

WHEN WAS STRASBURG ERECTED

INTO A TOWNSHIP?

When I came to arrange some stray notes pertaining to the early settlement of the locality embraced within the limits of Strasburg township as it was bounded one hundred and sixty-five years ago, I found a good many snags in my way. Some of the earliest settlers came from Strasburg on the Rhine, and the neighborhood came to be known as "New Strasburge" and was thus designated in 1716 by the Assessors or Surveyors of Chester county. There were no definite bounds to the district and it was not set apart as a township before the erection of Lancaster county, in 1729.

One of the London land patents in this county contained 5,553 acres, and was surveyed in the year 1716. According to Isaac Taylor's draft the southern line is bounded by "New Strasburge" and the landholders close to the line were : Isaac Lefever, who took up 300 acres the 15th of 4 mo., 1713 ; Daniel Ferree, 600 acres, 4th of 8 mo., 1716 ; Philip Ferree, 300 acres, 24th of 6 mo., 1716, and Henry Carpenter, 1,000 acres, 7 mo. 27th, 1718.

In these years the Constables returned them in the Conestoga assessment. In the year 1720 the Ferrees and Lefevers were returned in the Pequea assessment, which also included all the settlers along or near the head of Pequea creek. The settlement along the east branch of the Conestogae, now Caernarvon, was in the Conestogae rate. I find a number of titles of settlers in the year 1717, marked in "New Strasburge." There

seems to be no record in Chester county of any township named "Strasburg." When Lancaster county was organized and divided into townships, in the summer of 1729, none was named "Strasburg." But I find its territory and that of Paradise were included within the bounds of Leacock ; and after a diligent search among the records in Lancaster, I cannot find the date when Strasburg township was erected, or taken from Leacock. This is a strange omission and has puzzled the local historians and land surveyors of the county. I can only approximate to the date.

In the year 1730 a road was laid out from Samuel Taylor's mill, in Strasburg township, to North East, in Maryland. This mill was probably on Big Beaver creek, above Wm. Smith's mill, where the Zooks in our day have a fulling mill.

Daniel Ferree and Isaac Lefever took out a patent for 2,000 acres of land in Strasburg township in 1733. In the year 1734 Casper Bowman took out a patent for land, and also Mathias Slaymaker took out a patent for 150 acres in the same township in the year 1735.

I can only approximate the date of "New Strasburge" into a township, which was probably in the early part of the year 1730.

Anecdotes of Reuben Chambers.

Upon one occasion a farmer of Sadsbury township went to Bethania to get Reuben to print some sale bills. The latter wanted to know "who has thee got to cry thy sale," and when informed that no person was engaged, Reuben volunteered to do the job for him.

When the time of sale arrived Reuben was on hand, and he stood up in a feed cutting box which was on the bridge of the barn and began to cry the sale, when a boy named Joseph Cannard

knocked a leg of the cutting box to one side and Reuben was thrown down upon the barn bridge. He got into a cart body and continued to sell, when some person, who had evidently been watching for the opportunity, noticed that he had got beyond the centre of gravity, and pulled out the plugs, and the body of the cart tilted and threw Reuben to the ground. These tricks did not seem to disconcert him, for he went on and finished the sale.

Reuben's Remedy foe a Ricking Rome.

Reuben had an old bay horse, supposed to be about fifteen years old. Hearing that a neighbor named Benjamin Brackbill had a fractious gray mare, which would invariably kick herself out of the harness when hitched up, Reuben took the old bay horse to Brackbill's and offered to trade for the gray mare. Benjamin said he did not want to sell or trade, because the mare was vicious and "might hurt thee." Reuben replied, "Benjamin, thee need not be afraid of that, she will not hurt me." The trade was duly consummated and Reuben took the gray mare to Bethania and hitched her to a cart and put her into a grass lot, where she was at liberty to kick, which was done. For two or three days and nights this was kept up to the annoyance of the neighbors, who complained of the noise caused by the cart coming in contact with the fences, when active operations were in full sway. After a struggle of two or three days the gray mare surrendered, and thereafter for many years she became one of the best family driving horses in the county. This was heroic treatment, but most effective.

How Reuben Managed an Apprentice.

Reuben Chambers had an incorrigible apprentice boy who gave him a great deal of trouble. In order to bring him into proper submission he confined him

in the attic of his dwelling and fed him on bread and water, and occasionally chastised him with a rod. This caused much talk and indignation among his neighbors. I do not remember whether the Court called him down, but I have no doubt the apprentice, after this heroic treatment, became quite docile.

Several Notable **Discussions.**

In the days of lyceum discussions, two incidents occurred in old Sadsbury which, if written out, would make entertaining reading, and I hope the subjects will be placed in competent hands to be written up for the entertainment of this society.

Thomas Whitson, Sr., and perhaps Lindley Coats, challenged Dr. Timlow and others to discuss the slavery question in a hall at the Gap. Whitson is said to have talked all day and a whole night, which brought the other side to a standstill.

There was a political discussion in the brick school house in Sadsburyville. My impression is that Whitson and Coats were in the debate. The Locofocos and Whigs were getting the worst of it, when the Locofocos sent a message to Hugh Maxwell in Lancaster to send out some of the young orators of his party. He sent John W. Forney, who was a minor. This was the first political speech Forney made.

Miscellaneous Notes.*

May it please the Proprietor.

This bearer, Michael Baughman (being apprehensive that he can agree with ye Indians to remove from Conestogae Manor), desires to purchase the spot where the Old Indian Town Stands with the whole vacancy between ye lines of Henry Bostler, Michael Moyer, James Logan, John Cartlidge and Peter Leman, and to extend towards Susquehanna as *

Copied from Surveyor Isaac Taylor's

far as may be not to incomode the other land, the quantity that may be regularly taken there will be I think about 350 As.

Thy Servant,

DECEMBER 3, 1739.

I. T.

Had this offer been accepted the stain of murdering the Conestoga Indians would not have darkened the fair name of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Baughman resided in Manheim township. The Champneys, of Lancaster, **are** some of his descendants.

When the Indian villege was attacked in December, 1763, a number of the Indians were at Smith's Furnace selling baskets, and others on a like errand at Swan's Mill.

Strasburg Manor.

The proprietors reserved a manor in Strasburg township containing 1,475 acres. The date is not given nor the exact locality.

Palatines at Pequea.

In a letter of James Logan to Isaac Taylor, dated at Philadelphia, 20th of 5th month, 1711, he says " 6 or 7 families of ye Pallatines are settled at Pequea, and more design to go there next winter."

Copied from Taylor's papers.

Author: Evans, Samuel, 1823-1908.

Title: When was Strasburgh erected into a township? / by Samuel Evans, Esq.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Chambers, Reuben, d. 1859.
Strasburg (Pa. : Township)--History.
Strasburg (Pa.)--History.

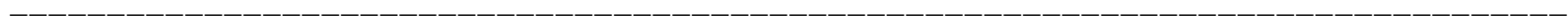
Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society,
1896-97

Description: [145]-149 p. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 1,
no. 5

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.1

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)



+++++

Institution Name
Institution Address
Institution Phone Number
Institution E-mail Address