

# **The Awakening and the Early Progress of the Pequea, Conestoga and other Susquehanna Valley Settlements, as Shown by Official Letters, etc., of the Time.**

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(By DAVID M. LANDIS)

This paper aims at two purposes. It is intended to set forth, (by means of the correspondence connected with the granting and selling of the original tracts of land in our neighborhood) as much of the life and spirit of the first settlements here, as may be brought out and discovered, in that correspondence; to explain the location of the tracts of land to which the letters refer, so that present owners may learn of the problems, conditions and circumstances attending the original grants in their line of title, and the true date of the first interest in the same, and the age of such tracts compared with other sections and tracts; to inform such present owners of the kind of person who first took up that land, and the purposes for which it was used and what part of the early community life it contributed; and to clothe, upon the skeleton history of the very earliest days of our splendid valleys, the flesh and blood, and thereby to add the life of that history, and to reveal something more of the character, aims and general community purposes of these earliest localities in our county, than is given in the bare records of title.

The second object of the writer is to transfer to print, as many as possible of those ancient letters, so that their contents shall not be lost in the process of fading into illegibility, now so rapidly going on. Those letters are mounted in folios entitled "Lancaster County Miscellany" and "Taylor Papers", etc., in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia; but that does not stop the fading out of the ink. It is with the greatest difficulty even now that some of them may be deciphered. Besides this purpose, it seems fitting that these documents relating to our local history, ought to be in convenient form, here in Lancaster, and not only to be found in Philadelphia. These letters are original sources and we ought to have the entire list faithfully copied.

The first purpose to be attained will require certain comments upon, and explanations of the contents of the letters, for otherwise, persons, not careful students of local history, could not fix the locality of the lands and places referred to, nor determine to whom at the present day such letters would have special or indeed any importance or interest.

The second purpose, preservation, will of course require the copying verbatim of the letters and also a designation of the folio and page therein, where they may be found.

The writer deems this introduction necessary, because there are altogether too many persons who think that entertaining historical essays are the object of our meetings. It is submitted that this view misses the mark. The preservation of the early muniments of the past and the interpreting of early activities are the valuable ends which this Society must strive for just as its master-minds did in the past. This will give our publications dignity and value among the historians of our state and country.

To lay the ground for the plan just outlined, it is necessary to go back to a date prior to the first settlement in what is now our county. The earliest Scotch-Irish and English immigration here, was from old Chester County; though the first Swiss settlement was begun by people from the old world directly. Thus to explain the appearance of the Scotch-Irish and English, so prominent in the earliest settlement on Conestoga, about 1715, we must go to some old Chester County records; while the Pequea settlement of 1710, stands on its own bottom.

### 1693

In a provincial tax list of 1693, the names of many persons appear, as living in Chester County at that time, who themselves afterwards moved to Conestoga; and many more whose sons and other descendants later did the same. Thus in Bethel Township we find Robert and Nicholas Pile; in Chester Township were J. Bristow, Caleb Pusey, D. Lloyd, A. and J. Hendrickson, Robert Barber, Francis Worley, Jeremiah Carter and others; in Concord Township, Wm. Cloud, Rich Moore, and Thomas Moore; in Darby, Jos. Wood, John Blunston, Ed. Cartilge and John Bartram; in Haverford, John Beavan, Wm. Howell, Richard Hayes and others; in Middleton Township, Richard Crosby, John Musgrove, John Turner and John Worrall. A generation later a majority of these names are found here in our Conestoga settlement; and some of them in the Pequea settlement.

### 1701

This year Cornelius Empson and twenty other families chiefly of Chester County took steps to make a settlement on a tract half way between Delaware and Susquehanna, or near the latter, twenty-four miles from New Castle on Octoraro Creek. They applied for 15000 or 20000 acres at eight pounds per hundred acres; and a warrant dated Dec. 25, 1701 was signed for the same.

### 1710

In the Taylor Papers, under date of Oct. 16, 1710, there is the original order to survey 10000 acres of land on Pequea Creek to Rudolph Bundely and others, on the authority of a warrant dated Oct. 8, same year, which is therein recited. The order is directed by Jacob Taylor to Isaac Taylor, surveyor of Chester County. It is No. 572. A similar order bearing like date reciting a like warrant requests 500 acres to be surveyed adjoining the large tract, to Bundely and company. It is No. 573. These are the orders on which the original Lancaster County settlement at Willow Street, was surveyed. They are in print, and a reference to them is all that is needed.

### 1711

The progress of the Pequea settlement in its first year is described in No. 2796 of the Taylor Papers, dated July 20, 1711. It is as follows:

"Philadelphia. 20th of 5th mo., 1711,

James Logan, Worthy Friend

I design to take some time in Sept. or October to answer thy desire relating to those purchases of 1681 and 2. There is a great want of commissions to sell the proprietor's lands, for many persons are desirous to go backwards to settle. Six or seven families of Palatines are settled at Pequea and many more desiring to go there next winter.

Jacob Taylor."

The purchase of 1681 and 2 refer to rights sold by Penn to divers persons in England, to take up lands here on Conestoga, etc., not at that time located however. The earliest deeds and patents of parts of Conestoga Township and other sections refer to the dates 1681 and 2, as the foundation of title. (See Recorder's Office, at Lancaster.)

"Philadelphia 15th, 4th mo., 1713.

Loving Friend:

Isaac Taylor—Isaac Lefever has purchased 300 acres of land at ten pounds per hundred, to be laid out adjoining to any of the Palatines settlements or surveys, and the warrant is actually drawn for it dated this day. Thy real friend James Logan" Taylor Papers 2809.

"Philadelphia, June 23, 1713.

Loving Brother:

John Estaught (the preacher) desires me to get two tracts of land, laid out in Chester County for which he promises to pay. I told him there was land to be had backwards in the county about the settlement of the Palatines or that way; but that it was proper for him to see it or be further satisfied about it, before it was surveyed. He replied that he was a stranger to the matter, and requested that it might be done and he would be satisfied. I told him I would write to thee about it, whether thou think it proper to be at the charge of claiming etc., but I know not how I can advise. Though I am apt to think he will pay well enough. Tracts are 250 acres to John Marlow, warrant dated 12th of 5th mo. 1713 and 250 acres to Elizabeth Pace, warrant same date. I am thy loving brother Jacob Taylor." Taylor Paper No. 2810.

This tract of Elizabeth Pace, also written "Page" was afterwards the Gale tract and its exact location may be found on the map p. 292 in Volume 19 of this Society. It is tract No. 38. The present owner can readily be ascertained therefrom.

1714

The great rapidity in taking up land in the four years intervening from the date of first settlement of the county, may be seen in No. 3323 of Taylor Miscellany where under date of 1714, there is a statement in the document "Lands of Pequea and Conestoga 51937 acres."

"Phil. 24th of the 7th mo. 1714

Isaac Taylor:

The bearer hereof, Christian Schlegel complaining that a certain person hath seated himself near the mill he has lately built, at Conestoga, by whose means the Indians that are hereabout are likely to be very troublesome if not dangerous to him and that the said person so settled hath no other right than what the Indians have given him and also that the lands where he is seated ought to be included in the 300 acres that is yet untaken up of the 1000 acres first granted to him which he says there is but 700 acres laid out; these are to desire thee to order the person so seated to remove off the said land without delay and use thy endeavors to make the man easy, and accommodate him in laying out ye 300 acres, so far as thou can without offending the Indians.

I am with real love and good will

JAMES STEEL.

(Taylor Miscellany 2827.)

Thy brother Jacob is providing to send the warrant to town this week."

"Robert Hodgson and James Hendricks, 1500 acres on Conestoga Creek for 150 pounds in the place aforesaid including in the same those Indian fields on the north of said creek. Dec. 16, 1714."

(Taylor Paper No. 578.)

This is the tract of land embraced in part of the Postlethwaite tract at Rock Hill, the Stehman tract and others.

Loving Friend, Isaac Taylor,

Upon application of Robert Hodgson and James Hendricks for a grant of land at Conestoga we have agreed with them for 3500 acres in two tracts; but J. Steele committed a mistake in mentioning the Indian fields in the warrant for 1500 acres when it should have been in ye greater tract and accordingly it is to be surveyed.

But as to those fields, being all of us unwilling to make the grant, we now positively agree as follows, that if the Indians are not freely willing that they shall seat on those old fields on the Creek (which are the only ones that the warrant reaches to) neither those on the river nor the new ones where the Indians are last seated even, though they be willing to leave them, then that part is void.

It is intended that none of Peter Bezilion's improvements be included therein without his consent to the same, which they agreed that he hold as long as he please, according to agreement which it assumed cannot be long. It is agreed that Hodgson and Hendricks shall "seed in" the Indian corn for them without charging them anything for it. If Harry the interpreter can be had when thou go up I wish he could be there at the time. Since our last law of property has been repealed the grant of six acres to each hundred would be void. Thou are very sweet drawn to Philadelphia. Ask the next honest Scott thou meet to explain ye word.

From thy real well wishing frined James Logan."

March being the first month of the year at this time, this letter was written Feb. 18, 1715. This tract of 2000 acres locates one of the old Indian towns or fields in Manor Township, as the same was situated in this tract. However it will be observed that it was an "old" Indian field or town and not the one then occupied by the Indians on Inudiantown run, the one where the massacre occurred in 1763. See location of this tract in map p. 292 of Vol. 19 of our Society proceedings.

### 1716

Among the manuscripts and documents in possession of Gilbert Cope of West Chester is the following:

Petition of Edward Dougherty for tavern license. Your petitioner being settled in a convenient place for keeping a house of entertainment for travellers who pass to and from Conestoga it being about half way between John Minshall's and John Postlethwaits, your yetitioner desires the honorable Bench to grant a recommendation to the Honorable Governor for a license to sell all sorts of liquors by the retail. Edward Dougherty.

The undersigned petitioners recommend his place as suitable:

JOHN WRIGHT  
SAMUEL BLUNSTON  
EDWARD SMOUT  
SAMUEL KENNESON  
JAMES HENDRICKS  
WILLIAM WILSON

Endorsed; Petition for tavern license on Pequea Creek 1716. John Minshall's property was the starting point of the dividing line between Lancaster and Chester Counties, north of the head branch of the Octoraro Creek; (Rupp. p. 239). It is interesting to note that nothing is said in the survey about the Octoraro Creek itself as being the remainder of the boundary.

Dear Brother:

John Estaugh's warrant is dated Oct. 18, 1716 for 12871 acres of which he desires thee to survey 6871 acres. The warrant positively forbids surveying any lands above Conestoga near Susquehanna.

Thy brother Jacob Taylor" (No. 2847)

1717

"Phil. 2d mo. 1717

Loving Friend, J. Taylor,

I have a warrant and draft left in the office by James Logan to be informed by thee when thou go next to Conestoga and Pequea to survey for those people whose lands are not yet located thereabouts because there are persons in East Jersey desirous to be with thee to choose some tracts for themselves and their neighbors.

If by any means thou canst secure that point of land in Conestoga over against James Hendricks for me I shall take it as a great favor. With kind love to thyself, wife and children,

I remain thy loving friend James Steel." (No. 28533)

This sets forth historical facts concerning our local settlement not generally known, namely that there was a migration from New Jersey into our Conestoga country. We shall see later where these people settled and who they were; and also how they were looked upon.

"Phil. 15th of 2d mo. 1717

Loving Fr. Isaac Taylor,

I received thine of the 12th instant by thy son John. I shall take care to let those persons in East Jersey know the time of going to Conestoga by next post; but as for those new settlers thou speak of they have had no instructions from hence nor liberty given them for any such disorderly practices; for my part I cannot remember that I ever gave any leave for any person to settle in any part of the province, unless they had obtained warrants for said lands; but on the contrary it has been my constant practice to send the persons who have obtained grants to the respective surveyors. I do not see any reason for the taking notice of such settlers but to proceed in the usual manner and way of surveying without regard to the presumptuous attempts of such fellows or having any regard to them; which may be a means to deter others that might have like designs. I am fully sensible of the evil consequences that must ensue to a neighborhood, or county where such rogues as thou speak of harbor and remain, and therefore have avoided as much as possible making out warrants to any except those we know, or who are recommended by you.

I hope before thou go toward Conestoga to get warrants for the point of land I mentioned to thee, formerly, either in some old rights, or purchase from the commissioners.

James Steel." (No. 2854)

"Phil. 28th of 3d mo. 1717

James Steel to Isaac Taylor

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I am glad thou art safe returned from Conestoga and return my thanks for reserving the point of land which I so much desired.

James Steel." (No. 2860)

"Kent ye East Delaware 3d Sep.

To Isaac Taylor,

Dear Isaac, When we parted last and concluded to meet again at Conestoga I had forgot the circumstances at my home. I hope my friends will see that nothing is done to my hurt at the Old Shawanna Town which the commissioners had promised me. Thy loving friend Benthurmer.

P. S. Give my love to James Hendrickson and tell him I have secured

the business he spoke to me about and that he has nothing more to do till I see him, but to observe strict silence."

(No. 2862)

There were more than one "Old Shawanna Town." One is mentioned in Rupp in connection with the early road in eastern Lancaster County; and mention is made of one near Shenk's Ferry, in the old drafts of that section. There may also have been others. The one on Susquehanna River is the one above referred to.

"June 10, 1717

Dear Brother,

Collum McQuaire, late of West Jersey has now got a warrant dated this day for 200 acres of land among the new surveys in Chester County, but I will not send him a copy because I know he intends to go to Conestoga to settle without waiting thy pleasure. I think he will not pay for the land. James Steel desires us not to make him a survey nor direct him where to settle until he signs a bond.

Thy brother Jacob Taylor." (No. 2858)

This is an interesting letter to one who is acquainted with the facts connected with the early settlement of the lands about the neighborhood where the present townships of Pequea and Conestoga and Martic meet. This section was an Irish or Scotch-Irish settlement right in among the Swiss Mennonites. A poorer class of people seem to have taken it up. Turning to the map Vol. 19 p. 292 we see that tract 81 is the McQuaire; that in the same neighborhood were John McDonald, David Priest, Thos. Lindley, Rob't Ellis William Sherrill and others. Some of those names such as Ellis and others were extant in that locality until very recent years. Nearly all of these purchases were characterized by small tracts and indifferent homes, and they exhibited entirely different features and traits from the Mennonite neighbors surrounding them. McQuaire, we have seen was from Jersey and it is likely the others were old friends of his who came here with him or through his influence.

"Oct. 21, 1717

The Proprietor Debtor:

To survey of Conestoga Manor, being with allowances of 6% the amount of 16500 acres and to chaining, marking, accounting and stationery one pound, fourteen shillings and eight pence.

Isaac Taylor." (No. 3349)

1718

Isaac Taylor, Loving Friend:

Yesterday being at James Cloud's on my return from Conestoga, wither M. Cartier's death called me, I was informed that thou designed to be at Joseph's next 2d day. I desire earnestly to see thee, before thou go toward Conestoga about some matters of importance and hope this desire of mine will not interfere with thy resolution.

Thy loving friend James Logan." (No. 2875)

Taylor paper No. 2811 sets forth that Richard Carter desires some land at Conestoga, on or near the said creek. Carter had two tracts of land on the east side of Conestoga Creek just below Rock Hill. The present owners of that land desiring to ascertain the area and other facts about the original taking up, can secure a starting point by referring to the map before mentioned in Vol. 19 of our proceedings. See tracts numbers 40 and 41.

1719

"Phil. 20th fourth mo. 1719

Isaac Taylor, Loving Friend:

I was in hopes to have seen thee before this time and by that means to

have heard what thou hast done at Conestoga. I doubt Peter Bazillian is disaffected about Comb's land and I wish to know what was done about it.  
Thy loving friend James Logan." (No. 2919)

"Phil. 21st ye mo. 1719

Isaac Taylor, Loving Friend:

The bearer Jonah Davenport is recommended to me for an honest man. He wants 200 acres of land to be laid out near Moses Combs, lately John Combs where N. Christopher lived. And Ann Letort desires some in the same place. If it can be laid out regularly there with a reasonable proportion of front to the several qualities it may be done but not otherwise. They are all concerned in the Indian trade; but I desire the proprietor's interest may be chiefly considered. One John Robinson desires also 100 acres about one of the points of Pequea Creek still vacant. They say he has his money ready. Pray observe the application. The same terms as the above.

I am told there is a vacant point of good land on this side of Conestoga Creek over against that called Madam's point. They say there is but very little of it. But if there be any such, pray secure a hundred acres for me there including that spot. I should be glad to hear from thee and am

Thy assured loving friend James Logan

I suppose thee understands what I mean by J. Coomb's land from former directions though thou hast not a warrant, for I think I wrote to thee about it. They desire 2 or 300 acres there but ye front must be proportioned to ye quantity. I would have Jonah accommodated. J. L." (No. 2920)

"Phil. 20th of 5th mo. 1719

Loving Friend:

The bearer hereof Everhard Ream or Edward Ream a brother-in-law of Christian Franciscus has agreed for 200 acres of land near Conestoga. Please lay it out and the warrant shall be redy in the office.

I am thy loving friend James Steel." (No. 2952)

August 15, 1719

Dear Brother,

Whereas Robert Baker a smith of this town has bought Colonel French's land on Susquehanna and Pequea he tells me that being minded to build a mill on Pequea for boring logs that he needs an addition of two or three perches of ground on a corner of Pequea next the barrens (as he describes it) which he may be obliged with by paying thee for running the line.

Thy loving brother Jacob Taylor." (No. 2930)

"Phil. 12th Oct. 1719

The bearers Hans Herr and Abram Herr have much importuned me for the grant of about 400 acres of land for their brother Isaac who is lately arrived here, which notwithstanding the unwillingness of the Commissioners to grant any more lands at present, yet I believe I can prevail with them for this. Therefore I desire thee to lay out about that quantity to him and warrant for the same shall be provided.

Thy loving friend James Steel." (No. 2932)

This tract of land was soon afterwards laid out and it extended from the Millersville Pike westward to Little Conestoga Creek. Afterwards it came to the Bausmans; and Frank Bausman's farm and that of David H. Bausman's estate are parts of it.

"Phil. 4th of 9 br. 1719

Isaac Taylor, Loving Friend:

Thou wilt receive from Peter Bazillion, himself the warrant or orders for surveying a thousand acres of land to his wife and her brother, in execution of which I doubt it will be difficult to reconcile his and An Letorts expectations; but I request thee to use thy endeavors. Peter will talk high but generally harken to reason. However his and Coomb's desires are principally

to be regarded. Though on the other hand I am very desirous the old gentleman should have some land that she may be seised and leave something for her grandchildren. Pray see that it is laid out of sufficient depth, I think a mile and a half or a quarter at least is little enough; but this is left to thee, and thou art by no means to produce or mention this letter. J. Letort is also to have 500 acres laid out in the same manner. Keep this wholly to thyself.

Thy loving friend J. Logan." (No. 2931)

1720

"Phil. 12th of 12th mo. 1719

Isaac Taylor, Loving Friend:

Samuel Kirk and his brother press me for 500 acres which Ezra Steel points out to them on some branches of Pequea. I can say no more than that if they settle, I shall be willing to have them secured; but at present we would not sell there. I wish we had one hour conference to settle some of these matters. I am puzzled about thy meeting Colonel French.

James Logan." (No. 2941)

Reference to the map aforesaid will show that Col. French originally secured tracts 48 and 56. This originally was one large tract and extended from the Susquehanna River about Shenk's Ferry, eastward to Martie Forge.

"February ye 17th, 1721-22

Isaac Taylor:

Esteemed friend, These inform thee yt there is come into this Province from New England a gentleman named Jno. McNeall and hath been with me and have viewed the iron oar (ore) and matter yt wee laid out (dug out). I suppose yt he will apply to thee, as I have advised him, to know ye most easy way to come at ye land, if we conclude to go on with ye business; for if any old rights can be had I incline most to make a purchase yt way, however thy opinion in yt matter is what is desired by me, and a line or two from thy hand of advice till an opportunity present of conversing and consulting ye best measure further about ye same. Which is all at present.

Respect from thy true and loving friend John Cartledge. No. 2975.)

This is one of the earliest references to iron ore in Conestoga of which there is any record. The Indians rumored that ore was to be found there however in 1707. (See Susquehanna Indians p. 192). Then too under date of May 31, 1723 (Paper No. 2987) in a letter from John Churchman and Arthur Barrett there is mention made of valuable mines in the barrens.

1723

In a letter dated Sept. 3, 1723, it is stated that Stephan Atkinson desires a piece of land among the "barrens" beyond his present plantation with conveyance of water for a "fulling mill." No. 2991).

1724

"Phil. Feb. 23, 1724

Loving Friend, Isaac Taylor,

Look into Jonah Davenport to whom thou once showed more friendship in locating his land than I could approve. . . . . He is now severely held by his neighbors; but I think that Justice Mitchell is more accountable for the servant being bound to the Indian that he is. As to him and others taking out licenses for Indian trade they must answer for it. James Letort ought to be entirely excused for it, because he has been in the branches of the Mississippi for these two winters past and trading far up Susquehanna. (No. 3000; Taylor Miscellany)

"Conestoga Sept. ye 2, 1724

Sir. In a day or two I shall go to meet my people and help them home



and shall make all ye haste I can to get ye peltry to town in time for shipping. Count Trum (?) is come to your town, for to see he get goods from you. He has been at me to join partners with him but I have given him no result till I hear from you. I believe he may put off a considerable quantity of goods for he intends to remain in the woods till next June. If you trust him and I like on it I'll join with him. I'd also have you not forget to intervene for me at your next Court for a recommendation for a lycense. In hopes of coming shortly to town, I shall call. No more at present; but I am yours

Edm. Cartledge." (Lanc. Co. Miscellany)

1727

"Phil. 26th of 2d mo. 1727

Loving Friend, Isaac Taylor,

Upon the application of sundry persons who are settled about Ottoraro, to Secretary Logan, for 100 acres of land for a meeting house he has ordained me to write to thee that such a grant may be secured for that purpose.

I am thy loving friend James Steel." (No. 3030)

"Phil. Nov. 2, 1727

Isaac Taylor, Loving Friend,

Joseph Staman (Alias Stone) of Conestoga having bought 200 acres of Francis Worleys tract on which he says there is very little timber left, is therefore desirous to take up some of the adjoining vacant land, but both he and Joseph Higginbotham are apprehensive of that free-booter Thos. Perin setting down there to prevent which I wish thou would order a line or two to be run that may take in about 200 acres for the trouble of which, Staman must make satisfaction since it is to prevent the intrusion of a neighbor that may disappoint him of future conveniency.

I am thy loving friend James Logan." (No. 3039)

1728

"August 27th, 1728

Whereas about 2 years ago liberty was granted by some of us to Stephen Atkinson, clothier, to settle and build a fulling mill on a certain neck of land, vacant, situated between a tract surveyed to Edmund Cartledge and Conestoga Creek and also to raise a dam which he erected and he now requests the same may be surveyed and that he may have a piece of land on the side of Conestoga Creek too, so now there may be added ten or twelve acres of the same.'

(James Logan et al No. 588 Lanc. Co. Papers)

The fact that Atkinson was a clothier (with a business likely in Philadelphia) indicates why the kind of mill he was interested in was a fulling mill. That he found it profitable to erect it here on Conestoga Creek as early as 1728, indicates that sheep raising must have been an industry here even then.

Friend Isaac Taylor,

Some time in Sept. 1718 Robert Wilkins obtained a warrant for 150 acres of land near Conestoga as it was called and he paid ten pounds of the purchase money some time after and was allowed to add fifty cres. Now Robert Wilkins sold his right to James Anderson the Presbyterian minister of those parts who finding the survey begun but not finished he desires the same completed and if there be vacancy adjoining that, he may be accommodated. I desire thee to send return. I intend to bring the patent with me.

James Steel." (No. 3040)

"August 24th, 1728

My Good Cousin,

I suppose you know much better than I how far your dear father proposed to accommodate John Baker the gunsmith on Conestoga and Samuel Taylor in the manner of locating land for him. Baker and Samuel complain of delays.

Ja. Taylor." (No. 3041)

In the map before referred to it will be seen that tract No. 28 is marked Kaleb Baker. It is lower down than the mouth of Conestoga Creek.

1729

"Phil. Sept. 23, 1729

John Taylor,

I have written in behalf of an honest man Isaac Jackson and for several more friends who represent that several friends being seated near the place called the "Gap" in Lancaster county they have in a little while established a meeting place there and want some vacant land on which to settle.

(See No. 3055 Taylor Papers)

1733

"My loving friend,

From some consultation I had last night among some of our friends I thought it expeditious thou shouldst without delay go up and make surveys about Donegal and Hempfield for it has been lately reported to the proprietor by certain persons dwelling that way (one of whom has offered his services) that people are very desirous to have it done and therefore I gave them this intention to prevent anything interfering.)

Nicholas Scull is appointed not only surveyor of Philadelphia but of Bucks also. They have taken pains to have him established.

Thou will see in Bradford's Mercury the most malicious and violent performance ever levelled against our persons written as "The Farmer." The author is unknown. James ..... meeting Hamilton two days after, near the Court House spent a cane about his thick skull without penetration. James is bound over to next Court. This paper and scuffle has been that talk of town ever since. "Michael Plowman" and "Hans Timberman" have just come to town. I shall want thy assistance about settling the Wilkins survey.

James Steel." (No. 3162)

"June 22, 1733

Friend, Thos. Penn:

I received thine through Jos. Minshall, with the agreeable account of thy intention of a visit this way, last week, a season of the year well chosen for such a journey, when the affairs of the farmers afford some leisure, and their minds were full of hopes, to see one of their proprietors, amongst them. I am altogether a stranger to the cause of thy disappointment, but I am sorry it happened for the near approach of harvest has left little expectation of seeing thee till it is over. The unhappy disposition of our neighboring proprietor, and the various reports by some, industriously spread in his favor seem to render a speedy settlement of the land affairs very necessary.

Sa. Blunston.

P. S. My neighbor John Wright desires to be kindly remembered to thee. At the moment I was closing this letter six or eight of ye Shawnese Indians called here, in their way from Peshtank (Paxtan) to ye Conestoga town with a little Catawba Indian boy prisoner which they were carrying for a present having lately taken a woman and four boys more in their last ex-

(See Lanc. Misc.)

Friend Isaac Taylor—

No more land may be given to Michael Baughman of Conestoga, as thereabout until the time for the present lottery has gone by.

James Steel." (No. 3180)

This same year under date of Feb. 23, in a letter dated Donegal, Martha Bailey writes to Ewd. Shippen and she states that 70 gallons of rum are needed in that section and that her husband requests it be sent from Philadelphia by Andrew Boggs.

(Lanc. Co. Misc.)

1736

"Chester, May 27, 1736

John Taylor:

I came down on purpose here thinking to have seen you, but being disappointed I take this opportunity to let you know that last week I was going to take patents for some 100 acres of land at Pequea in Lancaster County, that you surveyed for John Farra, (Forry?) where the mill stands, and also a hundred acres of Collum McQuaery, where Samuel Taylor lives, also for 100 acres surveyed for John McDonell all of which were sold to Samuel Taylor as appears by bills of same, drawn by you, but the surveyor general told me it was impossible to have a patent for want of return by you, there being but one return in his office for McQuaery and that imperfect. I have levied an execution on all of those tracts and they will be exposed to sale about the middle of next month. Dear John pray be as expeditious as possible and send up returns that I may have patents.

Yours Septimus Robinson" (No. 3191)

This again concerns the Irish tract on Pequea. Septimus Robinson was an early sheriff and owned a large tract of land in the county among them a big tract where Marticville now stands extending in a widening triangle to the Pequea Creek. It was at one time the Albertus Hendricks tract No. 88 on the map. John Robinson owned a tract at mouth of Pequea. See 51 on the map.

Under date of Lanc. Oct. 4, 1736, there is an interesting letter from William Willis who owned a tract near Rock Hill in which he requests 35 pounds of good to be sent by Messrs. Logan and Shippen to him for his business etc.

1737

Phila., Jan. 15., 1736-7

To———:

By last accounts from Lancaster we hear that nothing can prevail with John Hendrick's wife to leave the plantation. There is constant correspondence between her and Higginbotham going on. There is a good deal in this but they make much more out of the story. I acquainted the proprietor with your evidence and endeavored to remove this plague. I have wrote to Worley also who I presume will accompany you. When I saw you last we concluded on a way to remove her but it is now a rigorous season to turn a family out of doors. I would be glad if she could be prevailed upon to go some place of her own accord and choosing and save her goods. If that cannot be brought about it will be necessary to levy the execution on the effects and this would create a charge of being cruel. I cannot instruct you how to deal with this woman Roger Hunt or some other ordinary keeper has bill of sale for John Hendrick's effects, but you know there can be no sale of goods, while the owner continues in possession and uses them as his own. This will bar execution. I will take her own recognizance if she cannot get any one to be the bond. The people at Lancaster say we can do no harm. I have sent a line to Blunston to discharge Hendrick's goods.

A Hamilton" (No. 3206)

"Phil. 16th of 2d mo. 1737.

John Taylor:

The proprietor has come to a resolution to settle about ten thousand acres of Conestogoe Manor and would like to speak with you about it and get directions about laying out of the same into lots for the settlement and if any good people will purchase.

J. Steel (No. 3110)

25th ye 2d mo. 1737

Under this date J. Steel writes that Peter Leaman is allowed a price of land in Conestoga Manor where "he now lives" (No. 3213). This tract is No. 19 on the map and lies on Taylor's run at the upper end of Safe Harbor.

Lanc., May 26, 1737

To the propretor:

I have this day divided Conestoga Manor into lots according to thy directions and on my return will make a plot thereof and will wait on thee. The good part of said Manor is made choice of by a lot of industrious and civil men who have money at command and will soon bring it to the receiver. And several other good people are now going to review the remainder. I desire that a surveyor be appointed for Lancaster County, the business there being so much more and always attended with contest, so that I cannot possibly do it. If thou continue me in Chester I shall be pleased.

John Taylor" (No. 3218)

And now this paper is concluded. The writer feels that the above material will furnish information and interest to many persons who now are and hereafter shall happen to be the present-owners of the lands in the immediate neighborhood which is connected with the correspondence just set out and read to you. These manuscripts are a part of the great mass of material making up the record of Lancaster County's history.

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Conestoga and other Susquehanna Valley settlements : as  
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