

# SITE OF NANTICOKE INDIAN VILLAGE MARKED.

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

On Sunday afternoon, October 16th, 1932, more than four hundred members and friends of The Lancaster County Historical Society braved the rain to attend the exercises incident to the unveiling of a handsome bronze tablet marking the site of the village of the Nanticoke Indians, at Indiantown, Clay township, Lancaster county, Pa. A red sandstone boulder had been removed from the hills a short distance from Indiantown, by members of the Eberly and Brubaker families, and on it the commemorative tablet was placed.

Owing to the rain, the exercises out of doors were brief. After the tablet was unveiled by Milton Eberly and Kathryn Brubaker, children of two families who have lived on the site for nearly two hundred years, the exercises were continued in the Indiantown Mennonite church, situated a few yards east of the boulder.

Professor Herbert H. Beck, president of The Lancaster County Historical Society, presided. After prayer by the Rev. John B. Bucher, pastor of the Indiantown Mennonite church, Dr. Harry E. Bender, an authority on Indian lore, gave a most interesting and informative talk on the Indians, — describing, particularly, the tribe which at one time occupied this site. It was due to the patient and painstaking researches of Dr. Bender that the site of this ancient Indian village was located. In his interesting and instructive address, Dr. Bender stated that the Nanticokes were allied with the Algonquins, who for many years lived along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. The Nanticokes moved to Indiantown in 1721, and established their village on a tract of land containing 742 acres. They were encamped here until 1748, at which time they moved farther north.

Among the hills surrounding the boulder and the tablet erected by the Society, is an evidence of a deer pit, which was introduced by the Indians when game grew scarce. In this pit the Indians placed grain to attract the game, which when in the pit, was at the mercy of the Indians.

Years after the Nanticokes had left Indiantown, a small party of braves returned late one night to the old village site with the body of a former chief, and besought members of the Eberly family for permission to bury their dead chief on the location of their former village. The Nanticokes are now extinct, with the exception of a few Indians of mixed blood in Delaware.

Captain Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Richards, president of the Lebanon County Historical Society and a descendant of Conrad Weiser, Indian interpreter, stated, in an interesting address, that the Indians who lived in Lancaster county were grossly misunderstood. Indeed, in many instances, the Indian, who was a humane man, was unjustly blamed for cruelty in the treatment of his enemies, when the truth was the white man was more guilty of these charges than his red brother.

Francis Wishie (Half Moon) and his brother, Edah Pa Wishie, Rapahoe Indians now residents of Lancaster, participated in the exercises, wearing the full regalia of their tribe.

Charles P. Wolfe, vice-president of the Lebanon County Historical Society, made a brief address. The Rev. Dr. Martin W. Schweitzer brought greetings from Muddy Creek church, which recently celebrated its 200th anniversary; he also pronounced the benediction.

The inscription on the bronze tablet is as follows: "In memory of the Nanticoke Indian Tribe which was located on this tract between the years 1721 and 1748. Grant of 742 acres from the Penns to Henry Carpenter May 9, 1734. Marked by The Lancaster County Historical Society, 1932."

The committee in charge of the ceremony consisted of Dr. Harry E. Bender, chairman, Professor Herbert H. Beck, Harry Hibshman, Henry Bomberger, Phares Brubaker, Amos Eberly, Michael Eberly, Louis Eberly, Mrs. Paris Snyder, David H. Landis, Alger Shirk, Albert K. Hostetter, Milton H. Diffenbaugh, George F. K. Erisman, L. B. Herr, H. Frank Eshleman, Esq., Rev. Dr. Martin W. Schweitzer, Alpheus M. Angstadt, Miss Lena Hertz, Mrs. Albert M. Herr and Miss Gertrude H. Haldy.

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## LETTERS OF JAMES BUCHANAN

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

*(Continued from page 219.)*

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TO FRIENDS IN OLD DEMOCRATIC YORK, PA.<sup>33</sup>

"Washington, July 20th, 1848.

"Gentlemen:

"I have received your very kind letter of the 15th instant, enquiring whether I would consent to become a candidate for nomination as governor before the approaching Democratic State Convention. In that event, you assure me that the Democrats of York county, at their county meeting, to be held on the seventh of August, will unanimously present my name as their candidate to the people of Pennsylvania. This powerful appeal, proceeding as it does from 'Old Democratic York,' would, if any circumstance could, shake my resolution. Before its receipt, however, I had fully determined not to become a candidate for the office of governor, and had expressed this determination in answer to numerous enquiries from different quarters of the State. I must, therefore, respectfully request that my name may not be mentioned at your county meeting in connection with this high office.

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<sup>33</sup> The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, August 8th, 1848.