



Our Townships

West Hempfield Township

West Hempfield Township was carved from the original Hempfield Township in 1818. A long high ridge of quartzite and quartz slates crosses the township from a tremendous rock arch called Chiques Rock, near the mouth of Big Chiquesalunga Creek, to Crow Hill, near Oyster Point. Along the northern slope is the Marietta Pike, and near the foot of the southern slope, running parallel with the ridge and the Marietta Pike, is the Columbia Pike, known also as the Lincoln Highway. Broad limestone valleys lie south and northeast of the ridge.

About 1740 John, Thomas and Richard Penn had surveyed for their use a manor, "Hempfield Manor", consisting of 2816 acres along the ridge from the river to Hempfield Hill Road. The quality of the land indicates the Penns had in mind a game preserve rather than a speculative venture. On the accompanying original draught map the Hempfield Manor is shown as shaded. We believe this is the first time a map of Hempfield Manor has been published.

West Hempfield was settled mainly by Scotch-Irish who arrived in Donegal Township too late to secure land, or who sought additional lands. English Quakers flocked to the Wright's Ferry (Columbia) area, and the rest of the township was opened and settled by German Mennonites. In the nineteenth century, Germans of the Lutheran or Catholic faith settled in rural hamlets in the vicinity of Chestnut Hill, many of them to work in the iron mines and related industries.

In many ways West Hempfield is a study in contrasts; it is filled with the romances and legends of bygone days. Though an agricultural town-

ship, West Hempfield, for a century, was the county's most industrialized area. It included Columbia, the largest borough in the County. Five blast furnaces and five rolling mills once furnished employment to its residents; many others toiled in the bowels of the earth on Chestnut Hill, hauling out thousands of tons of iron ore to feed the fiery furnaces.

The ridge folk and the miners were a sturdy lot; they worked hard, lived hard, played hard, and too often drank hard. Unimportant arguments occasionally became a matter of life or death — or at least mayhem. Local inns were well-patronized, and a few of them provide folklore with many tales of violence. Essentially, however, the Chestnut Hill people were devout and friendly folk, close to the soil which was their economic sustenance. Certainly the drunken brawls were not truly representative of the activities of most West Hempfield residents.

Hamlets bearing picturesque names dot the countryside. Chiquesville is on the Marietta Pike near the Chiquesalunga Creek. In the vicinity of Copenhaver's (Copenheffer's) three or four ore banks were worked; today this pretty little rural paradise is a collection of automobile graveyards to the west of Dr. Brett's handsome old stone house on the Marietta Pike. One of the few remaining unspoiled places in Lancaster County is the valley along the Big Chiquesalunga Creek from Richard Nissley's farm near the Harrisburg Pike to the river. Shabby commercial buildings, shanties and the other lamentable signs of "progress" are beginning to clutter the valley now, ruining the beautiful rural settings and the fine old stone mansions and grist mills.

Kinderhook is said to be named after the home of President Martin Van Buren, the Democratic Party's choice in 1840. George Cline, a distinguished resident and the hamlet's only Democrat, named the settlement, much to the chagrin of Whigs, and, later, the Republicans, who lived therein. According to legend, the naming of the short-lived township around Mount Joy, "Harrison," was done chiefly to avenge upon the neighboring "Kinderhook." Ironville derived its name, of course, from its nearness to the Chestnut Hill Iron Ore Company's operations. Cordelia, better known today as the site of "Twin Oaks Pool," was once a thriving iron furnace village, with the old "Rough and Ready," or more properly, the Cordelia, furnace the center of activity.

Hiestandville, or Whippoorwilltown, a hamlet on the southern slope of Chestnut Hill, about one mile north of Mountville and one mile south of Silver Spring, was an ambitious bit of land speculation by Jacob Hiestand in 1811. Silver Spring was named for a beautiful spring of water near the village. Originally the place was only a tavern on the Marietta Pike, but taverns traditionally result in settlements including the inevitable blacksmith shop and general store. When the Reading and Columbia Railroad was built, it crossed the Marietta Pike at Bruckhart's, a short distance east of Silver Spring. Soon Silver Spring was expanding to the east. Crow Hill is a very small hamlet on the Mountville - Oyster Point road near the Lancaster Reservoir. Crowning the hill is a dense woodland which contained a thick growth of chestnut trees prior to the blight, and in these trees roosted great swarms of crows. Norwood is the place where J. Houston Mifflin erected his home, and where his artist-sonneteer son, Lloyd, lived.

It is a wooded rural retreat about one and one-half miles northeast of Columbia, off the Ironville Pike.

Throughout the township are many old homes which, though now decayed or in disrepair, show the marks of having been handsome residences 130 to 200 years ago. Quite a few are to be found off the beaten path, but a remarkable number are holding their own along the highways and in hamlets. At the intersection of Marietta Pike and Kame Hill Road is a brick mansion of magnificent proportions and elegance; though it long has been abused as a country warehouse, its 1810 architecture remains relatively unchanged. George Snyder, a great and unsuccessful speculator in town lots, built the structure as a hotel to serve the Marietta turnpike traffic, particularly the teamsters on their East-West runs. With the advent of the canal and railroad the turnpike business decreased, and the hotel and its adjoining distillery came upon hard times. Later the iron mining operations furnished customers aplenty, and as the local population increased in size and mobility, the hotel prospered. But in the present century the tavern ceased operations and was boarded up.

West Hempfield Township has been in these election districts of Lancaster County over the years:

1729 to 1784	Part of the 1st District (entire county)
1785	Part of the 3rd District
1786 to 1812	Part of the 1st District
1813 to 1835	18th District
1836 to 1869	32nd District (Columbia remained the 18th)
1870	Township divided into four districts 32nd District, Silver Spring District 56th District, Mountville District 57th District, Norwood District 58th District, Northwestern District
1905	Mountville Borough was incorporated and was separated from the Mountville District (56th). The borough became the 86th District.

Normally the township has been loyal to the Republican Party and its predecessors. That does not suggest, however, there have not been pockets of earnest resistance in behalf of the local Democracy.

The separation of Columbia from the township when the former became a borough in 1814 did not alter its position as the economic center of the township. Nearly every person on the sunny slope of the ridge and on land drained by Shawnee and Strickler runs did his business in Columbia.

Taverns and mills, usually the hub of every village, were abundant in West Hempfield. In addition to the large brick Fountain Inn near Chiquesville, previously noted, there were Forry's Tavern between Gethsemane and Columbia, Riegel's Tavern near Kinderhook, Gamber's Tavern at Silver Spring, the Black Bear Tavern just east of Mountville, and John Kelly's Half-way House along the river between Columbia and Marietta. Later in the nineteenth century numerous saloons were opened with the emphasis on entertainment rather than on lodging. Shellenberger's saw and grist mill was erected on Strickler's Run about 1750. Musselman's (or Bender's)

mill was built along the Big Chiquesalunga Creek before 1775. A hemp mill was operating on the latter creek, near its mouth, about 1740. Near the Ironville Pike, on Shawnee Run, were mills built by George Getz and John Hamaker. On Silver Spring Run John Greider put up a stone mill. Hertzler's mill along the Big Chiques dates back to 1808. A log mill was on the property prior to 1729. Zook's grist mill, built in 1815, is near Shellenberger's mill on Strickler Run.

Agricultural activities dominated the economic effort of West Hempfield excluding Columbia. That activity which could be regarded as industrial was concerned chiefly with iron. The Chestnut Hill ore banks were the largest of these operations, with its huge open pit (now Grubb Lake) and shafts. Other ore banks in the township were Sherk's, operated by Musselman and Watts, on the south side of the Marietta Pike about three miles east of Marietta, now the site of a vast automobile junkpile. Tunnels were dug into the bank. At its peak approximately 9,000 tons of ore were removed annually. It was used in Musselman and Watts' furnace at Marietta. On the north side of the Pike and directly across from the latter mine was Copenhaver's Ore Bank, operated by James Myers. It was one-quarter the size of Sherk's, and at present is a dump for old motor cars and trucks. Slightly southeast of Sherk's was the mine of R. Garber. Slightly beyond the southeast corner of the Chestnut Hill mine property was Henry Heiss's mine shaft. Southeast of Silver Spring, along the road leading from the Marietta Pike to the south side of Grubb Lake, were the Silver Spring mines of Haldeman and McCormick, and E. B. Grubb.

Columbia and Marietta were the principal locations of anthracite iron furnaces but three were to be found in West Hempfield: Cordelia, already mentioned; St. Charles, of Clement Bates Grubb, located just northwest of Columbia along the canal; and Henry Clay, immediately south of Chiques Rock and along the canal.

West Hempfield Township was supplied with ample transportation in the nineteenth century. The Pennsylvania Canal was along the river south to Columbia. The State Works Railroad, opened in 1834, now the Pennsylvania, crossed the lower portion of the township. The Harrisburg, Portsmouth, Mountjoy and Lancaster Railroad, now part of the Pennsylvania Railroad, crossed the northeastern corner of the area, and the Reading and Columbia Railroad, now part of the Reading Company, bisected the township. A spur of the latter railroad crossed the northern portion of West Hempfield, joining Marietta to the Reading and Columbia Main Line south of Landisville. From Columbia southward along the river ran the Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad; from Columbia northward, paralleling the canal, ran the Columbia-Royalton Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Settlers in Lancaster County seemed fascinated by the ownership of rural property and the possibility of becoming landed gentry. Fanciful names were attached to some of the properties, particularly those along the Marietta Pike in the vicinity of Oyster Point, and the area north of Washington Borough. Oyster Point itself is located on what had been Peter Sweigart's "Coventry," whilst Sweigart's neighbors to the south dubbed their plantations, "Fairfield" and "Reigle's Delight," the latter be-

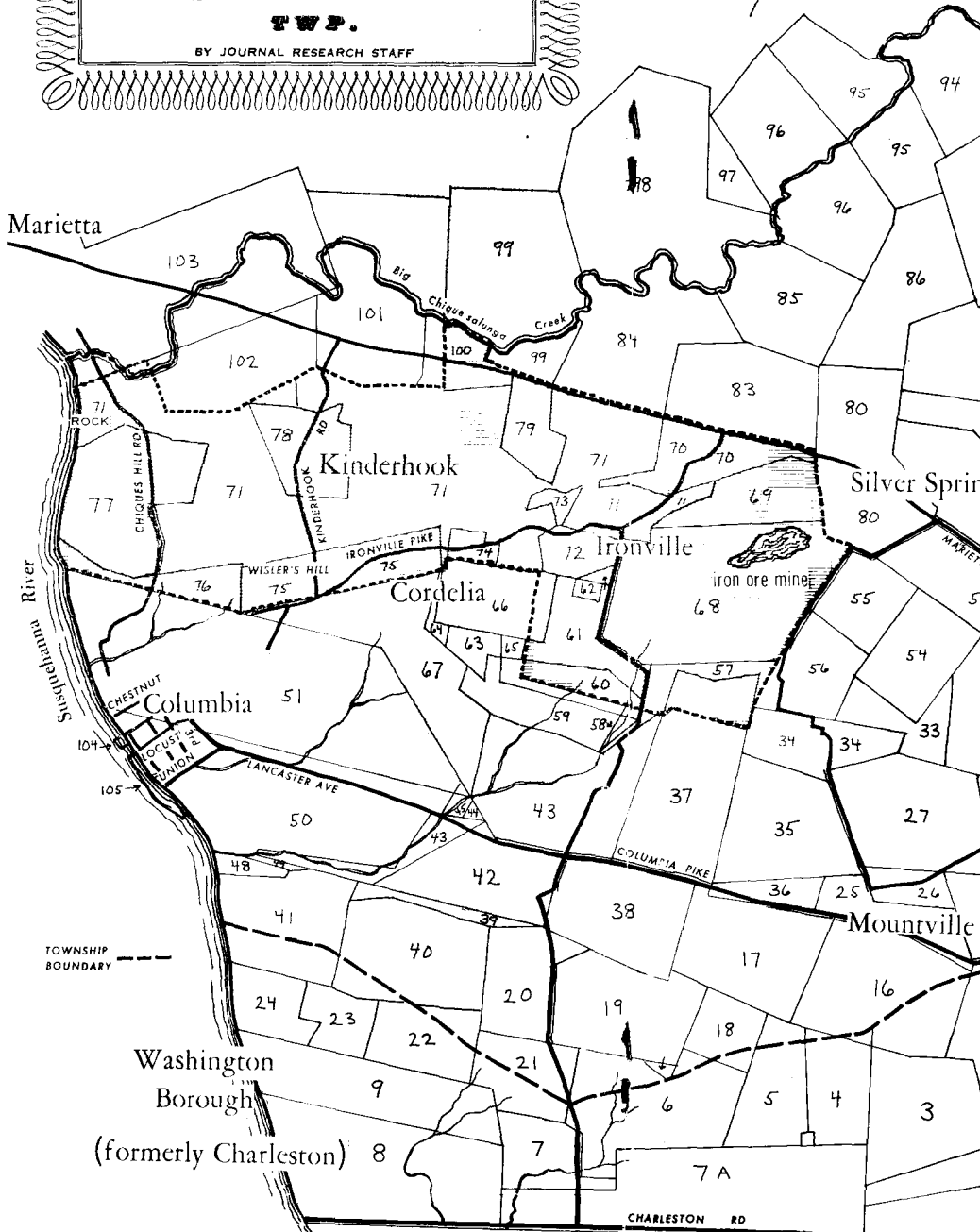
ing the site of the Lancaster Water Authority's reservoir. Perched atop the ridge between Mountville and Silver Spring were Henry Stauffer's "Orphan's Hope" and David Shultz's "Springdale." Musser's Potato Chip plant would impress the casual observer as being a lonely establishment in a rural setting, but in 1774 John Summy christened the farm "Summytown." A spear-shaped splinter of land patented to Jacob Krug southeast of Columbia once carried the imposing name of "Krugsbury." John Patton doubtless made a Biblical comparison when he decided on "Judea" for his plantation along the river north of Washington Borough. "Orphan's Lot" may have been a convenient designation for Samuel Wright's ten acre plot in the rear of the present Musser Coal Yard, east of Columbia. A wooded hill along Prospect Road about one mile north of the Columbia Pike in 1744 had the name "Charles Mount."

A Note Concerning the Original Draught Maps Which Accompany the Articles in this Series

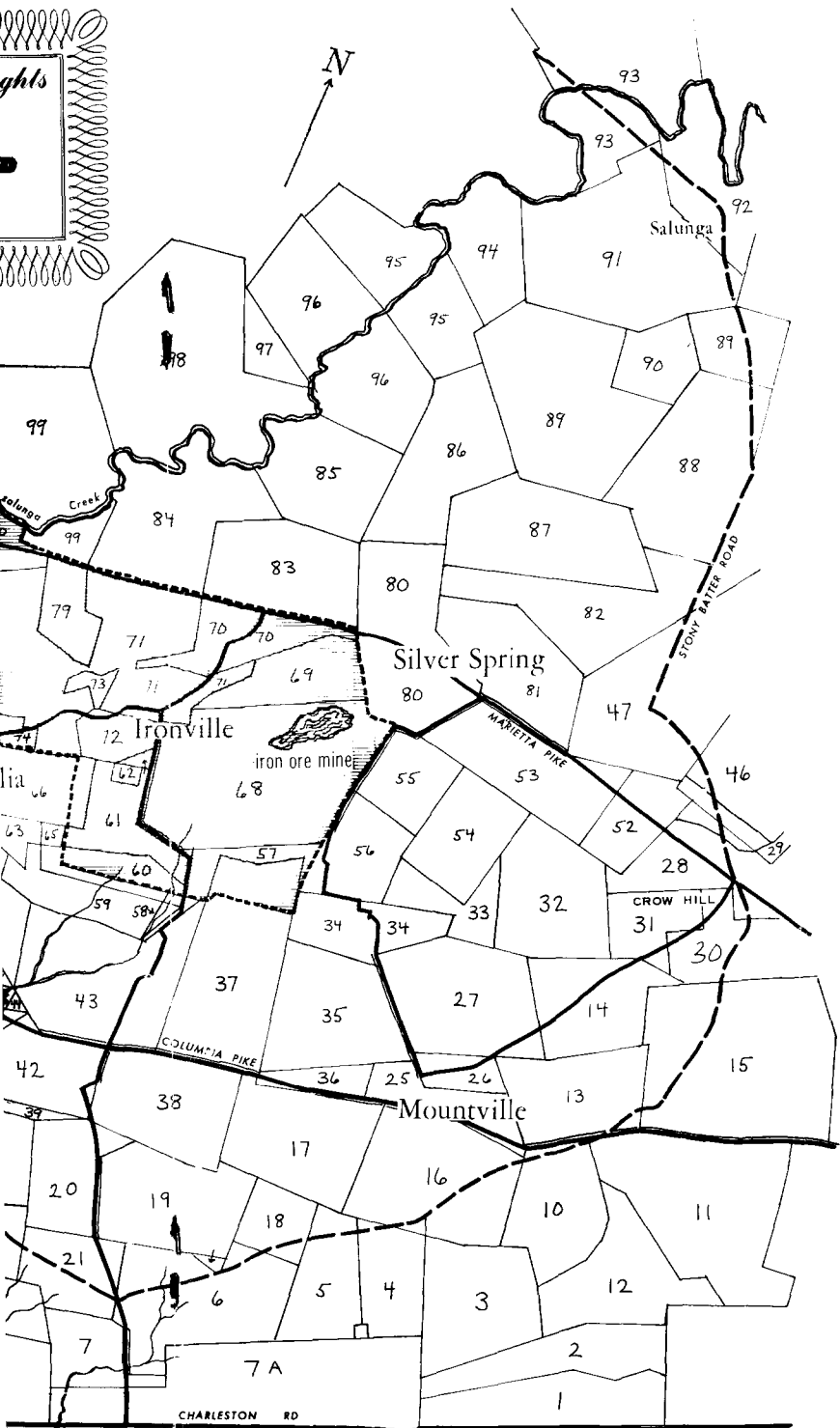
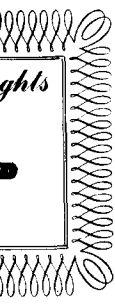
An unusual amount of research is required to prepare these maps. Land patents, draughts and connected warrantee maps recorded in the Land Records Bureau of the Department of Internal Affairs are checked first to obtain the boundaries of the grants and the juxtaposition of each grant. Then old atlases are compared, early roads noted, and streams located. Aerial survey maps then are examined for the land use patterns. It is amazing to discover the number of farms which retain the ancient fences and hedgerows which marked early property lines. Spot title searches are made to pinpoint the actual locations needed for reference points. Then, with the use of slides, scales and pantagraphs, modern landmarks such as roads are superimposed upon the original draughts.

Map Showing Original Draughts
of
WEST HEMFIELD
TWP.

BY JOURNAL RESEARCH STAFF



NORTHERN BOUNDARY CONESTOGA MANOR (ORIGINALLY IN HEMFIELD)



NORTHERN BOUNDARY CONESTOGA MANOR (ORIGINALLY IN HEMPFIELD TWP.)

THE PENNS FOR WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP

The acreage follows the name, and then the dates of the warrant, survey and patent in that order.

1. John Shope, 142 A., 1745, 1736, 1745. (keyed to East Hempfield Map, p. 29)
2. Christian Care, 145 A., 1745, 1736, 1752. (keyed to East Hempfield Map)
3. Henry Neff, Jr., 181 A., 1741, 1736, 1741.
4. Joseph Habecker, 123¼ A., 1762, 1761, 1762.
5. Christian Baumgardner, 129¼ A., 1734, 1762, 1763.
6. George Shellenberger, 311¼ A., 1738, 1738, 1759.
7. Jacob Byer, 96 A., 1749, 1758, 1759.
- 7a. James Patterson, 500 A.
8. Martin Chartier, 300 A., 1717, 1718, 1727, to Stephen Atkinson.
9. Edward Smout, 200 A., 1736, 1737, 1742.
10. John Heistand, 150 A., 1741, 1736, 1741.
11. Henry Neff, 308 A., 1733, 1736, 1741. (keyed to East Hempfield Map)
12. John Neff, 181 A., 1741, 1736, 1741. (keyed to East Hempfield Map)
13. John Newcomer, 146 A., 1743, 1735, 1743. (keyed to East Hempfield Map)
14. George Mummer (Mumper, Mumpert, Mumma), 175 A., 1748, —, 1748. (keyed to East Hempfield Map)
15. James Webb, 410 A., 1761, 1760, 1761. (keyed to East Hempfield Map)
16. Michael Whitmore (Witmer), 257 A., 1743, 1737, 1752.
17. Christian Hooper (Huber, Hoover), 202½ A., 1744, 1737, 1750, to Martin Hooper.
18. Henry Neff, 78¼ A., 1748, 1757, 1763.
19. Jacob Grist (Christ), 222 A., 1743, 1757, 1764, to Andreas Christ.
20. Ulrich Shellenberger, 109 A., 1750, 1761, 1761, to Jacob Shellenberger.
21. Michael Hoffman, 108¾ A., 1740, 1762, 1763, to Christian Hoffman.
22. James Patton, 100¾ A., "Magi," 1737, 1774, 1774, to Hugh Cunningham.
23. James Patton, 61½ A., 1737, 1774, 1775.
24. James Patton, 73¾ A., "Hempfield," 1737, 1804, 1805, to Andrew Kauffman.
25. James Webb, 90¾ A., 1760, 1761, 1761.
26. See 35.
27. George Smith, 219 A., 1743, 1735, 1760.
28. Peter Sweigart, 245½ A., 1751, 1773, 1773, to John Hoover.
29. Joseph Webb, 89¾ A., 1789, 1790, —.
30. Michael Reigel, 133 A., "Reigel's Delight," 1805, 1805, 1807.
31. George Mummer, 77 A., 1751, 1751, 1763.
32. Dewalt Good, 205 A., 1741, 1810, 1810, to Henry Stauffer, "Orphan's Hope"; to David Shultz, "Springdale"; to Christian Hertzler; and to Catharine Wolf, in trust.
33. Anthony Erfut, 75½ A., 1741, 1810, 1810, to Henry and Jacob Erford.
34. Christian Newswenger, 109 A., 1749, 1735, 1749.
35. Joseph Sherick, 244 A., 1741, 1735, 1741.
36. James Webb, 38 A., 1761, 1761, 1761.
37. Christian Carver (Carper), 236 A., 1741, 1735, 1741.
38. Ulrich Shellenberger, 180½ A., 1746, 1735, 1746.
39. Jacob Krug, 29¼ A., "Krugsbury," 1787, 1787, 1787.
40. Hugh Patton, 215 A., 1749, 1761, 1761.
41. John Patton, 178¾ A., "Judea," 1744, —, resurvey 1782, 1782, to Thomas Patton.
42. Henry Strickler, 161¾ A., 1741, 1735, 1741.
43. John Forrey, 270 A., 1741, 1735, 1741. (larger parcel); Thomas Barber, 43½ A., 1750, 1761, 1761, to Nathaniel Barber. (smaller parcel).
44. James Wright, 4½ A., "The Triangle," 1770, 1772, 1772.
45. Peter Reeve, 10 A., "The Orphan's Lot," 1752, 1786, 1786, to Samuel Wright.
46. Christian Hooper, 224 A., 1743, 1735, 1743.
47. Joseph Gochnauer, 403 A., 1740, 1735, 1740.
48. James Barber, 19 A., 1767, 1770, —; to William Felch, 20 April 1934.
49. Nathaniel Barber and John Evans, 3¾ A., "Partnership," 1806, 1807, 1809.
50. Jeremiah Langhorne in right of George Beale, 500 A., 1717, 1726, —.

51. James Logan, 622½ A., 1733, 1726, —.
52. Mathias Wintnaugle in right of Theobald Good, 96 A., "Summytown," 1745, 1761, 1774.
53. Reynard Young, 191 A., 1741, 1735, 1741.
54. Nicholas Bower, 125 A., 1739, 1735, 1739.
55. Christian Stoneman (Steinman), 100 A., 1739, 1740, 1755, to David Mummer.
56. Joseph Sherick, 107 A., 1740, 1740, 1741.
57. See 56.
(Note: Area shaded on map is that plantation or "manor" surveyed for John, Thomas and Richard Penn, and which was named "Hempfield Manor".)
58. Michael Peters, 5¼ A., "St. Peters," 1790, 1791, 1796.
59. Jacob Balsley, 112 A., "Charles Mount," 1744, 1736, 1808, to John Charles.
60. Jacob Balsley, 68 A., 1753, 1753, unpatented.
61. Henry Strickler, 85 A., 1756, 1757, unpatented.
62. Jacob Stoltz, 12¾ A., 1769, 1769, 1769.
63. Philip Zimmer, 30 A., 1755, 1772, 1824, to Elizabeth Bechtel.
64. James Wright, 5 A., 1821, —, 1824, to Elizabeth Bechtel.
65. Francis Miller, 6¾ A., "Coventry," 1790, 1790, 1790.
66. Henry Strickler, 112 A., 1748, 1749, 1749.
67. Samuel Blunston, 225 A., 1741, 1740, 1741.
68. John Forrey, 402 A., 1746, 1749, 1749.
69. David Mummer, 107 A., 1754, 1755, 1755.
70. Samuel Robeson, 117-3/8 A., "Barren Hill," 1750, 1782, 1787, to Hugh Pedan.
71. Hempfield Manor, 2816 A., Proprietaries Tract, surveyed 21 March 1740.
(Unsold prior to the Revolution)
72. Mary Allison, 43 A., 1753, 1753, 1764.
73. Jacob Stoltz, 6½ A., "Belmont," 1769, 1769, 1769.
74. Ludwig Smith, 20½ A., 1765, 1765, 1765.
75. Robert Barber, 132-3/8 A., 1758, 1759, 1759.
76. James Wright, 58¼ A., 1749, 1786, —.
77. John Hougentobler, 188½ A., —, 1772, —.
78. Andreas Straus, 111 A., 1764, 1765, —.
79. Bartholomew Toole, 65 A., 1754, 1754, 1755.
80. Henry Weller, 232 A., "Wheatfield," 1737, —, 1799.
81. Michael Moyer, 188 A., 1741, 1735, 1741.
82. Michael Siegrist, 208 A., 1743, 1735, 1743.
83. Samuel Robinson, 188 A., 1745, 1735, 1745.
84. Henry Neff, 226 A., 1746, 1746, 1746, to Jacob Neff.
85. John Latta, 170 A., 1744, 1738, 1744.
86. David Musselman, 194 A., 1744, 1735, 1744.
87. Philip Nolt, 240 A., 1743, 1735, 1745.
88. Christian Welty, 267 A., 1743, 1737, 1746.
89. Josiah Scott, 85 A., "Scott's Retreat," 1744, 1760, 1785, to Alexander Scott.
(Small parcel)
89. Andrew Hershey, 300 A. (Large parcel), 1717, 1731, 1738.
90. Andrew Hershey, Jr., 88 A., 1738, —, 1741.
91. Josiah Scot, 302 A., 1738, 1738, 1738.
92. Alexander Scott, 202 A., 1738, 1738, 1738.
93. Samuel Scott, 546 A., 1738, 1738, 1738.
94. Grace Pedan, 120 A., 1738, 1738, 1738.
95. John Speer, 210 A., 1738, 1738, 1738.
96. Elizabeth Moore, 304 A., 1738, 1738, 1738.
97. David Hayes, 42¼ A., "Hayes' Addition," 1745, 1768, 1772.
98. David Hayes, 463 A., 1738, 1738, 1738.
99. Thomas Brown, 347 A., 1734, 1760, 1760, to John Smith.
100. Joseph Sherick, 59 A., 1764, 1764, 1765.
101. Joseph Roddy, 356½ A., 1738, 1736, 1738, to James Roddy.
102. Philip Schneider, 235-3/8 A., 1764, 1764, 1764.
103. John Gardner, 600 A., 1717, 1720, —, central portion to Thomas Ewing.
104. The Columbia Water Company, 73.36 perches, 1939, 1939, 1939.
105. I. W. Shadle, 16 A. 34½ perches, 1937, 1937, 1937.