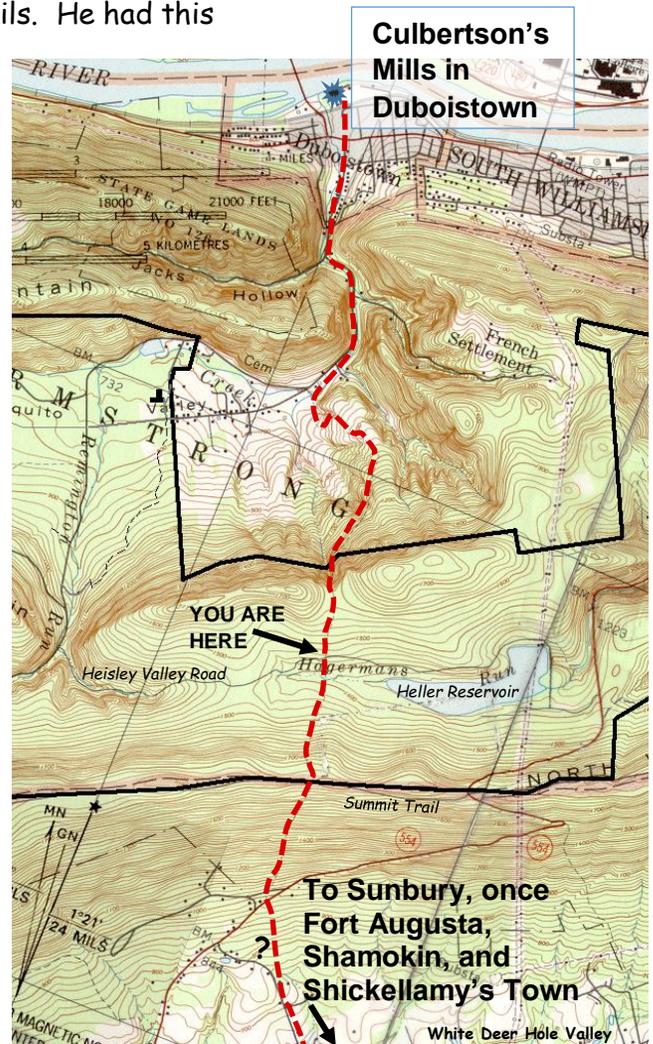
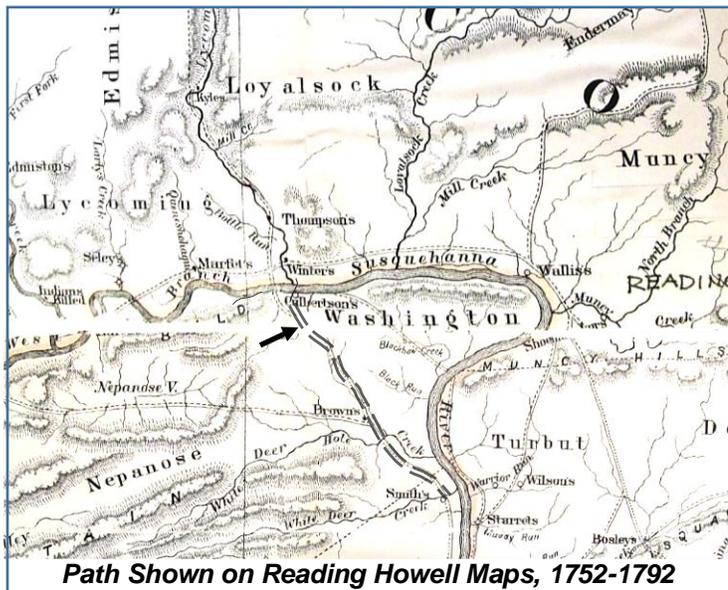


#7 Culbertson's Path

Culbertson's Path is one of the oldest and most historically important trails in Lycoming County. For thousands of years, indigenous peoples followed and hunted now extinct wood bison and eastern elk along the trail on which you are standing. The path was used as a shortcut for travel between the lower Susquehanna River Valley and the mouth of Lycoming Creek and the Sheshequin Trail which led north to the Finger Lakes region. The great Chief Shickellamy and Conrad Weiser likely used this shortcut from Shamokin (now Sunbury) on a trip north to negotiate with the Iroquois chiefs of the Six Nations in the 1730s. During later hostilities of the French and Indian War, many captured settlers were transported over the trail to the Genesee country by war parties.

Around 1770, Andrew Culbertson came north over this path from the White Deer Hole Valley into Mosquito Valley, and in 1773 purchased a large parcel of land at the mouth of Mosquito Creek. Culbertson built a sawmill, but it was burned during the "Great Runaway" of 1778. After the Revolution ended and peace restored, Culbertson returned and built a sawmill, large mansion, grist mill, distillery, and mill for extracting nut and linseed oils. He had this path to White Deer Hole Valley brushed out to accommodate horses carrying grains to the mills.

During the lumbering era of the early to mid-1800s, this path was used, along with Shaffer's Path to the east, by men who had rafted logs down the Susquehanna and were returning to pilot the next rafts downriver. The deep ruts of this path that are still visible today are the result of centuries of foot, and later horse travel. A local name for the trail is "The Steinbacher."



For more information, please visit the WMWA website at wmwa-wsa.org and click on Watershed/History. This sign made possible through Eagle Scout Project by Gabriel Carson of Troop 12 in Williamsport and R & J Ertel Company.