

Now and Then

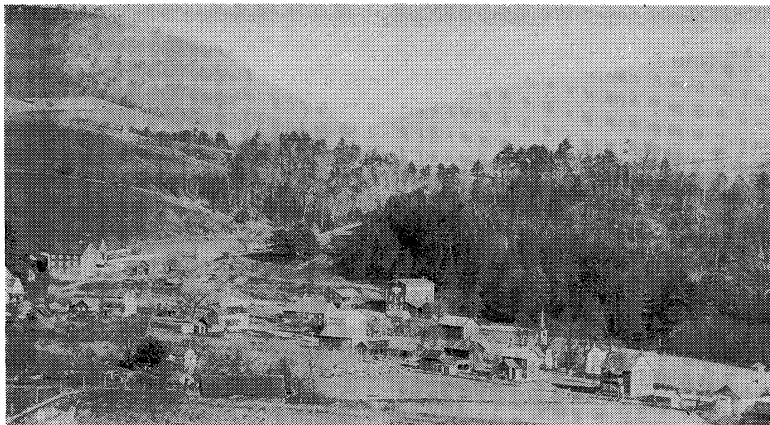
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WARRENSVILLE — IN ITS INFANCY

Discernible in the above picture are the Baptist and Evangelical Churches, Two Mills, and Scattered Dwellings, with Christian Hill in the background where are located the old Schoolhouse and Cemetery. (Story on Page 281)

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EARLY LAND OWNERS AND DWELLERS

Armstrong Township

Lycoming County, Pennsylvania

1750-1950

It will be surprising to some that parts of Armstrong Township in Lycoming County were parcelled out to enterprising settlers and citizens as early as 1743 when William Cox Ellis was assigned a tract in the vicinity of Sylvan Dell at the lower end of South Williamsport.

Other owners and dwellers in the township in the early days were such familiar names as James Armstrong for whom the township was named, Samuel Boone, Thomas Caldwell, J. Henry Cochran, John B. Coryell, Andrew Culbertson and three brothers, Albert Decker, John BuBois, Peter Herdic, Lewis Huling, F. Hurr, John Luppert and three brothers, John G. Reading, Edward R. Remington (and family), Samuel Updegraff, Samuel Wallace.

Evidence of ownership or residence is to be found in five sources.

1. Warrant connection map
2. Atlas map of Lycoming County 1873
3. Water Company map of Armstrong Township
4. Court house record of land transactions
5. Historical accounts from county and local history

Perhaps few comments on the chaotic system of land records in the early days would be in order here.

Prior to the coming of the white man, Lycoming County was a wild and savage wilderness. The only human inhabitants of the County were Indians, who called themselves "Lenni Lenape," and who were known by the white man as "Delawares." These red men were the first known title holders. They used their property under the communal tribal system. No individual members of the tribes were vested in ownership of land; each grew his own maize and vegetables where it best suited him, and hunted where he pleased within the limits of tribal influence.

A portion of this American wilderness was granted to William Penn in consideration for services rendered by Admiral Penn, the father of William. A Charter conveying this grant was issued by Charles II, and dated March 4, 1681, at Westminster. William Penn now had on his hands what constituted one of the largest real estate developments ever undertaken. He was vested with the absolute power of proprietorship; the right to sell lands, and to fix prices in his own discretion was given him.

The Province of Pennsylvania at the time of the grant was in the possession of the Indians, and William Penn was confronted with the problem of either buying them out or conquering them. In line with his religious convictions as a Quaker he inclined to the more pacific method.

Another important problem confronting the proprietaries was the method of sub-dividing and parcelling out the new territory. There were two ways of doing this; first to make a comprehensive survey of the region such as the U. S. Government used in the disposition of public lands later on; or second, to parcel out and survey each grant. Because of the limited resources of the Proprietor he adopted the second method which resulted in a rather confusing system of surveys.

The routine of conducting the sale of land was under the supervision of the Land Office which was established with the following officers: Secretary, Surveyor General, Auditor General and Receiver General. This land office was conducted at the seat of Government in Philadelphia.

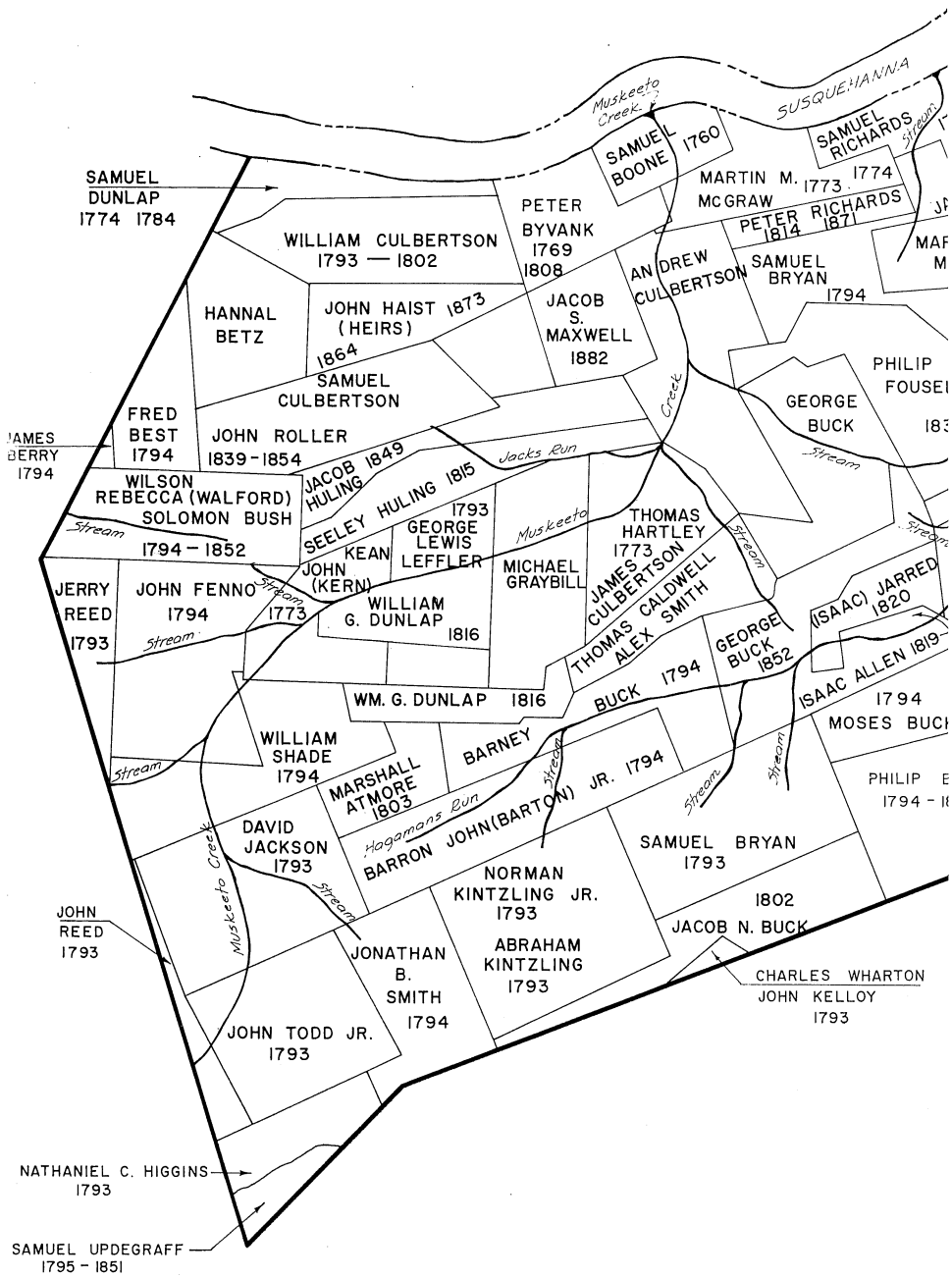
Deputy surveyors were appointed for each county and acted under instructions of the Surveyor General. All applications for office rights were issued through the proprietaries or the Commissioners of Property and the Land Office. Upon application, the proprietaries or Commissioners of Property issued a warrant to the Surveyor General, who, thereupon, issued instructions to the Deputy Surveyor to make the survey.

The warrant was formal authority to the Surveyor General to have the survey made. After the deputy had executed the survey it was his duty (upon payment of his fees by the applicant) to return the survey to the Surveyor General with a draft of the boundary lines and a certification as to the time of the survey. After all conditions had been fulfilled the Surveyor General returned a copy of the return of survey to the Secretary of the Land Office, and a patent was issued in conformity therewith.

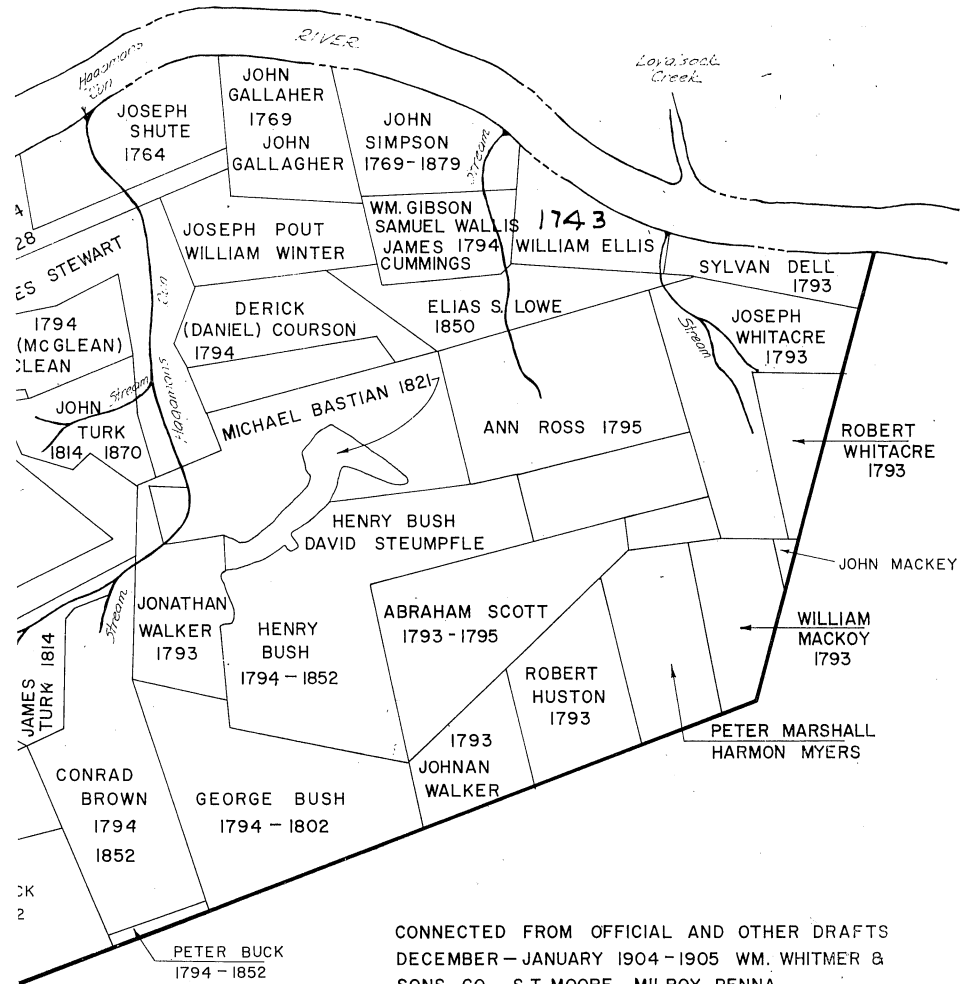
It was the Deputy Surveyor's duty to go upon the ground, run the courses and mark the lines. The lines were marked by corner stones, by stone piles or carins, by marked trees and in other ways. The actual markings placed upon the ground determined the position of the lines constituted the survey. The trees marked by blazes or "flitches" were known as Witness Trees, and by unwritten, but common, consent were left standing when surrounding trees were felled for timber, or to clear the land. Consequently, some of these old, tall trees may still be found and in some cases delineate not only a corner or an early holding, but the lines along one side.

Following is an alphabetical list of land owners and dwellers in Armstrong Township gathered from the five sources mentioned earlier. We have indicated the year of ownership or dwelling as given in the various sources. It must be borne in mind that some of these owners and dwellers may have had possession of the land before the date given. All that we can be sure of is that on the date given the land was held by the individual named.

NAME	DATE		DATE
Allen, Issac	1819	Coryell, John B.	1880
Armstrong, Andrew	1774	Courson, Daniel	1794
Atmore, Marshall	1803	Cowan, John	1855
Armstrong, James	1842	Culbertson, Andrew	1773
Axman, Joseph	1880	Culbertson, James	1773
Barron, John Jr.	1794	Culbertson, Wm.	1793
Bartles, C.	1910	Cummings, James	1794
Bastian, Michael	1821	Decker, Albert	1949
Bauer, Emma D.	1949	Decker, G. E.	1873
Beekman, Myra R.	1905	De Sanges, (Run)	1800
Bennett, George	1800	Decker, J. C. (John)	1873
Berry, James	1794	Dietz, Rose J.	1949
Bertin, Elmer	1949	Dietz, Valentine	1873
Bertin, Pearl	1949	Dincher, George	1949
Bertin, Peter	1875	Dinther, Michael	1874
Bertin, Philip J.	1879	Donnelly, J.	1873
Best, Fred	1794	DuBois, John	1870
Boone, Samuel	1760	Dunlap, Samuel	1774
Bowers,	1873	Dunlap, Wm. G.	1816
Bowers, A.	1873	Eder, John F.	1868
Bowers, Frank	1949	Eiswert, J.	1873
Bowers, John W.	1873	Ellis, Wm. Cox	1743
Bowers, Michael	1949	Emery, (Establishment)	1873
Brewer	1873	Emery, William	1873
Brown, Conrad	1794	Fenna, John	1794
Brown, J. V.	1949	Fisher, Mahlon	1873
Bryan, Samuel	1793	Foster, J. T. (John)	1949
Buck, Barney	1794	Fousel, J.	1873
Buck, George	1852	Fousel, Phillip	1839
Buck, Jacob H.	1802	Fullmer, Jesse	1856
Buck, Moses	1794	Furey, Durant L.	1949
Buck, Peter	1794	Gallagher, John	1769
Buck, Phillip	1794	Gibson, John	1870
Bush, George	1794	Gibson, William	1794
Bush, Henry	1794	Graybill, Michael	1773
Bush, Solomon	1794	Groover, John	1857
Byvank,	1769	Hackett, William	1949
Cochran, J. Henry	1910	Haist, John	1864
Cook, Jay	1873	Hamm, Joseph	1949
		Hamm, J. P. (John)	1874
		Hartley, Thomas	1773



Note several well known names among these early landholders
in Armstrong Township



CONNECTED FROM OFFICIAL AND OTHER DRAFTS
DECEMBER - JANUARY 1904 - 1905 WM. WHITMER &
SONS CO. S.T. MOORE MILROY, PENNA.

WARRANTEE
MAP OF LANDS
ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP
LYCOMING COUNTY

COPIED BY : EUGENE P. BERTIN

Such names as Culbertson, Boone, William Cox Ellis, Samuel Wallis, etc.

Heilman, John C.	1853	Reading, John G.	1873
Herdic, Peter	1853	Reading, R. C.	1869
Higgins, Nathaniel	1793	Reed, Jerry	1793
Hodge, Hiram	1949	Reed, John	1793
Horn, Joseph	1873	Reeser, J.	1873
Horner, John	1859	Regelman, John G.	1889
Hughes, James	1873	Reiter, F.	1873
Huling, John	1849	Remington, Anna P.	1905
Huling, Lewis G.	1860	Remington, Edward P.	1873
Huling, Marcus	1795	Remington, Edward R.	1843
Huling, Seeley	1795	Remington, Eliza	1873
Huling, Thomas	1856	Remington, Maria K.	1905
Huling, Wm. B.	1873	Remington, R. R.	1873
Hurr, F.	1793	Richards, Peter	1814
Huston, Robert	1877	Richards, Samuel	1764
Hutson, Wm. H.	1793	Roller, John	1839
Jackson, David	1820	Rose, James	1773
Jarred, Isaac	1873	Ross, Ann	1795
Jones,	1872	Remington, Edward Pym	1904
Jones, John E.	1773	Sawenski, Augustus	1880
Kern, John (Kern)	1889	Schwartz, Stanislos	1882
Kearn, Charles	1793	Scott, Abraham	1793
Kelley, John	1840	Shappel	1873
King, Charles	1793	Shuler, Henry	1855
Kintzling, Abraham	1793	Shuler, John	1949
Kintzling, Norman	1873	Shute, Joseph	1764
Koch, A.	1883	Simpson, John	1769
Kromer, Charles J.	1949	Smith, Jonathan	1794
Lawson, Mrs. Jacob	1949	Smith, Thomas	1880
Lawson, Jacob	1879	Spade, William	1794
Lawson, John	1793	Stasinsky, Mary	1949
Leffler, Geo. Lewis	1866	Steinbacher, Jos.	1949
Lentz, Geo. W.	1883	Steinbacher, Mary	1949
Leonard, J. W.	1845	Steumpfle, David	1873
Lloyd, Charles	1874	Stewart (Est.)	1867
Lloyd, Pearson	1850	Stewart, James	1949
Lowe, Elias, S.	1900	Street, Austin	1863
Luppert, John	1900	Suhr, J. C. Ludwig	1819
Luppert, Valentine	1873	Sunderlin, Benjamin	1873
Lutcher (Park)	1793	Swan, Moses	1793
Mackey, William	1842	Ten Euyck, Est't)	1814
Menge	1900	Todd, John, Jr.	1814
Martin, Dudley	1793	Turk, James	1793
May, William	1882	Turk, John (Run)	1793
Maxwell, Jacob S.	1794	Updegraff, Samuel	1793
McClean, Mary	1864	Walker, Jonathan	1773
McCreight, M. I.	1773	Wallis, Samuel	1873
McGraw, Martin	1949	Watson, C.	1873
Meiers, Augustus	1949	Watson, O.	1793
Miller, George	1873	Wharton, Charles	1793
Mudge, Hiram	1820	Whittacre, Joseph	1793
Murray, James	1873	Whittacre, Robert	1903
Nevins, B.	1830	Williamson, George	1793
Nomes, Joseph B.	1882	Wilson, Rebecca	1876
Parker, James O.	1816	Winter, William	1857
Platt, John	1873	Young, John	
Potter, J.	1873	Youngman, D. W.	
Reading, Frank			



History is one tapestry. No eye can venture to encompass more than a hand's breadth.