. To have an



outside staircase in the early 18th century was not uncommon. My son-in-law resides in a house in Lebanon County which has a foundation dating to the earliest years of its settlement. It also has an outside staircase, but the stair treads are only six inches. Thompson's treads are large enough to carry large amounts of goods up and down.

The size of this building, without the stone addition, is quite large. The log section on the front of the house is two story. The staircase to the basement is supported by a very fortified stone parapet wall protruding from the outside foundation. This also was built simultaneously. House construction normally does not have a stone parapet for stair support. This is more evidence for commercial use. It is highly likely that this building was a commercial building from its original date of construction.

On the top of the wall of the foundation is a leftover remnant of the stone laying process. A half shell from a clam was left clinging to the front wall. My house, as well as so many others in Lancaster County, were built prior to the 20th century using clam shells for the lime mortar used to level and strengthen the stone wall. Limestone was burnt into a powder form almost since the beginning of settling Conestoga. But the time and cost of doing so made it prohibitive to use for building construction. When wagons went with goods to sell to markets in Philadelphia and south, they would bring clamshells from the coastlines back to Lancaster County to sell for the making of mortar. The clamshells would be ground or hammered into a powder and mixed with sand for mortar.

The London Grove enigma

In Chester County, London Grove had a tavern petition granted in 1728 to Moses Harlan. The Harlan family still owned it in 1772 under the names of James Harlan. *D Bk Q p556 James Harlan* There is no tavern license for the London Grove Inn at the present Thompson residence until 1823. But the London Run streams existed in the 18th century. Why there were two London Grove locations in early Chester County is a mystery. Where the authorities trying to throw off would-be thieves or competing government troops from knowing the location of the copper mine?

Surveying of Conestoga

Surveying during the first half of the 18th century has two distinct periods. When the first settlers of Conestoga began arriving in 1710, surveys were still a very inexact science. By looking at a warrant map of Lancaster County, it is easy to notice that until 1718 when William Penn died all properties were divided into rectangles. Survey equipment could only measure in straight lines. Thus when a surveyor would come against natural obstacles such as creeks, rock formations and the like, the surveyor would simply write in "allowances". Some of these allowances were very generous.

As stated earlier, when William Penn died, all sales of property were suspended until his will had been probated, which took years. During those years, land was sold and documented on scraps of paper by the surveyors. These were held until the surveyor would go to the Recorder of Deeds. This took years for some of the properties, which some even changed hands during that time. Many of the notations were never recorded. The owners of the Thompson house prior to 1760 were part of these lost records.

In the mid 1720's, French Cartographers developed surveying equipment used continually up to the present day. The new equipment measures in degrees, regardless of elevated terrain. Surveyors could now make as many angles as they deemed necessary. So on the warrant map of Lancaster County one can find all the later properties to have more exact volumes. And the lines of each property changed more with the terrain.

The earliest properties sold under warrant run along present day route 741 from Gap to Willow Street. They all were sold using the early method of surveying. There is no indication of why the Thompson property was added to the Thomas Story original 768 acres. Being part of the Free Society of Traders gave Story, John Jones, Faulkner, and Pemberton certain privileges. The property changed names and ownership several times before 1762. One nagging question remains. The long distance from "civilized lands in Christiana" did not allow surveyors day to day operations from that far away. They had to have a closer and more permanent location from which to work from. Twenty years went by from the first settlers till Lancaster County was organized. Much of the county had been settled on during that period. And few of those records made it into the deed offices of Philadelphia, Chester, or Lancaster.

Surveyors of Penn's Woods

Thomas Holme	1st Surveyor General PA	1682 - 1691
Ed Pennington	Surveyor General PA	till Jan 10, 1701/2
Henry Hollingsworth	Deputy Surveyor PA	
Isaac Taylor	Deputy Surveyor Chester Co	1701 - 1728
	D-69-230 Logan, Story, Shippen, Owen	12/23/1702
Jacob Taylor	Surveyor General PA	11/29/1708 - 1717
John Taylor, s/o Isaac	Deputy Surveyor Chester Co	1728 - 1740
James Logan	Surveyor General PA	Dates on Warrant Map
Nicholas Scull Esq	Surveyor General PA	Oct 5, 1742

The two Isaac Taylors

Another surprise was found when trying to determine the movements of Isaac Taylor, surveyor of Chester & Lancaster Counties. Isaac had an account with the commissioners of property to have and office. *Survey D-69-231* The location of this office is not recorded, but his permanent residence of 146 acres was in Thornbury Township. He was Deputy Surveyor from 1701 to his death in 1728. The office was most likely on or near his farm. He also bought property for investment in the newly formed town of Christiana. *Survey A-26-136* But this also is too far away from the day to day activities of surveying in Conestoga from 1710 to 1730 when Lancaster County was formed. So where would a surveyors headquarters be in "the wilderness"?

When I noticed a 1300 acre plot on the east side of Strasburg with the names Israel & Joseph Taylor, the idea of a separate surveyors house was not a possibility. *Survey D-69-155* But these two brothers had a father Christopher. *Index to Col Records p 400* Isaac the surveyor was the son of John and Hannah Taylor. His father died on 1686. His only sibling was Elizabeth. Isaac married Martha Roman in 1694, and had five children: John, Jacob, Phillip, Ann, and Mary. His eldest son would take over surveying duties in Lancaster County in 1728 until 1740. *Chester County Archives Records*

Since Isaac Taylor lived and had his office in Thornbury, it is most unlikely he worked daily in Conestoga. Thomas Faulkner & John Jones both were surveyors and could have taken care of the tasks. Faulkner's wife Marie was a Huguenot, so he certainly had dual language capabilities.



London Grove Tavern c1938

Picture courtesy of Herb Fisher, Paradise PA

Summary

The question is proposed in the beginning of this study, "Was the Thompson house a surveyors headquarters?" Thomas Story's 1708 original 768 acres did not include the Thompson property. By 1720 Story's 940 acres included the 19 1/2 acre land. All Story's 940 acres went to the Pennsylvania Land Company. In 1722 John Jones *et al* purchased a large amount of land, which included some of Story's. Jones was tied to both the Free Society of Traders and the Pennsylvania Land Company. These two companies were exempt from paying taxes and quit rents in order to help get people established in Penn's Woods. The fact that Jones paid tax on this land in East Conestoga in 1722, is a clear indication that a building was established on his land, and tax now had to be paid. This is pretty solid evidence that the "house" was built in 1722. The fact that the property included an orchard, and a water course to the barn (or mill) implies that there was more going on here than a household. A wheelwright and blacksmith shop on the land this early also points to a commercial enterprise taking root halfway between Christiana and the Strasburg settlement on the only road in existence in central Lancaster County at that time. The Minqua Trail had been expanded to accommodate wagons. From 1708 until 1718 the trail was not intersected on the south side of the trail between the two towns. Then Wolf Rock Road came into being as wagons of copper came down the hill and turned east, with no measurable traffic coming from Strasburg to the copper camp. Since the road originally intersected Strasburg Road several hundred feet east of its present location, it is unlikely the commercial property was built to directly accommodate the mine.

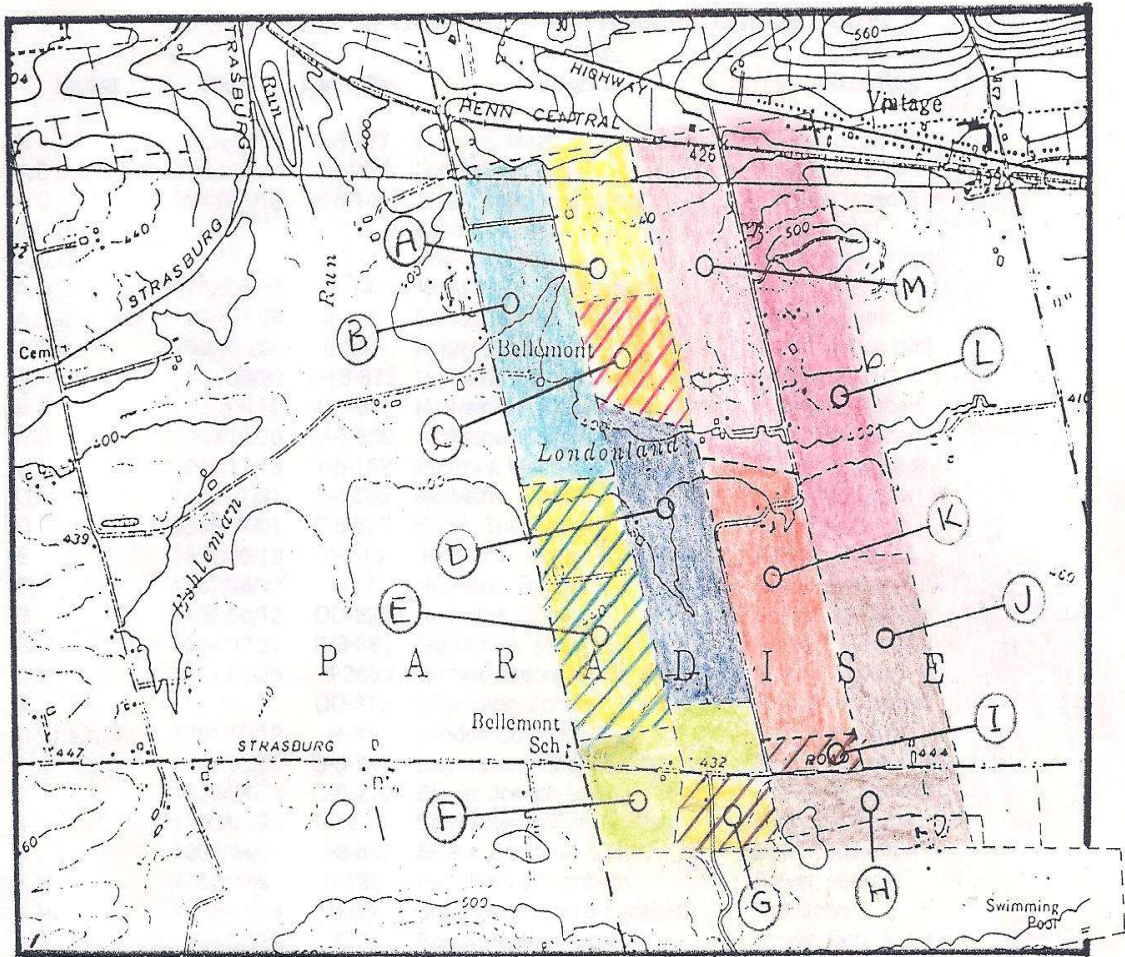
By 1823 Uriah Eckert owned the property. He purchased a tavern license. On the 1824 Joshua Scott map of Lancaster County, Wolf Rock Road was still the only road going south between Christiana and Strasburg. On an 1875 map by Fisk, the London Grove Inn was wrongly listed across the street from the Thompson house, having Eckert's house & inn reversed. A barn, wheelwright shop and blacksmith shop still sat on the property. And from at least 1889 to 1900 a man named Wertz had his blacksmith shop there.

There is a question as to the huge amount paid to Story at the sale of the 940 acres. But to believe that such a high value was due to a commercial complex is not reasonable. The sale amount could be due to expected copper finds on the land, or any number of paybacks by the Pennsylvania Land Company for old debt owed to Story. Also, the reduction in 1712 from 1000 acres to 940 leaves the possibility that the 58 to 60 acre later tract was sold off before 1720. Thus the Thompson property was not even part of the 940 sale.

Conclusive evidence allows the commercial house to have been built in 1720, with a general store on the first floor of the front of the building, a surveyor and an occasional chemist lab on the second floor. The rear of the building was used as a restaurant with a cooking area included. The orchard, barn and watercourse were likely built in unison. The wheelwright and blacksmith shop were probably built about 1725. After 1730, traffic dramatically declined as the Lancaster to Philadelphia Turnpike (present Route 30) came into being. Logan invented the Conestoga Wagon in 1733, increasing the amount of miles traveled per day, adding to the loss of business at the complex. Poor German farmers still used the road to haul produce to Philadelphia. And Chester County ranchers drove their cattle to the Strasburg butcher shop and Inn, but this was only a seasonal event. Declining sales left the general store unprofitable, and the commercial complex went into disuse sometime in the 1740's to 1750's. McIlvaine picked up the property as a "fire sale" deal in 1762 when the Pennsylvania Land Company was going out of business. He turned around and sold it almost immediately to a Huguenot farmer.



1824 Map of Lancaster County, Joshua Scott
Reprint by Gary T Hawbaker
The Eckert Tavern is not on this map, but Eckert is listed in the Index



DEVELOPMENT OF LAND OWNERSHIP PATTERNS
 IN THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE LONDONLANDS
 ---EIGHTEENTH & NINETEENTH CENTURIES---

Note - No attempt has been made to record on the accompanying table all land transfers carried out in this period. However, those presented should allow a general understanding of the way in which mid- to late-nineteenth property ownership came to be.

DEVELOPMENT OF OWNERSHIP PATTERNS - LONDON LANDS

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Deed No.</u>	<i>seller</i> <u>Grantor</u>	<i>buyer</i> <u>Grantee</u>
A	1844/02/26	Z-6-277	Burrows, Isaac B	Lytle, Thomas B.
A,B,C,D,E,F,G	1762/07/01	H-90*	London Company	Mcllvaine, Robert
A,C	1843/04/15	X-6-140	Sherk, Theophilus et ux	Burrows, Isaac B.
A,C,D	??	??	Kenny, James	Kenny, David
A,C,D	??	??	Shertz, Jacob	Shertz, Theophilus
A,C,D	1762/08/??	K-74	Mcllvaine, Robert & Mary	Erwin, Thomas
A,C,D	1770/01/09	N-318	Erwin, Thomas	Kenny, James
A,C,D	1807/08/26	8-391	Kenny, David	Shertz, Jacob [sic]
B	1890/03/20	L-13-373	Mcllvaine, Robert S.	Wilson, John C.
B,E	1783/06/12	W-3-365	Mcllvaine, Andrew & Margaret	Mcllvaine, Robert
B,E	1799/12/20	W-3-369	Mcllvaine, George & Rebecca	Mcllvaine, Robert
C	1843/11/13	Y-6-162	Burrows, Isaac C. et ux	Mcllvaine, George D.
C,M	1862/01/31	Z-8-505	Mcllvaine, George D. Heirs	Mcllvaine, Robert P.
D	1845/04/01	Z-6-527	Sherk, Theophilus	Eby, Peter
E	1870/03/13	Y-6-19	Mcllvaine, Robert S. & Elizabeth	Ranck, John
F	1762/08/??	L-77	Mcllvaine, Robert	Kenny, James
G	1762/08/12	DD-320*	Mcllvaine, Robert	Slaymaker, Daniel
G,H	1804/07/21	R-3-680	Slaymaker, William & Giles	Duffield, George
G,H	1812/03/23	6-266*	Duffield, George & Faithful	Eckert, William
H	?	DD-318	Slaymaker, John	Slaymaker, Daniel
H,I,J,K,L,M	1761/10/12	H-83	London Company	Slaymaker, John
I	1806/03/20	S-3-744	Slaymaker, William & Giles	Bower, Joseph
I	1829/04/04	Q-5-270	Bower, Joseph (Adm.)	Mcllvaine, James P.
J	1806/03/20	T-3-516	Slaymaker, William & Giles	Duffield, George
K	1806/04/28	U-3-698	Bower, Benjamin & Mary	Bower, Joseph
K,M	1762/??/27	H-130	Hall, John & Elizabeth	Bower, Michael
K,M	1762/01/06	H-80	Slaymaker, John & Elizabeth	Hall, John
K,M	1793/03/26	OC	Bower, Michael estate	Bower, Benj. & Joseph
M	1806/04/28	Y-3-471	Bower, Joseph	Bower, Benjamin
M	1820/04/30	Mort. 3-405	Bower, Benjamin	Mcllvaine, Robert
M	1835/01/27	D-6-346	Mcllvaine, Robert	Mcllvaine, George

19 1/2 acres

DEFINITIONS

- Stationer's Company a guild of the city of London, Incorporated in 1556
- *The American College Encyclopedic Dictionary*, Spencer Press, Chicago
- Stationers' Hall the hall or building of the Stationers' Company of London, where formerly copyrights were required to be entered in a register kept for that purpose.
- *New Century Dictionary*, Page 1832, D Appleton-Century Co, London/NY
- Stationer *der Papierhandler* - German for "the paper handler"
- *Cassell's Worterbuch Deutsch - English*, MacMillan Publishing Co, NY
- Stationer One who wrote copyrights in the 16th & 17th centuries England and its subjected territories.
- Legates a representative, deputy, ambassador
- Pennsylvania "Forests of Penn", honoring William Penn's father Admiral Penn
- *Merion Friends Meetinghouse*, Philadelphia PA
- Land Warrant A document giving the right to settle on an uninhabited land. The land would at some time be surveyed and patented in the present land owners name.

REFERENCES:

- Jerry & Liz Thompson's research on their home. When the couple can no longer live in this house, they would very much like to see this home go into historical use, since it was the first known shopping center in Lancaster County PA. Their concern is if the Amish buy it, it would likely be replaced with a new structure.
- Development of Ownership Patterns, compiled for Jerry & Liz Thompson
Pennsylvania Deeds in Philadelphia, PA Archives
Colonial & Revolutionary Families of PA, Genealogical Publishing Co Inc, 1978
Map of PA inscribed to Thomas Mifflin Governor, by John Adlum & John Wallis
Draughts of the Proprietary Manors, 1895 William H Egle M D
PA 3rd Series, 1894 Vol One, *Minute Book K* which stops Dec 1739, and the *Minutes of the Board of Property* which begin September 1765
The Warrant Maps of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, by Geri Gilbert
Colonial America 1585-1775, Richard Middleton
Thomas Chalkey's Journal, Columbia University, NYC, NY
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Google Image Search - Thomas Chalkey
The Life and Travels of John Pemberton, Friends Library by W H Jr
An account of the Gospel Labours & Christian Experiences of John Churchman of Nottingham Pennsylvania, *Journal of John Churchman*
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Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, April 2011, p 16, 17, 34
A special Thank you to Cliff Parker at the Chester County Recorder of Deeds office for his help in finding pertinent documents.
Road Papers of Chester County PA Volume One
The Nickel Mines of Lancaster County, Dr John D Long
Isaac Taylor Survey Map 1717, PA Archives 3d Series IV map 11
Chronicles of Central PA 1944 Lewis Hist Pub NY, Frederic A Godcharles, Litt.D : Nickel Mines worked for their copper prior to 1744, probably as early as 1718