

November 28, 1964

Dr. and Mrs. James C. Campbell
346 Bower Hill Road
Pittsburgh 28, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Campbell:

It is with much regret that I have delayed answering your very pleasant and interesting letter. After careful consideration we thought that it would be only proper to prepare a written record of the interesting and historical events of the past era so closely related to the early establishment of the pioneer settlements in the western townships of Allegheny County and also those in Washington County.

Some of the delays in the preparation of these records were due to the recent illness and death of Mrs. Hastings' mother, Mrs. Margaret Ame (Wallace) Gorman, for of near Sturgeon, Penna. She departed this life in her residence at Sepulveda, California, November 13, 1964 aged 80 years.

It is indeed a great pleasure to know that the former old homestead of my grandfather Daniel Hastings (1826-1880) is now in your possession and has been so beautifully preserved and taken care of by you folks. We feel sentimental about the ancient log cabin, for my father was born in the old homestead in 1866, likewise several of the older and younger children of my grandparents. The cabin became their home for 14 years, from the spring of 1856 and throughout the Civil War period and from thereon until the spring of 1870. My father with his brothers and sisters played around this cabin during their childhood years. When I was a small boy, I visited the area with my father and returned to it several times in later years.

The cabin was originally constructed in 1778 by David Stephenson or Stevenson who occupied the same and held the lands by right of settlement under a "tomahawk claim," prior to the organization of Washington and Allegheny Counties or the establishment of any courts. This tract of land was designated "Woodbury" and was Warranted in 1786, later surveyed, and finally Patented in 1789. Many of these settlers moved in on these lands shortly after the signing of the treaty at Fort Stanwix in New York, November 5, 1768, at which time an agreement was made with the Six Nations of the Iroquois.

I am mailing under separate cover a record of the original land surveys made in the area of Bishop, Cecil and the village of Gladden, situated within the bounds of Cecil and South Fayette Townships and laying upon the waters of Miller's Run.

In the early records this area embraced the lands known as the "Millers' Run Settlements" and was made up of pioneer families, some of whom were living on these lands as early as 1768 and some were known to have arrived several years before the signing of the treaty.

The record you will receive records in detail the Indian depredations of the surrounding areas. We have written these sketches in our own words to avoid the sometimes disjointed accounts of historical events in sequence of time, as so often occurs in the original records.

My daughter Mary (Mrs. John A. Wood, Jr.) has often mentioned your kindness and interest in regards to securing the pictures of the old log cabin. It was a wonderful

experience for them to be granted the privilege of seeing the interior of the cabin, the home of her great grandfather and for her son, Daniel Hastings Wood to have enjoyed the same privilege for Daniel Hastings (1826-1880) was his great-great grandfather.

I desire here to express our appreciation and to thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully,
Charles C. Hastings, Sr.

Mrs. James Covode Campbell
346 Bower Hill Road
Allegheny County
Pittsburgh 28, Pennsylvania

341-9218

Dr. and Mrs. James C. Campbell
Cecil – 221-9699

November 25, 1964
San Fernando, California

Mr. Charles C. Hastings
650 ½ Griswold
San Fernando, Calif.

This journal relates some history involving our log house.

The record was started as a result of a search in 1964 by Mr. Charles Hastings' daughter, Mrs. John A. Wood, Jr., to find the log house where her great-grandfather had lived from 1855 to 1870. Mr. Hastings was involved in writing his family history. When he learned this log house which he had visited as a boy not only still existed, but had been restored by Mr. and Mrs. J. Sherman Campbell in 1928, he was so pleased that he prepared the bulk of this journal with information he thought would interest us.

We have been very grateful for his careful preparation. It is only very recently that we have tried to obtain more facts.

Our initial search has resulted in a record of the chronology of ownership of this log house. All of the information was obtained from the Washington County Courthouse.

We hope that somehow we can learn more about the living history of this log house for the last 196 years.

Jim and Betty Campbell
Dr. and Mrs. James C.

August, 1974

[Unfortunately, my mother's research went off track with the second sale. She concluded that Thomas Short sold the house to John Miller. In fact Miller purchased the southwest corner of Short's land. The actual purchaser of the northeast corner was David Given, a fact that I was able to determine by using the survey information in the deeds to draw the boundaries of all of Short's sales. Mother also mistakenly presumed that the Hastings family owned the property; that was incorrect. They only rented the property from Fitzpatrick then Clark, a fact that became clear to me when I realized that in the Hastings discussion, he used words like "occupied", or "settled", not owned.]

[The following two pages of the book include the hand-drawn map of the original land holdings in the northern part of Cecil and the southern part of South Fayette townships. The upper right corner of the map has the following text:

At Fort Stanwix in New York a treaty was made November 5, 1768 with the six nations which conveyed to the proprietaries the lands herein described. This treaty embraced all of Washington, Westmoreland, Green and the southern part of Allegheny County, Penna.

Hugh Sprowls born 1747 died April 27, 1843 aged 94 years built cabin in 1778. Taxed in 1781 on 300 acres, 1 horse, 1 cow.

Francis Sprowls born in 1720 in Scotland, emigrated in 1740, settled in the east. Served in 1758 in the attack on Ft. Duquesne, now Pittsburgh, against the French and Indians settled in 1778 in Cecil Township. Died in April 1782. He was the father of Hugh, James, Elizabeth and others.

*The map itself combines two maps. The first map is in the **Horn Papers, Volume III**, which maps all of the original land holdings of Washington County. The second map is the **Warrantee Atlas of Allegheny County**. Complete maps of all the original land holdings might be available in Harrisburg, but in Western Pennsylvania no maps are available that show both the holdings in both Washington and Allegheny Counties.*

The text focusing on the Sprowl family leads me to believe (although I cannot prove) that Mr. Hastings got a copy of the map from the Sprowl family. In the 1850s, the Sprowls still lived on the property adjacent to the Hastings; Hastings reports the families were friendly. It is reasonable to assume that the Hastings family got much of the original history of the log house through the Sprowls whose house was built the same year as the Stevenson home.]

Washington County was erected from Westmoreland County by an Act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania passed on the 28th day of March 1781 to accommodate the people with more convenient courts and public county offices, and originally included all the land in the southwest corner of Pennsylvania.

The present location of the county seat was designated by the said act of March 28, 1781 by directing the electors to meet at the house of David Hoge at the place called “Catfish’s Camp” to hold their elections. “And Courts shall sit and be held in said county at the house of David Hoge aforesaid” . . . “until a court house shall be built.” The borough of Washington now stands upon these lands.

An Indian chief by the name of Tingoqua or Catfish, of the Muskee Indians was the possessor of all these lands for his tribe. As early as 1759 we find this same chieftain addressing the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia. In the year 1788 this chieftain and his tribe had a camp near the three springs located near the southeast corner of Main and Maiden Streets in Washington Borough. Later he moved his camp to Bryon’s Spring and from there to Shirls’ Woods, now the Eighth Ward. From Shirls’ Woods, he removed to Ohio, where he died or was killed.

Cecil Township Tax List 1781

	Acres	Horses	Cattle	Sheep
Hugh Sproul	300	1	1	0
Phillip Saltsman	300	1	1	0
James Sproul, “Single Man”	150	2	2	6
David Stevenson (Stephenson)	300	4	5	8
David Stevenson, “Single Man”	100	1	0	0
Jonathan Martian (Martin)				
John Lorimore (Larimore)				
William Roseberry				
William McCage	15	3	4	4
Thomas Beggard				
Edward Cheese (Chease)	300	2	2	3
John Armstrong	150	4	5	3

The eastern part of Cecil Township was annexed to Allegheny County on the organization of said county by the act of assembly on September 24, 1788.

The log cabin situated on the northeastern section of the original tract of David Stephenson was built in the year 1778, it being the same year the said David Stephenson or Stevenson settled there with his family. He was assisted in the erection of this frontier home by other settlers who occupied lands adjoining or in the near vicinity. For the following eight years he occupied these lands under a “Tomahawk Claim” or Right of Settlement. The blazed tree boundaries embraced the lands later warranted, surveyed and patented to David Stephenson, the said marked trees being designated in the original documents.

This tract named “Woodbury” was warranted April 5, 1786, being bounded on the south throughout its entire width of ½ mile by the waters of Millers Run and extending

N.W. 1 mile, said tract being approximately ½ mile wide throughout its entire length, the east and west boundaries thereof laying parallel to and divided by the Washington and Allegheny County line extending in a northwesterly direction across said tract. The southwest section of this survey embraced the land on which the Village of Cecil now stands, and the north central part of the original survey included the land on which the Village of Reissing is now located, 1/3 of said tract being situated on the Allegheny County side in South Fayette Township.

This area was designated the “Miller’s Run Settlement” in the early records and included the lands extending from the mouth of Millers Run in Allegheny County to the head waters of said run in Cecil Township in Washington County.

In later decades this tract of land passed to other ownerships. During the spring of 1856, Daniel Hastings, his wife Elizabeth (Hanna) Hastings and their two young daughters removed from the farm of his father William Hastings, Sr. (1788-1869) near Hastings Station and settled in Reissing Village.

The family occupied the old log cabin above mentioned, being located on the edge of the woods at the south end of the village. Their cabin and the Hugh Sprowl cabin, both built in 1778, were still standing in fair condition as late as the summer of 1938.

The last mentioned log home being situated about one quarter mile north of the Daniel Hastings residence, was erected and occupied by Hugh Sprowl (1749-1843 aged 94), the son of Francis Sprowl (1720-1782). Hugh Sprowl and his family occupied this two story log residence for many years and finally by an unmarried son, David Sprowl, who died in 1863. They were neighbors and the descendents of Francis through his sons James and Hugh Sprowl and a daughter Elizabeth Sprowl, became intermarried with the Hastings, Cummins, Wallace, McDonalds of McDonald and the Noble family of Noblestown.

Daniel Hastings and his family resided in the one story log cabin prior to the Civil War and continued to occupy the same home throughout the period of the war and for 5 years thereafter or until 1879. During the latter part of this period of 14 years, three of their older children attended the public schools of that area. In the spring of 1870 the family removed from the cabin on the “Woodbury” tract to the nearby log cabin situated eastwardly about 400 yards from their former home. This larger two story log residence was situated on the eastern edge of the woodland area that lay between the two frontier cabins. A well worn path traversed the woodlands between the two homes. This second log dwelling, erected in 1785, was located near the ridge road east of Reissing Village.

Daniel Hastings was a carpenter by trade which he pursued from young manhood on into later years in building schools, homes and many of the early barns of the surrounding area. The frame additions made to the cabin on the “Woodbury” tract were erected by Daniel Hastings in the year 1856 and another addition was made in 1866, the last mentioned enlargement became in later years the large rear porch, but when originally erected for his family, the area was enclosed by walls.

Daniel Hastings and Elizabeth his wife were the parents of 9 children, seven of whom grew to maturity and married. The first two of their children, being girls, were born on the farm of his father, William Hastings, Sr. (1788)-1869) near Hastings Station, the said farm being for the most part situated in Upper St. Clair Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Five of their children, 3 boys and 2 girls, were born in the log cabin on the “Woodbury” tract at Reissing Village. The last two of their children were born in the

second log dwelling situated near the ridge road previously mentioned. These last two children, being girls, were quite young when their parents removed in 1876 to McDonald in Washington County.

Daniel Hastings was born April 7, 1826, in South Fayette Township near the former lands of his grandfather Daniel Hastings Sr. (1745-1807) in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He married November 13, 1851, Elizabeth Hanna, a daughter of John Hugh Hanna (1809-1841). They were married by Rev. George Marshall at the Bethel Presbyterian Church in Bethel Township, Allegheny County.

After their marriage in 1851 he and his wife Elizabeth settled on the farm of his father, William Hastings, Sr. near Hastings Station. They occupied the "two story log dwelling house."

This property was formerly the estate of Col. Prestley Neville, the son of Gen. John Neville of Bower Hill, both of whom figured prominently in the Western Insurrection of 1794. This tract was purchased by William Hastings, Sr., April 2, 1836 and was known as the "Winfield Mill" property on which was erected on frame Grist Mill with stone foundation with three run of stone; one frame saw mill with stone foundation; one distillery one-half built of stone, the other half of frame; one two story log welling house; and one, one-story log dwelling house, one frame dwelling house one and one-half stories high, one log cooper ship and one barn as described in the deed of conveyance. William Hastings, Sr. was born April 14, 1788 in Bucks County Pennsylvania, and departed this life on his farm near Hastings Station, August 7, 1869 aged 81 years. Mary (Irwin) Hastings his wife was born June 7, 1790 and departed this life December 14, 1869 aged 79 years.

Their son Daniel Hastings, as previously mentioned, removed from the Reissing area to the town of McDonald where several of his older children attended the public schools of that borough. While on a visit in the residence of his brother Henry Irwin Hastings at Hastings Station, he became ill and there departed this life on his brother's farm in Upper St. Clair Township on November 21, 1880. His widow, Elizabeth (Hanna) Hastings departed this life in the home of her eldest daughter, Anna (Mrs. Louis G. Goehring), in Wilkinsburg, August 15, 1903 aged 69 years.

The 900 acre tract of land as shown in the original survey map for South Fayette Township is of some interest. This land was formerly described as being situated in Youghiogheny county, State of Virginia, but now know to be on the waters of Coal run, a branch of Chartiers Creek and situated partly in South Fayette and partly in Cecil Township Allegheny County, Pennsylvania and Washington County respectively.

This land was previously granted in consideration of military services performed by John Madison and John West, Jr., in the war between Great Britain and France according to the terms of the King of Great Britain's Proclamation of 1763, which was the 3rd year of the reign of that sovereign, King George III. This tract was warranted May 4, 1774 and conveyed by the Commonwealth unto Robert Rutherford assigner of the above mentioned owners, containing 900 acres by survey bearing date the 10th day of April 1775 and by patent under the hand and seal of Thomas Jefferson, Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, which was done in the Governor's mansion at Williamsburg on the 23rd day of December 1775 and the Commonwealth the fourth, as reference to the land office in Richmond Virginia may more fully appear.

On February 4, 1799, Daniel Hastings, Sr., purchased 201 ½ acres of this tract. The said Daniel Hastings Sr., was born April 28, 1745 on his grandfather's farm situated on

Trapoli Road near Waltham, Mass., where his parents resided during the early years of their marriage. He was a son of Joseph Sr. (1722-1805 aged 82) and Hannah (Hastings) Hastings (1723-1808 aged 84) and a grand son of Joseph Sr. (1697 – 1783 aged 85) and Lydia (Brown) Hastings (1698 – 1768 aged 70) and a great grandson of John Sr (1654 – 1717/18 aged 63) and Abigail (Hammond) Hastings (1654 – 1717/18 aged 63) and a great great grandson of Thomas Sr (1604 – 1685 aged 81) and Margaret (Cheney) Hastings. The last named paternal ancestor Thomas Hastings Sr. was born in England, emigrated to America in 1634 and settled in Watertown, Massachusetts where he and his family continued to reside until his decease.

Pennsylvania or “Penn’s Woods” was granted in 1681 to William Penn by Charles II (1649 – 1685) King of England. Extracts from the description set down in the original charter are herein noted:

All that tract or part of land in America . . . as the same is bounded on the east by Delaware River, from twelve miles distant northward of Newcastle. . . The said land to extend westward five degrees in longitude to be computed from the said eastern bounds; and the said lands to be bounded on the . . . south by a circle drawn at twelve miles distance from Newcastle northwards unto the beginning of the fortieth degree of northern latitude, and then by a straight line westwards to the limit of longitude above mentioned.

After 82 years of litigation between the two provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania, it was agreed in August 1763 by Lord Baltimore of Maryland and the Penns of Pennsylvania to have the dividing line properly located and measured.

Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon of England were selected to make the survey. They arrived in the month of November at Philadelphia and immediately began their astronomical observation “at the moons of Jupiter.”

The course of the westward line was fixed at 39 degrees, 43 minutes, 26 seconds as specified in the Kings Charter. The latitude of 40 degrees would have place Philadelphia within the bounds of the Province of Maryland which was never intended by William Penn or by the king.

Without this amicable agreement between the two provinces, part of Fayette County and all of Greene Counties [*sic*] and a southern part of Washington County would have been under the jurisdiction of Virginia. Until the western extremity of the survey was completed, Virginia claimed part of Allegheny County, all of Washington and Greene Counties to the northern boundary of the Ohio River and southward along the eastern side of the said river. It was known as Youghioghny County, West Augusta District of the State of Virginia.

In June 1765 the engineers were well on their way towards the first range of mountains. A 24-foot line way or course was cleared by cutting the timber executed by the axemen and a crew of laborers. Boundary stones were set one mile apart along the line east of the mountains and at the end of every fifth mile the stone markers were engraved with the English coat of arms of the proprietors of each province, the said line extending to a point 95 miles west of the Susquehanna River, being completed to that point during the summer of 1765.

The following spring they moved forward and on June 5, 1766 they were stopped by the Indians on the first range of the Allegheny Mountains. Only the lands east of the mountains were granted by the purchase of 1758. This stand of the Indians made necessary the holding of the Council at Fort Stanwix in New York of the Six Nations of the Iroquois where a treaty was signed November 5, 1768 and the lands westward were acquired by purchase.

This Indian grant embraced all the lands within the bounds of the south western area of Pennsylvania northward to the bend of the Ohio River and extended from said bend in a north easterly direction across the state to the north eastern extremities of the province.

It appears that an understanding was reached with the Indians prior to the Great Council held at Fort Stanwix on the assumption that the lands would be purchased on agreeable terms.

The “standing in the path” on June 5, 1766 resulted in a year’s delay and it was not until the “morning” in June 1767 that the engineers, axe-men and the laborers were permitted to proceed under the protection of a chief of the Iroquois and fourteen warriors. The party was placed strictly under the control of the chief who was assisted by his interpreter. On the 25th day of August, 1767, they reached and crossed the Braddock military road.

At this point in the Allegheny Mountains, the Six Nation chief and his nephew withdrew with their fourteen warriors, leaving the party to face the dangerous and threatening looks of the Shawanese and Delawares. The tenants of these hunting grounds kept the party under constant observation here amidst the surrounding forest and giant rocks of that mountainous area.

The party however continued forward, but within a short period of time 26 laborers deserted and the axe-men dwindled to 15. Sending back for aid, the surveyors moved on, running the risk of attack. Being so near the southwest corner, they were urged on with the desire of completing the line westward to the five degree of longitude as specified in the Kings Charter. The completion of the line would forever quiet the claims of the province of Virginia that the western lands of Pennsylvania lay within the bounds and jurisdiction of the proprietors of Virginia.

The desires of the surveyors were not fulfilled. “Thus far shalt thou come but no farther” was the decree that came forth from the Great Indian Council. A month after the crossing of the Braddock Road, the final stand was taken, in September 1767, where the state line crosses the “warrior” branch of the old “Catawba” war path, at the second crossing of the Dunkard Creek close to the village of Mt. Morris. This point was situated within the bounds of the southern extremities of what later became known as the County of Washington, but now known as Greene County after the formation of the new county from the southern part of the old county of Washington.

Here on the “warrior” branch of the “Catawba” war path the surveyors packed up their instruments and returned to the east. Over a year later, in the documents dated November 9, 1768, the engineers’ map and report made to their employers, show that they had been stopped 23 miles and 83 perches short of the five degrees in longitude or said point of termination of the southwest corner of the Province of Pennsylvania. Although the uncompleted work was stopped for 15 years, this line of survey has made immortal the name of Mason and Dixon.

There was great dissatisfaction among the Shawanese and Delawares, for this was their hunting grounds. The completion of this line would have been of great satisfaction to the settlers and probably a saving of life to the early pioneer families as well as to the Indians. Treaties had been made with the various tribes through a long term of years for the purchase of their lands. They were dissatisfied with the purchase price, the payments being made in blankets and other wearing apparel, in pins, needles, scissors, axes, and guns and often times paid twice to keep on friendly terms with them. There were wise enough to see that they were being poorly compensated for their lands, as Chief White Face expressed after the final purchase of lands in 1784-85: “The price is not one pair of moccasins apiece.”

In the spring of 1774 a war broke out between the Indians and the white settlers on the western frontier of Pennsylvania. The early pioneer families of this area lived in constant fear of the Indians. The tribes west of the Ohio River thought themselves intruded upon by the "long knives" as they at that time called the Virginians, and they held a council at which their chief Logan acted a prominent part. The Indians were soon traveling the war paths through the forests west of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. These attacks coming without warning, necessitated the building of numerous block houses or forts throughout the townships of Allegheny and Washington Counties.

By the end of July 1777 there appeared in this district 15 parties of Indians consisting of 289 warriors and 30 British officers and rangers. Their assaults began at once. Many of the early dates of these attacks and the number of deaths and amount of destruction have not been recorded.

In March 1780 at a sugar camp on Raccoon Creek, 5 men were killed and scalped and 3 lads and 3 girls were taken prisoners. On the waters of the same creek, a Mr. McCandless and 2 Shearer brothers were killed. Mary (Grant) Wallace and her 3 children were carried off near Florence in Hanover Township. There was a band of about 40 Indians at Wallace's cabin. Mrs. Wallace and the youngest child were later tomahawked and scalped. This happened while Mr. Wallace was absent from home, and took place on February 17, 1782 at which time they shot his cows and burned his cabin to the ground. One of the sons, Robert Wallace, Jr., was returned when the treaty of peace was signed; the fate of the other is unknown.

From the spring of 1774 until late 1787, throughout Westmoreland, Allegheny and Washington Counties, the Indians continually harassed and distressed those living within these bounds. A man was killed within a mile of Catfish Village (now Washington) and 10 persons including a farmer named Boyce were captured and carried to the Shawnee town on the Miami River in Ohio.

It gave rise to much alarm and consternation to those residing within the bounds of Washington County when news reached them that large bands of Indians had penetrated to the rear of the settlements on Robinson's Run, Millers Run and on Chartiers Creek.

On July 13, 1782, a body of about 300 warriors under the command of Kyashuta [*Guyasuta?*], attacked the village of Hannastown in Westmoreland County and burned the village to the ground. The same day, a dozen families had surrendered and were taken captive at Millers blockhouse about 3 miles from Hannastown. As late as November 12, 1787, the Supreme Executive Council was informed that the Indians had killed some inhabitants of Washington County, whereupon they proceeded at once to send to the lieutenant of the county 100 stand of arms, 400 weight of powder, 800 weight of lead and 1,000 flints.

Not only to the rear, but also to the west the settlers faced the enemy. In the spring of 1782 the Indians resumed their attacks and killed in one day near Cross Creek, Samuel Roninson, William Parks and John Yeoman. Word of this attack was sent by scouts immediately to the settlement at Hickory and runners carried the warning to the settlements in Cecil and Chartiers Townships. The aroused settlers were ready and it appears the Indians circled westward to Buffalo Creek where Jacob Miller, Sr., and John Hupp, Sr., were killed and scalped Creek due west of the Chartier's settlement.

In the year 1779 alone and within a period of less than two months, between 40 and 50 persons including women and children were killed and taken from the area laying within the bounds of what is now Washington County.

Colonel James Marshall, Col. George Marshall, and Col John Marshall became the county learders. The first mentioned, relying upon his commission as County Lieutenant or highest military officer of Washington County, formed military companies and began an organized resistance.

Due to the stubborn resistance of these soldiers of the American Revolution, the British and Indians were driven across the Ohio River and farther westward by the end of 1783. For nine years the settlers had fought to hold these lands and defend their cabins in this frontier wilderness. With the end of hostilities the people resumed their pursuits in peace. Churches, schools, and small settlements were established.

The recorded events and the unrecorded traditions of these trying times were rehearsed by the fathers to their sons and daughters and they to their children. Stories of cautious days and sleepless nights, of runners sent out to warn them of danger. Gentle rapping on door or window at night by neighbors or scouts who aftered whispered words of warning and giving information regarding the movements of the Indians, these friends disappeared into the forest. The advice given and the seriousness of the situation often led to the temporary abandonment of their log cabins. Preparation for flight was necessarily made in the dark, silently and quickly as possible. Rifles, tomahawks, and knives were taken from the racks and stealing silently through the darkened forest, the fathers and mothers with their children made their way to the nearest fort.