

History and Significance (Item 39)

- David Hess, 200 acres, 2 horses, 6 cows, total value £4000 (Land now owned by John Hess and Jacob Thomas)
- Jacob Hess, 25 acres, 3 cows, total value £ 1450
- Jacob Huffman, 100 acres, 2 horses, 3 cows, total value £1200
- Jacob Heiney, 50 acres, 1 horse, 2 cows, total value £400. (land now a part of Henry Warfel's farm)
- John Hesslet, 150 acres, 2 houses, 3 cows, total value £5200
- Anthony Haberkam, 1 horse, 3 cows, total value £300
- Michael Henry 2 cows, total value £120
- John Horst, 2 horses, 2 cows, total value £400
- John Heble, 1 cow, total value £230
- Henry Heinolt, 1 cow, total value £236
- Christian Hess, 2 houses 3 cows, total value £600
- Adam Kendig, 150 acres, 4 horses, 4 cows, total value £8200
- John Kendig, 125 acres, 2 horses, 2 cows, total value 6600. (Land now in and around Conestoga Centre)
- John Keller, 50 acres, 2 horses, 3 cows, total value £500
- Daniel Keeports, 98 acres, 4 houses, 4 cows, total value £3000
- Michael Kreider, 175 acres, 3 horses, 4 cows, total value £4500
- Jacob Kreider, 130 acres, 4 horses, 5 cows, total value £2600
- Peter Kline, 100 acres, 1 horse, 4 cows, total value £ 1000. (Land now owned by David Hess and others.)
- Christian Keaggy, 250 acres, 4 horses, 3 cows, total value £5600
- George Kendig, 90 acres, total value £2600
- Anthony Klerie, 1cow, total value £225
- Cornelius Kuhn
- Jacob Lutman (mason) 1 cow, total value £225
- Henry Loudensliger, 2 cows, total value £100
- Christian Line, 100 acres, 2 horses, 1 cow, total value £1600
- Henry Line, 100 acres, 2 horses, 1 cow, total value £1600
- Samuel Myers (distiller) 220 acres, 2 horses, 6 cows, total value £8800 (Land now owned by Rudolph, his son, and John A Meyers, of Pequea)
- Abraham Miller, 100 acres, 3 horses, 4 cows, total value £3200 (Land now owned by Christian E. Miller)
- John Miller, 100 acres, near Rockhill, total value £1200
- Jacob Menart, 170 acres, 5 horses, 15 cows, total value, £9000 (Land now owned by Valentine Warfel, and occupied by Henry Thomas).
- John Musser, 150 acres, 2 horses, 7 cows, total value £2400 (Land now part of Conestoga Centre, and now owned by Martin Musser and E. Pehlman).
- Catharine May, 60 acres, 2 horses, 3 cows, total value £400
- Rudy Miller, 50 acres, 2 horses, 5 cows, total value £1600 (Land now owned by David Miller.) Frederick Myer, 2 cows, total value £250
- Henry Miller, 130 acres, £1250
- Jacob Mayer, 2 horses, 3 cows, total value £600
- Henry Miller, Jr., 100 acres, 1 cow, total value £250 George Mundorf, total value £1600
- John Miller, Jr., 1 cow total value £120 Jacob May, 2 cows, total value £120 George Miller, 1 cow, total value £120

History and Significance (Item 39)

- Michael Myer, 2 horses, 2 cows, total value £480
 John Neidig, 100 acres, 4 horses, 6 cows, total value £4500
 Ulrich Newcomer, 1 horse, 2 cows, total value £250 Rodger Offaron, 2 horses, 2 cows, total value £360
 Stophel Ord, 2 horses, 2 cows, total value £360
 John Philips, 3 horses, 3 cows, total value £200
 Charles Purpur, 1 horse, total value £120
 Henry Resh, 150 acres, 4 horses, 3 cows, total value £4400
 Jacob Rathfong, 1 horse, 1 cow, total value £250
 Frederick Rathfong, 100 acres, 2 horses, 6 cows, total value £3200
 George Rathfong (gunsmith), 185 acres, 2 horses, 3 cows, total value £ 1200
 Peter Rummel, 77 acres, 2 horses, 2 cows, total value £800
 John Resh, 3 cows, total value £250
 Peter Resh's estate, 90 acres, total value £2800
 Jacob Reichenbach, 29 acres, total value £1400
 Tobias Stehman, 360 acres, 1 horse, 3 cows, total value £1400 (Land now belonging to Henry Stehman and H. D. Stehman)
 Henry Steman, 225 acres, 2 horses, 3 cows, total value £7000 (Land now owned by Jacob Bausman)
 John Stehman, 140 acres, 1 horse, total value £2600 (Land now owned by H. H. Miller, formerly one of J. Postlethwait's farm.)
 Michael Shenk, 165 acres, 2 horses, 6 cows, total value £6000 (Now owned by John Hess, William S. Haskell, and others)
 John Shenk, 130 acres, 2 horses, 1 cow, total value £5000 Peter Smith, 100 acres, 2 horses, 4 cows, total value £2400
 Catharine Steiner, 100 acres, 2 horses, 3 cows, total value £4000
 Frederick Shoff, 125 acres, 3 horses, 4 cows, total value £5000 (Now owned by George Shoff) Jacob Shoff, 1 horse, 1 cow, total value £200
 Philip Swartz, 175 acres, 2 horses, 4 cows, total value £1600. Dewalt Smith's estate, 40 acres, total value £200
 Jacob Smith, total value £600
 John Stetler, 2 horses, 3 cows, total value £400 Peter Swenk, 1 horse, 2 cows, total value £250 John Stauffer, 100 acres, total value £800 Andrew Taner
 Ludwig Urban 300 acres, 4 horses, 6 cows, total value £4800 (Now owned by F. K. Hookey and Jacob Pickel) John Wade, 2 horses, 2 cows, total value £250
 George Warfel, 160 acres, 2 horses, 3 cows, total value £5000. (Now owned by William Rice and George W. Warfel) Peter Warfel (son of George), 2 horses, 3 cows, total value £300
 John Warfel (son of George), 2 horses, 3 cows, total value £300 John Yinger, total value £ 225
 Henry Zercher, 35 acres, 1 horse, 3 cows, total value £1800 Mary Zigler, 80 acres, total value £1600
 Freeman for the same year: Jacob Lines, Samuel Lines, Leonard Shirk, Abraham Gochenour, Tobias Gochenour, Christian Gochenour, Philip Baker, Adam Gochenour, Joshua Kehler, Richard Burg, Herny Bletcher, Herny Hackman, Christian Huber, Abraham Huber, John Huber, George Ganter, Christian Newcomer, Christian Forrer, Christian Eyeman, Simon Yenter, Herny Shenk, Michael Hess, George Web, Abraham Stetler.

History and Significance (Item 39)

The amount of tax levied for Conestoga township for this year was £20, 404,15s. The fines for the same year were £950¹¹

18th-Century Water-Powered Mills in Conestoga Township

The earliest-known grist mill in today's Conestoga Township was erected on Stehman's Run by 1730 on... "the earliest public road extending across Lancaster County...leading from the neighborhood of Gap" ...westward. This was known then as the Great Conestoga Road. Along this road in southern Conestoga Township, the Postlethwait grist mill was built near the historic site of the Postlethwait Tavern. This later became known as the Rockhill Mill, rebuilt in 1770 by a John Barr. A second grist mill was built in 1756-1757 by a John Stone and land sold off from Elizabeth Brenneman, along Pequea Creek. By 1777, a Christian Shenk owned and operated this grist mill. The first grist mill at this site was most likely built of log construction and would be replaced by a stone grist mill by 1815. This would become known as the Pequea Grist Mill, which still stands today and is in an excellent state of preservation, still retaining its latter 19th-century milling equipment.

Throughout the whole 18th century, today's Conestoga Township was almost totally a rural community of single-family farms dominated by the first and second generation of Swiss- and German-origin Mennonite families. The taxable list for 1780 records only one weaver, a Leonard Albright; a mason, Jacob Lutman; a distiller, Samuel Myers; and a gunsmith, George Rathfong, being exceptions to this long list of farmers. Beginning by 1805, there would be significant changes in Conestoga Township with the establishment of villages and hamlets which would foster social as well as economic diversification. This would begin with the establishment of the Village of Conestoga Centre.

The Establishment and Dispersion of Rural-Context Villages, Industrial Village and Hamlets in Conestoga Township through the 19th Century, 1800-1900

By the beginning of the 19th century, the social and economic complex had evolved within Conestoga Township to such a level that it required and could sustain rural village centers. This began with the establishment of the Village of Conestoga Centre, which is just that it is situated in the center of the township in a lineal east to west axis.

Conestoga Centre is a village built along a ridge of high land in the center of Conestoga Township. The original owners of this land were Michael Hess and John Freyfly, they received this land from William Penn by warrant and the Warrant Map for Conestoga Township suggests that Main Street in Conestoga Centre was the dividing line between their lands. It was common when issuing warrants for the Penn government to give an additional 6% for roads and it was also common for roads to be run between two property owners so it looks like the current layout of Conestoga Centre is the result of the historic property line. In the early 1800s, Main Street in Conestoga Centre was known as the Road to Burkholders Ferry and Safe Harbor. River Corner Road was the boundary between the lands of Michael Haverstick and Michael Hess. John Kendig, who is given credit for the founding of Conestoga Centre, had planned to use 35 acres of land that he had inherited from his father for the new village. He inherited all of his father's estate, probably because the Orphan's Court thought it too small to divide, but he was required to sell land to pay his brothers and sisters their share of the estate. Founding a village, which meant he could sell small lots, would be a perfect plan to raise the money, it would also be good for his tavern business.¹²

History and Significance (Item 39)

As laid out and developed, Conestoga Centre is actually an example of a Continental Germanic source form of urban planning at the village scale. This form and type of urban vernacular site planning is called “Strassendorfer” or Street Village. Conestoga Centre, although laid out and established by 1805 is a very early 19th century of such a “Strassendorfer” or Street Village urban plan. Within Pennsylvania, the earliest such example of a Strassendorfer was the now Germantown section of the City of Philadelphia, laid out in the late 17th century, (now listed as National Historic Landmark Historic District.)

The Village of Conestoga Centre is defined today as a contributing historic resource within the proposed Conestoga Township Rural Historic District that needs to be critically viewed first as a village or variation of a “Dorf”, as has been generally described above by Theibault. In urban vernacular design terms the “Dorf” Village of Conestoga Centre can be more specifically defined as a variation of the “Strassendorf” in physical form, as defined by Alan Mayhew in his work, “Rural Settlement and Farming in Germany,” published 1973. The Village of Conestoga Centre today is physically more than just the houses and properties centered along Main Street. It is surrounded by a much larger and definable Rural Historic Landscape; integrated with this village’s physical historic lineal core.

The physical and social constraints as to how the Dorf or Village evolved in the adjacent states of the Palatinate and Hesse, evolved since post Roman Empire times. The recent works by John C. Theibault have scholastically advanced the study of cultural historic material and published works on Germanic settlement forms and town and country ways of life. Much of what the Village of Conestoga Centre is can begin to be discovered from the following quotes from Theibault’s work “German Villages in Crisis: Rural Life in Hesse-Kassel and the Thirty Years War, 1580-1720,” (published 1995.)

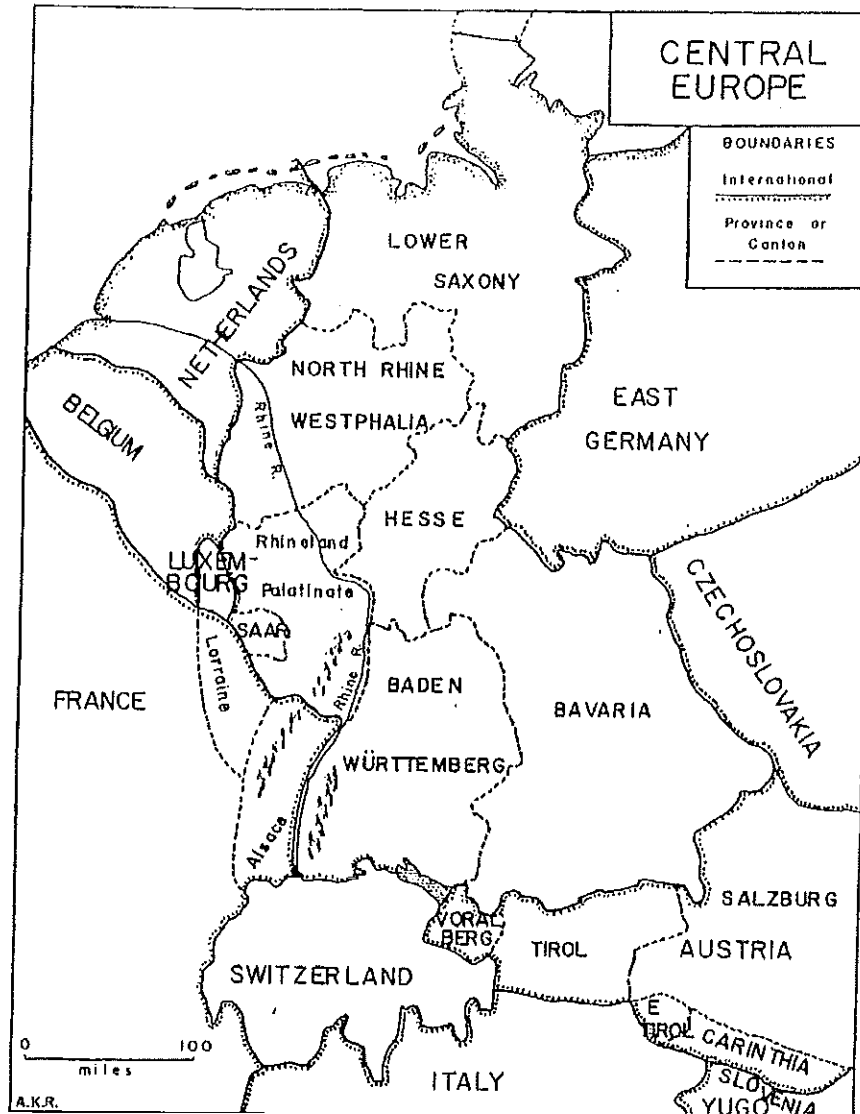
The situation of the villages in the late sixteenth century was the product of a long evolution. There were limits to how villagers organized life in their villages, based primarily on the legal perquisites of Herrschaft and the powerful force of long-standing customs. But villages were inhabited by active people, and the way in which those people lived contributed to the outward forms of the villages. The village was not “reinvented” every generation, but neither were internal perceptions unchangeable. Even the most fixed quality of the village—its location—could have different meanings for the inhabitants, depending on changes in climate, market integration, trade routes, and exploitation of natural resources. This means that an understanding of the internal qualities of the village must include an understanding of how outward influences affected life within.

In the previous chapter, I argued that the geographical location of the village and the location of the village in the administrative hierarchy placed constraints on the exercise of Herrschaft. Local knowledge and a sense of the contours of individual villages placed comparable constraints on how villagers would express their interests. No two villages were exactly alike, but most shared common characteristics that provided the repertory from which the internal definition was constructed. The most obvious definition of the village available to villagers was the physical presence of buildings and fields together. There were concrete manifestations of the individual plots of land described in the account books. Villagers saw the ensemble of buildings that made up the village from the surrounding fields. This helped make them conscious of the distinctiveness of each village.

The form and appearance of the villages was the product of centuries of settlement patterns. Thuringian influence was often stronger than Hessian influence in the traditions of the

History and Significance (Item 39)

inhabitants of the region, such as the forms villages took. Both "Linear" and "closed" villages were common. Early settlements were influenced by forms of landlordship and natural features, as well as by the folk customs of the settlers.



Map Illustrating Configuration and Locale of the Germanic States of Hesse and the Rhineland Palatinate in the 18th Century (Source: "Search for the Origin of the Pennsylvania Barn," by Robert F. Ensminger, *Pennsylvania Folklife*, Winter 1980-81, vol. XXX, No. 2)

By the seventeenth century, however, the appearance of the village had more to do with the way in which the villagers lived in it at the time that its earliest settlement. Villages were designed primarily for agricultural production. Houses were built in the characteristic style of western Thuringia and eastern Hesse. Like almost all German farmhouses, they were constructed of timber frames and wattle, and the largest included courtyards-some of which had stone gates-where animals and farm implements could be kept in relative security. The population increase in the sixteenth century restructured the core of some villages. Houses became crowded together, and they were sometimes built on common land in the center of the village in exchange for a small rent. The general style of buildings in each village was the same, but the exact configuration was different. Many houses were distinguished by intricate carvings and occasionally inscriptions that lent an additional character to the inhabited core.

There were few public buildings in the villages-and some of them were "public" only because they were reserved for use by officials within the village, such as the parish priest, who was given use of the parish house. The church, with its churchyard, was the centerpiece of the village and the largest public space. Its symbolic and practical importance extended far beyond its role as the site of religious observance. The presence of a church in each village contributed to the separation of one village from another. Although two or even three villages might belong to a single parish, each affiliate of the parish generally had its own church building. The pastor came into the confines of the village rather than having the villagers leave their own village and walk to another.¹³

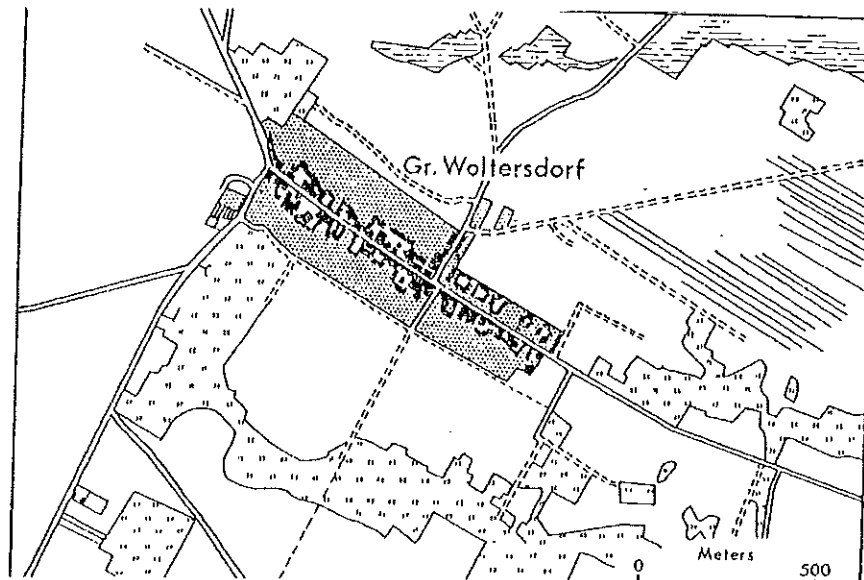


Illustration of a Typical Germanic "Strassendorf" of the 17th and 18th Century(s)
(Source: "Rural Settlement and Farming in Germany by Alan Mayhew, pub. 1973)

History and Significance (Item 39)

As the largest structure in any village, the church acted as a landmark by which the village could be recognized. Church architecture did not vary greatly in the region, but the profile of each village was made distinct by the position and style of the church within the cluster of less impressive village houses shielding it from contact with the fields and the world beyond. If any structure in the village were made of stone, it would be the church, although many churches had timber towers placed on a stone base. The building history of the village church often extended beyond the memory of the villagers. Still, villagers touted their forefathers who had built it with the phrase, "built by the Gemeine [community members] alone."

The church building thus acted as a focus of local identity and a symbol of the whole village. Indeed, the accoutrements of the church building were nearly as important in defining the village as the presence of the building itself. Villagers emphasized their place in the village by paying for family pews in the church. The pews defined who belonged in the village by creating specific space for them in its most sacred and most visible structure. After death, a family's connection to the village could be continued in the graveyard attached to the church or on the outskirts of the village...

The identity of individual villages was shaped by the internal layout of buildings and public spaces and reinforced by the geographical separation between village cores. In many parts, it was impossible to see the neighboring village because of hills or woods in between. But the village did not end where the edge of the last house ended. The economic structure of the village made the fields and woods around the core as much a part of the village as the houses themselves. Unlike the buildings, the fields of a village ran right up next to those of the neighboring village, so all land belonged in one village or another. Where one village ended, the next one started; the only neutral ground was the roads leading from one village to another, which properly belonged to the landgrave. An artificial boundary had to be set to distinguish the fields of adjacent villages, though that boundary often followed natural geographic boundaries. This political boundary encompassed everything that belonged to the village; thereby contributed to the villagers' understanding of what the village was. (p. 46-49)

The "Strassendorf" of Conestoga Centre had an initial spurt of growth from 1805 to 1815 and is described as follows:

Conestoga Centre in 1815

The 1815 Federal Direct Tax lists 11 families living in Conestoga Centre (probably about 50 or 60 people), John Kendig, Sr., John Kendig Jr., Martin Kendig, Magdalene Ponper, Adam Brady, Cornelius Conrad, John Carry, Theophilus Dunning, Solomon Falk, Catherine Grummel and Jacob Yentzer. The 1817 tax lists let us add their occupations, Adam Brady, weaver; Cornealious Conrad, weaver; Theophilus Dunning, weaver; John Kendig, Tavern keeper; Martin Kendig, horse farrier (a combination blacksmith and horse surgeon); John Kairy (Carey), laborer; Catharine Krummel (Crommel/Grommel), no occupation; Magdalene Ponper, no occupation; Jacob Yentzer, no occupation and Salomon Falk isn't listed in 1817.

...

History and Significance (Item 39)

This shows that there were 11 families living in Conestoga Centre in 1815 as well as 7 unimproved lots. In 1817 there were three weavers, a tavern keeper, a farrier, one laborer and three people who's [sic] occupation wasn't given but two of them were widows and one, Jacob Yentzer, doesn't have his occupation listed, but he probably had one.¹⁴

Within the urban village construct, histories indicate that a German-Lutheran church stood at the future lineal location of the Village of Conestoga Centre as early as the 1790s, or possibly earlier. This was known to have been a frame building. It is very likely that the presence of this Lutheran Church encouraged the location of the Village of Conestoga Centre to surround it beginning in 1805.

On August 30, 1791, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granted a warrant to the Lutheran and Calvinist (Reformed) Congregation in Conestoga Twp. The property was twenty perches (a perch is about 16.5 feet) and the Trustees for the Congregation were Ludwick Urhahn, Andrew Fail, Henry Miller, and Jacob Becht. The ministers that served this congregation were the Lutheran and Reformed ministers of Lancaster City. John Jacob Strine was the Lutheran Minister here from 1815 to 1870. He was the marringest minister in Lancaster County, he married many Mennonites who were under the impression they had to be married by an ordained minister. Strine would marry anyone who paid his fee, they didn't have to be a member of one of his churches.¹⁵

Up to 1839, this Lutheran church was the sole religious institution in the Village of Conestoga Centre, but this would change as the composition of this rural community became a safer haven for African Americans to live, work and worship.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1839, and in the following year a neat frame building was put up. The original members were Simon Richardson, John Wanner, Washington Cooper, Harriet Sweeny, Nancy Richardson, Susan Wanner, and Sarah Harley.

In 1875 the old house was torn down and a new frame building, with a seating capacity of one hundred and seventy-five persons, was put up under the supervision of Mrs. Harriet J. Sweeny. The cornerstone was laid in the summer, and it was dedicated in the fall of 1875.¹⁶

There is a well-documented brief narrative as to the history of the rural African American community in Conestoga Township that appears to have been centered at a place called "Pinchgut," once located immediately north of the Village of Conestoga Centre, which is as follows:

Pinchgut

On Joshua Scott's 1824 Map of Lancaster County he shows Pinchgut in the hollow between Conestoga Center and the ridge to the north. This clearly establishes that Pinchgut wasn't an early name for Conestoga Centre, it was the name for the African American Community in Conestoga Twp. Unfortunately, there were no listings for Pinchgut in the 1815 Direct Tax, perhaps because none of those living there owned their own land.

Conestoga Township gets no credit for having been involved in the underground railroad and perhaps it deserves none but I'm struck by the isolated nature of the settlement of

History and Significance (Item 39)

Pinchgut on Scott's 1824 map. Its [sic] doesn't even appear there was even a road to Pinchgut, what shows up on Scott's map is a stream that still exists. In the 1850 census for Conestoga Twp. there are 6 African Americans heads of households (out of 24) who were born in slave states but who's [sic] wife was born in Pa., suggesting they had come to Pa. as young men and possibly as escaped slaves. Was Pinchgut a hideaway for runaways or were they simply people who had been freed in the south and had moved north? Joseph Urban is mentioned by his son Benjamin F., as a conductor on the underground railroad, did he own the land that was Pinchgut in 1824? This is an area that deserves further research.

The 1790 census (on our web page) indicates that there were 7 African Americans in Conestoga Twp. at that time, by 1800 the number had jumped to 21. By 1850 there were 130 African Americans in Conestoga Twp. and about 75 lived in Conestoga Centre. By 1860 there were 143 in the township with 52 living in Conestoga Centre. In 1870 John W. Urban was the census taker and he didn't distinguish people by post office so its [sic] difficult to determine how many were in Conestoga Centre but there were 89 African Americans in the township. By 1900 the African American population of Conestoga Township had dropped to 44 with only the Edward Pecos and the Martin family living in Conestoga Centre. Its [sic] thought that after the Civil War many African Americans (as well as whites) began moving into Lancaster City where there were better paying jobs. African Americans in Conestoga were primarily farm laborers but when factory jobs opened in Lancaster City they began moving there.¹⁷

Subsequent to the founding of the African American Methodist Episcopal Church in 1839, the following churches were either established and/or reorganized in or very near Conestoga Centre as follow, described in 1883:

The German Reformed Church, Conestoga Centre, was reorganized on Whitsunday, 1842. The original organization took place a number of years prior to this time. The earliest knowledge attainable is from a deed dated July 1, 1820, for a tract of land containing twenty perches, deeded to them and the Lutheran congregation at Conestoga on a warrant of Aug. 30, 1791, and surveyed on the 12th of October, 1791. At the time of the reorganization Rev. C. F. Hoffman, a student of Rev. G. W. Glessner, was the regular minister for seven years. In 1844 they built a brick church on the same ground on which stood the Lutheran Church (a frame building over one hundred years old), in which they have worshiped since. Rev. E. D. Reinecke, the next minister, served four years; Joel L. Reber, three years; C. W. Hoffmier, two years; J. F. Eckert, twelve years; S. D. Steckel, one year; A. B. Shenkle, nine years; J. P. Moore, six years. The church has a capacity for seating two hundred and fifty persons. The church was remodeled in 1881, under the supervision of J. R. Yentzer. The present value of the church property is two thousand five hundred dollars; the present number of members, forty-five. Connected with the church there is a Sunday-school with an average of fifty pupils.

The Evangelical Association- This association or, as it is known in some localities, "The Albrights" built their first church in Conestoga township, on the road leading from Conestoga Centre to Safe Harbor, in the year 1846, at which time the church was organized. The building was frame, and was used as a place of worship until the year 1873, when they built a new house of brick at a cost of about two thousand dollars. The first trustees were Jacob

History and Significance (Item 39)

McAllister, Jacob Hackman, and Benjamin Kneissley. The following are the names of the ministers; Rev. Fred. Danner, Hull, Cole, Shulty, Francis Lare, James Lare, Jacob Addamey, Samuel Hambright, Moses Dissinger, C. Becker, M. Henry, Joseph Specht, Widner, S. Harper, W. Black, Shoemaker, A. Stirk, Samuel J. Homberger, Jesse Lawrence, A. De Long, Markley, Knerr, Jacob Zern, Cautner, and F. A. Hess, the present minister. Benjamin Kneisley is a local preacher in this church, and has been such for a number of years. The number of baptisms have been seventy. There are at present fifty members. The present trustees are Peter Snavelly, Benjamin Kneissley, John Lynes, Benjamin Warfel, and Amos McAlister.

Conestoga Centre Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in August, 1856. An informal meeting was held in the house of Dr. B. S. Kendig early in August, at which time the matter of organizing a church here was spoken of, and a meeting for the purpose of organizing was called for August 13th, at which the following board of trustees were elected; Rev. William Major, Christian B. Herr, James Bones, John Perkins, Joseph R. Urban, Frederick M. Brady, Daniel Rhineer, and John Campbell; Rev. William Major, president; Joseph R. Urban, secretary; and F. M. Brady, treasurer. At the same time the following building committee was appointed; Rev. William Major, A. M. Warfel, Frances B. Groff, John H. Lorimer, and Dr. B. S. Kendig. Shortly after this the building was begun, and in the fall the corner-stone was laid. Rev. Mr. Major conducting the services. The following spring (1857) the church was dedicated to the service of God by Revs. Curtis F. Turner and William Major. The original members were Joseph R. Urban, Elizabeth Urban, Abraham M. Warfel, Elizabeth Warfel, Henry B. Shenk, Matilda Shenk, Frances B. Groff, John H. Lorimer, F. M. Brady, Esther Mehaffey, Daniel Rhineer, Hugh Mehaffey, Esq., Dr. B. S. Kendig, Susan Kendig, John Jones, Susan Jones, Christian Hupper, Mary Hupper, Henry Flinchbaugh, C. K. Henry, John Henry, and Leah Brady. Their first meetings were held in the dwelling-house of Joseph R. Urban.¹⁸

Still standing within the Village of Conestoga Centre are its two historic taverns, these being "The Sign of the Conestoga Centre" and "The Sign of the American Coat of Arms."

Sign of the Conestoga Centre

According to tavern petitions, John Kendig had been operating a tavern at this location since 1790. The name of this tavern was "The Sign of the Conestoga Centre", although it doesn't appear on tavern petitions under that name until 1832. The location of John Kendig's Tavern would appear to be at 3182 Main Street, on the spot where the old Black Bear Tavern was located in 1875, also operated by a John Kendig. Ellis and Evan's History of Lancaster County 6 indicates that the Sign of the Conestoga Centre was located where Dr. Jacob Mowrey's office was located and [the book] "Reflections of a County Village" establishes that Dr. Mowrey's office was where the Black Bear Tavern existed in 1875. This appears to be correct because Joshua Scott's Map of Lancaster County for 1824 locates Kendig's tavern at about the same location as the Black Bear, on the south side of Main Street. Tavern petitions frequently cite this as the place where Township elections were held and John Kendig Jr. appears to have been a Justice of the Peace so other court functions were probably held there as well.

History and Significance (Item 39)

It would appear John Kendig the founder died between 1815 and 1817. The 1817 tax list includes only one John Kendig and I've assumed this was his son, John Kendig Jr., no designation as to Sr. or Jr. is given in 1817, but he is identified as a Tavern keeper. It appears that John Kendig Jr. took over operation of the tavern after the death of his father and it was probably under his direction that the tavern replaced the log structure with the stone structure that exists today, probably about 1834. It would appear that John Jr. died about 1836, we find that his tavern was taken over by Catharine Hess and her son Edward. They seemed to have operated the tavern for one year and then Adam Kendig took over the business. John Daily took over the tavern in 1843 and operated it for three years before Adam Kendig resumed proprietorship.

The tavern petitions we have end in 1853 so we can only assume the John Kendig who operated the Black Bear in 1875 was a descendant of Adam Kendig.

The Sign of the American Coat of Arms

In 1836 Dr. John Kendig appears on the scene with a two story stone house, it appears, according to tavern petitions, that Hugh Mehaffey operates this tavern before Dr. Kendig become tavern keeper. The Heritage of Lancaster, prepared by the Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, identifies this house as being built about 1821 by A. T. Bruner. In 1837 we find that Dr. John Kendig's tavern is known as the Sign of the American Coat of Arms (see tavern petitions). Dr. Kendig operates his tavern until 1851 when John Martin takes it over.¹⁹

Both of these historic early 19th-century tavern buildings still stand along Main Street in the Village of Conestoga Centre and contribute to the integrity of the proposed Conestoga Township Rural Historic District today.

Conestoga Navigation Canal

Within the proposed Conestoga Township Rural Historic District, a major portion of the Conestoga Navigation Canal system was built and operated from July 31, 1826, into no later than 1863. This canal system was intended to tie the City of Lancaster with its own port to the Susquehanna River and tie into another canal navigation network involving the Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal. This canal system involved a complex relationship between investors in Pennsylvania and Maryland in order to procure interstate funds to build and complete, beginning in 1835. This Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal, when completed, involved 28 canal locks and a canal prism, beginning in the north from Wrightsville in York County, Pennsylvania, then south to its end point at Havre-de-Grace in Maryland, to open navigation into the Chesapeake Bay. This intended integration of canals was to open up the commerce of goods to the City of Baltimore seaport. The Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal became very financially successful, while the Conestoga Navigation Canal did not, even though a massive low dam was built upon the Susquehanna River at Safe Harbor to provide dammed water levels to float canal boats across to both shores. The Conestoga Navigation Canal was plagued by severe damage done to freshets, causing financial distress. However, the Conestoga Navigation Canal did stimulate an expansion of water-powered grist mills, saw mills and iron-making operations of note at Safe Harbor in Conestoga Township.

History and Significance (Item 39)

The Conestoga Navigation Canal also fostered the development of the hamlets of Rockville, Petersville and Slackwater, in Conestoga Township. At Rockville, where Canal Lock No. 5 existed, its water powered the Darnish Saw Mill, and a hotel was built, called the Rockville Inn, for traders. At Petersville, when Lock No. 4 was built, a hamlet developed and contained the Petersville Hotel. In the immediately adjacent Slackwater, the canal provided water to a sawmill combined with a lumber and coal yard, along with a federally-designated post office. But the Conestoga Navigation Canal provided the greatest stimulus to the Village of Safe Harbor, which became the setting for a rural industrial community that spanned both sides of the Conestoga River into neighboring Manor Township. On the Conestoga Township side, at Safe Harbor, the Reeves & Son (Iron) Furnace and Rolling Mill was erected in 1848 and would operate until 1861. At Safe Harbor, a mixed community of Pennsylvania Germans, Irish Roman Catholics, (possibly involving canal workers, who chose to remain and find work in the iron-making operations at Safe Harbor and iron ore mines in Conestoga Township), and some Anglo-English laborers.

The following quote concisely portrays the history of the Conestoga Navigation Canal:

The Conestoga Navigation Company- On March 17, 1805, an act of Assembly was passed authorizing William Webb, Esq., to improve the navigation of the Conestoga River. He resided on the Philadelphia turnpike, adjoining Abraham Witmer's on the west, and was anxious to make this stream navigable from its mouth to Witmer's bridge. He was a member of Assembly in 1805, and with other members visited Conewago Canal, which was then in successful operation, and thus from personal observation saw the great value of artificial canals; and as it was part of his plan to erect dams, with lift-locks, he doubtless discovered that the expense would be much greater than he had expected. Nothing was done under his charter and it became inoperative.

The Conestoga Slack-Water Navigation Company owed its existence to the efforts of James Hopkins, Esq., a prominent lawyer of Lancaster, who had spent a large fortune in the construction of a canal around Conewago Falls, on the east side, which proved to be a failure. This, however, did not deter him from entering upon other public improvements and on the 28th of March, 1820, he procured a charter from the Legislature to incorporate the Conestoga Slack-Water Navigation Company, having for its object the building of several dams between the mouth of the creek and Lancaster, and thus to form pools of slack-water for the navigation of boats. A lock was to be placed in each dam to lift the boats from the lower level to the upper, boats to be towed by horses traveling along a tow-path to be made along the edge of the water. Mr. Hopkins did nothing under this charter, and it became void.

The Conestoga Navigation Company was incorporated by an act passed March 3, 1825. The managers were Adam Reigart, Edward Coleman, George B. Porter, Jasper Slaymaker, John F. Steinman, George Louis Meyer, Hugh Maxwell, of Lancaster City; John Litner and George Haverstick, of Lancaster township....

Edward F. Gay was chosen chief engineer of the Conestoga navigation. In the winter of 1828 he reported that he expected that the entire navigation would have been completed by November, 1827, but for a disastrous freshet which occurred in the Conestoga River in October of that year, and which destroyed some of the dams already completed and damaged others, thus in a few hours sweeping away the work of many months. By the middle of

History and Significance (Item 39)

December, the dams were rebuilt and repairs completed. There were nine dams, which cost fifty-nine thousand eight hundred and thirteen dollars.

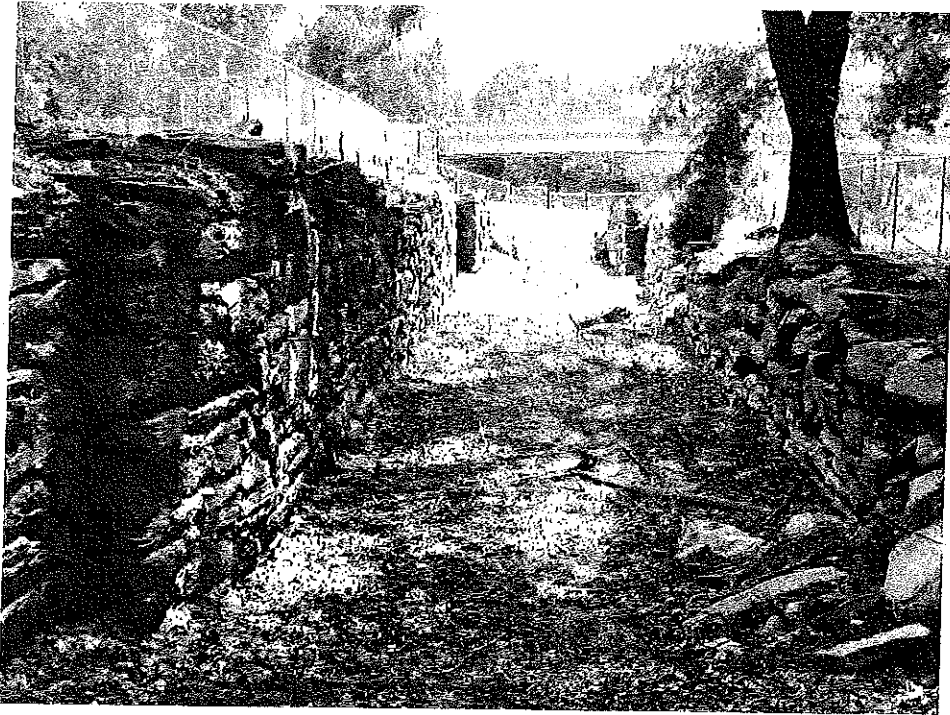
During the following two or three years business greatly increased, but not enough to relieve the company from their embarrassment. On the 1st of March, 1833, the "navigation, mills, and water-power" of the Conestoga Navigation Company were advertised to be sold by the sheriff. The property was sold June 1, 1833, at the public-house of Rosina Hubley. Subsequently to the sheriff's sale above named that officer sold all the remaining rights of the company in the navigation to William and Edward Coleman. They repaired the works, and built new packet-boats, which ran to Safe Harbor. When the Susquehanna and Tide-Water Canal was built in 1838, an outlet lock was constructed opposite the mouth of Conestoga Creek, and a dam was built across the river to form a pool sufficient to float boats across. They were towed over by steamboat. The entire length of the Conestoga slack-water navigation was seventeen miles and seventy-one chains, with a fall of sixty-four feet, making a valuable water-power at each of the locks.

After a few years of renewed prosperity the navigation again went down. On the 1st day of April, 1837, William and Edward Coleman received a new charter, under which the title was changed to "The Lancaster and Susquehanna Slack-Water Navigation Company." After the erection of iron-works at Safe Harbor, near the mouth of the creek, by Reeves, Abbot & Co., that firm purchased from Edward Coleman's heirs the franchises of this navigation company. Reeves & Co. sold the franchises to Jacob G. Peters and George Levan, who retained the most valuable of the water-power at the dams, and sold others.²⁰

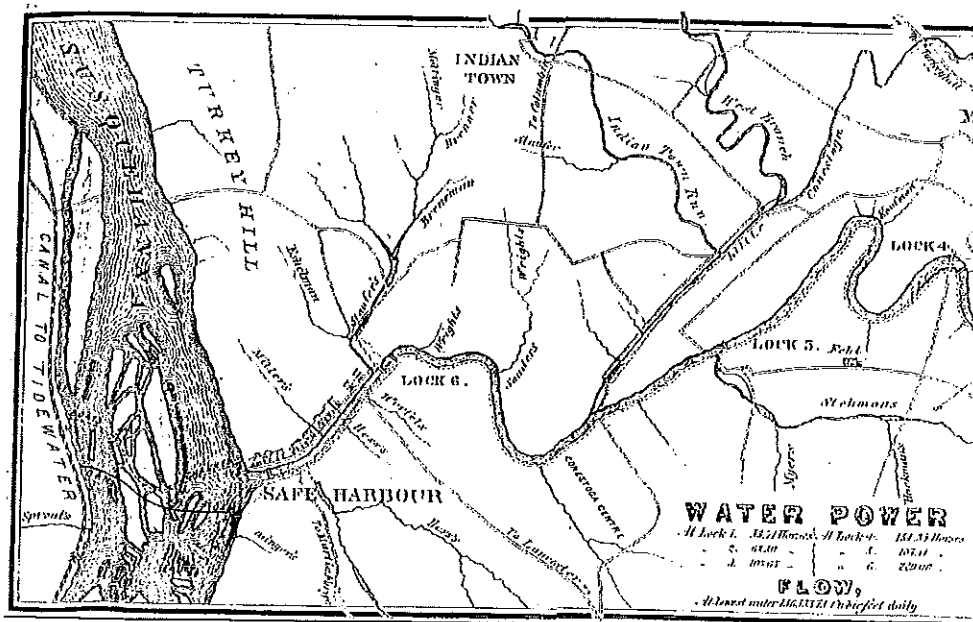
It is documented that any canal boat navigation ceased by the beginning of the Civil War. After this, its navigation works went into physical decline.

The Conestoga Navigation Canal as completed was designed by Edward F. Gay, chief civil engineer. After completing the Conestoga Navigation Canal System, Gay went on to be the chief engineer of the Pennsylvania Canal, and then after this the chief engineer of the Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad, and to the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal. These public improvements had a major impact on Pennsylvania's entry into the Industrial Revolution, as it evolved in America. So Edward F. Gay's participation and presence in these three systems of transport is of historic significance. In relation to the Conestoga Navigation Canal, it should be viewed as the first example of Edward F. Gay's civil engineered/designed works of transport, although it was beset by the challenges of nature's freshets and the increasing dominance of railroads as a means of transport.

History and Significance (Item 39)



Recent photo view looking due southwest onto the exposed remains of the masonry of Canal Lock No. 6 of the Conestoga Navigation Canal located in the Village of Safe Harbor area, within the proposed Conestoga Township Rural Historic District. This Canal Lock No. 6 was designed by Edward F. Gay, civil engineer, and built in the early 1830s, and is the best-preserved canal lock surviving today of the Conestoga Navigation Canal.



This historic map illustrates the alignment of the Conestoga Navigation Canal from the mouth of the Conestoga River at Safe Harbor up past Lock No. 6 to Lock No. 5, within the Conestoga Township Rural Historic District, as it existed during the 1840s

History and Significance (Item 39)

Iron Making and Iron Mining in Conestoga Township

Integral to the history of the Conestoga Township Rural Historic District were the operations of varied iron ore mines and iron-making operations. The earliest iron-making operations in this area was at Martic Forge that was located immediately outside of Conestoga Township along Pequea Creek. Although the site of this historic resource lies just outside of the proposed Conestoga Township Rural Historic District, its presence had significant economic and varied social impacts to rural Conestoga Township from 1751 to the 1770s. A concise history of Martic Furnace is provided as follows:

Old Martic Forge, built by Thomas and William Smith in 1752-52, after passing through many hands, is now owned by Davies & Potts. There are four fires and two hammers. Product, charcoal blooms for boiler plate made from pig iron.²¹

So by 1883, Martic Forge was already under continuous operation for over 131 years. At present, it is not known when the mining of iron ore rock within Conestoga Township began. It is likely that some iron ore open pit mining was conducted in the 18th century, possibly to supply nearby Martic Forge. The iron ore deposits were located in the south central area of Conestoga Township, due east of Shenks Ferry Road. Historic maps record that by the 1840s these two mining operations became known as the Reeves & Sons Ore Banks. David and Samuel Reeves were both intimate with the establishment of the Safe Harbor Iron Works, started in 1846. It appears that they conducted the iron ore mining that supplied Safe Harbor Iron Works that is described as follows:

The Safe Harbor Iron-Works, [at the Village of Safe Harbor], These works consist of a blast-furnace, foundry, and rolling-mill. They were built in 1846 by David Reeves, Samuel J. Reeves, Dr. Pancoast, and Charles and George Abbott, all of Philadelphia. The building of these works was brought about by the discovery of vast amounts of iron ore in the immediate vicinity. The principal product was railroad iron, great quantities of which were used by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company when the railroad came into possession of the present company. These works continued running steadily from the completion of their building until 1865, when the dam across the Susquehanna River, which connected the Conestoga Canal with the Tide-Water Canal, was destroyed, thus cutting off the means of transportation. They remained inactive until the fall of 1879. The works finally came into possession of David and Samuel J. Reeves, whose heirs are the present owners. The works were all built under the supervision of Mr. John Griffen, the present general superintendent of the Phoenix Iron Company, and it was here that Mr. Griffin first made his wrought-iron, many of which were used during the late civil war by the Union army.

In the fall of 1879 the mill was again put in operation for the purpose of manufacturing puddle iron for the use of Phoenix Iron Company at Phoenixville, and also for working the Du Pay direct process. During the winter of 1879 and 1880 the company built a branch railroad one mile in length for the purpose of connecting their works with the Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad, which runs along the Susquehanna River. The blast-furnace has not been in operation since 1865.

The following gentlemen have been the superintendents in the order named: John Griffen, Wyatt W. Miller, Samuel M. Wright, Isaac Reeves, and Theodore F. Patterson, the latter

History and Significance (Item 39)

gentleman being there at present. The product of the mills under his management in the year 1882 was ten thousand net tons of puddle iron.²²

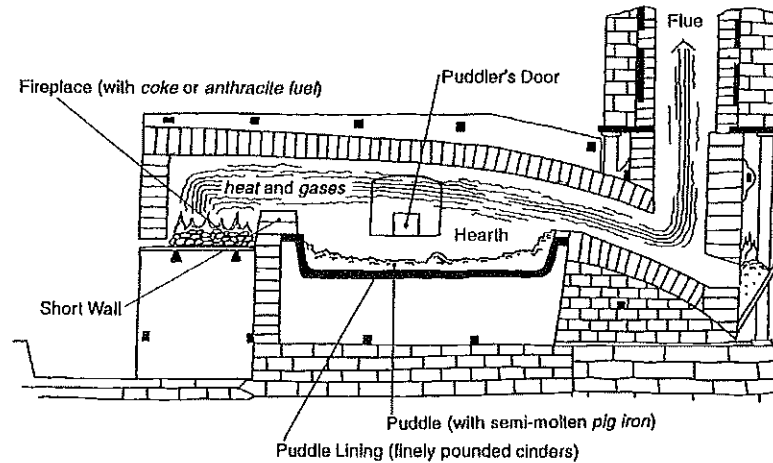
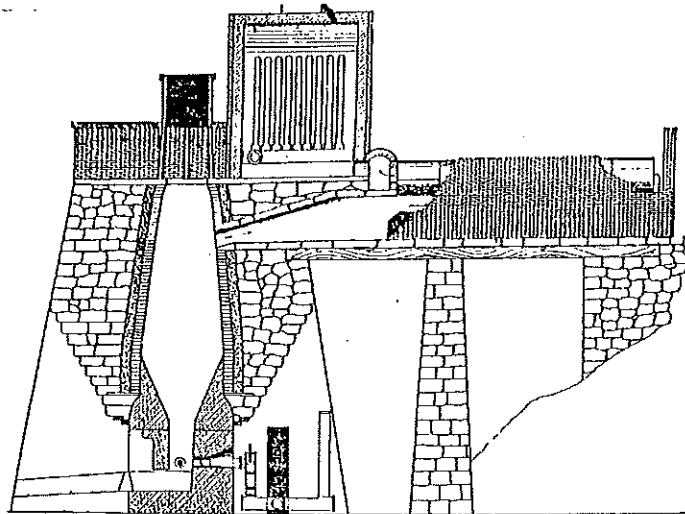


Fig. 9 Diagram of a rolling-mill puddling furnace.

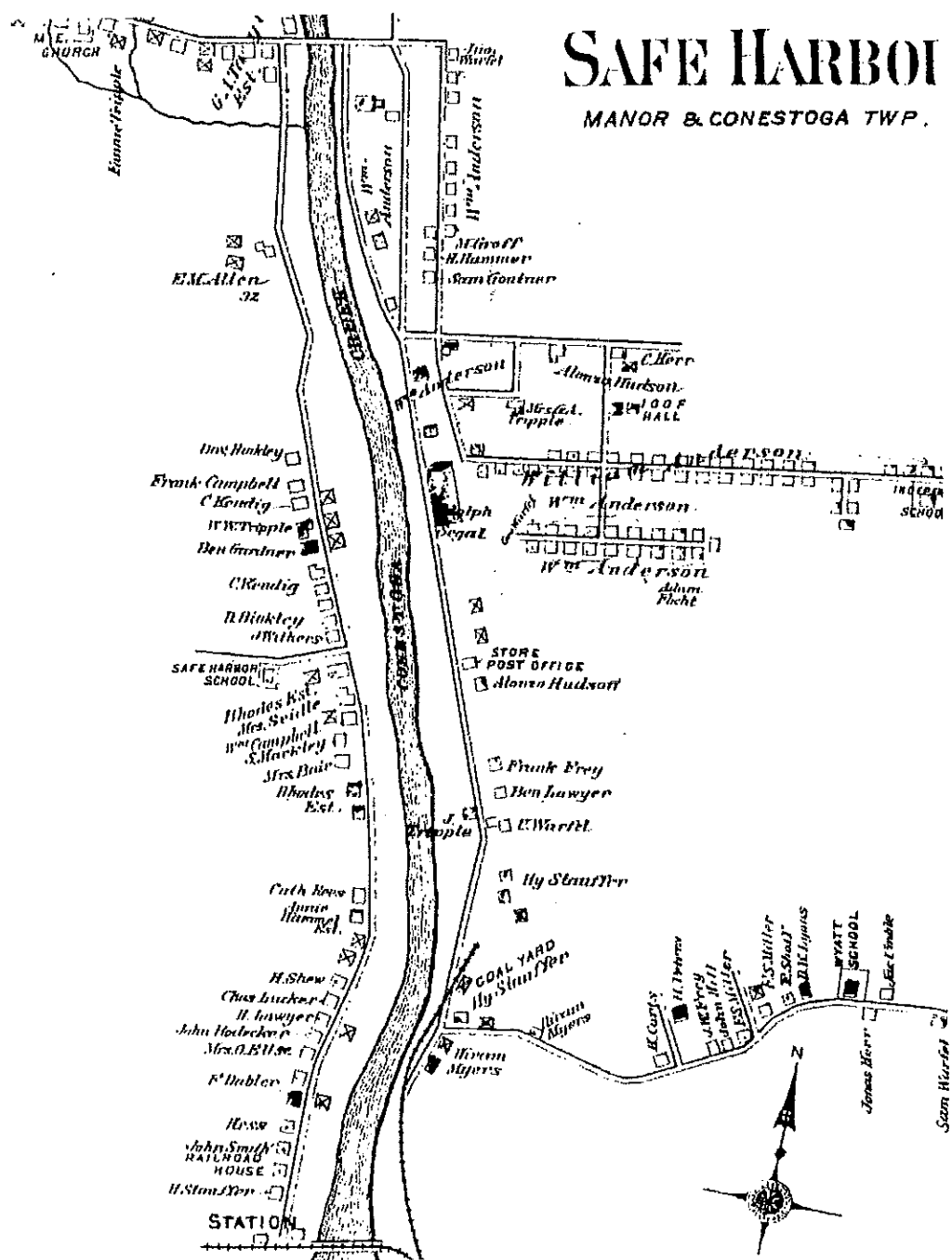


Sectional view of a typical anthracite blast furnace of the early '40's, showing location of gas flue from furnace shaft to hot blast oven and boiler erected on a level with the tunnel head. This construction preceded the use of downcomers to bring the waste gases to the ground level.

The illustrations above portray the general type of anthracite blast furnace design and a rolling mill puddling furnace that would have been built and used at the Reeves & Son Iron Furnace and Rolling in Safe Harbor, within the proposed Conestoga Township Rural Historic District, once located in the Village of Safe Harbor, whose historic industrial archaeological remains contribute to this potential historic district's integrity.

History and Significance (Item 39)

This photograph shows the open ruins of the once Roman Catholic Church that was built at Safe Harbor Village in Conestoga, taken about 20 years ago, now in advancing decay.



This historic map portrays the Village of Safe Harbor in Conestoga Township during the 1870s. Conestoga Township is the right side of the Conestoga Creek (River), with the Manor Township side of the Village of Safe Harbor the left of the Conestoga Creek (River).

History and Significance (Item 39)

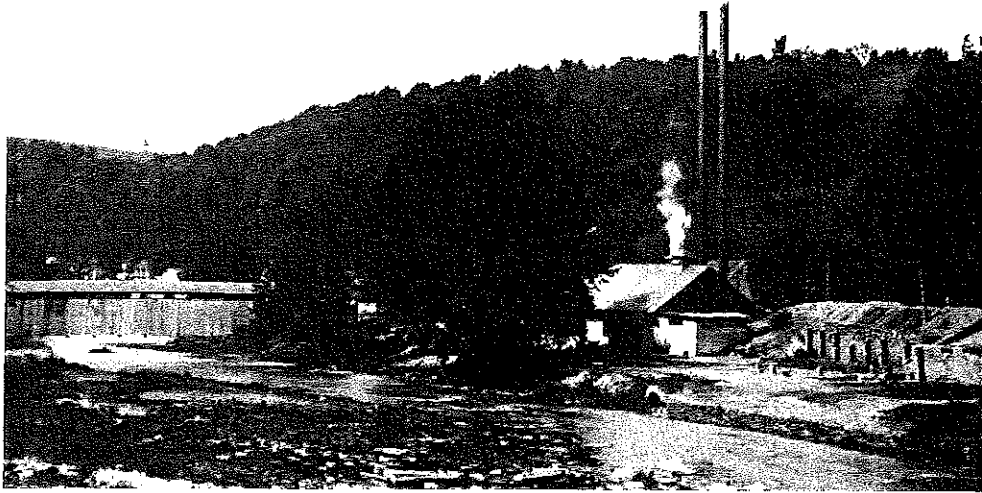
It is known that many of the "Puddler" iron workers were of Irish origin. For a time, this fostered a mixed rural industrial community at the Village of Safe Harbor within Conestoga Township from 1846 towards 1900. This mix involved by Irish-Roman Catholics and Anglo-Methodist and Pennsylvania German and Swiss origin workers. Specific to "Puddlers," the dangerous industrial operation is described as follows:

...at one side of the heath a "puddler" and a helper had access to the furnace through a small door. Among the workers' tools were long iron bars, hooks and tongs, which repeatedly had to be cooled in tubs of cold water as they were used. Through the door the helper loaded pigs [pig iron] into the hearth. In perhaps five minutes, some of the outer pigs turned red. The helper reopened the door and shifted them around so that all would be heated evenly. Within an hour, all the pig iron was white-hot and ready to melt. At this point the helper broke up the melting iron into pieces, stirring and mixing them all the while. The puddler then took over the stirring and working until the semi-molten, purified metal "came to nature" [crystallized] into balls some 12 to 15 inches in diameter. He had to manipulate them actively to prevent the whole mass of iron from forming a single giant lump. Meanwhile the iron remained hot and malleable because of the steady flow of heat from the fireplace.²³

The Safe Harbor Iron Works at the Village of Safe Harbor also included a Rolling Mill erected by 1848. But this was not the first Rolling Mill in Conestoga Township. It was preceded by the Colemanville Forge and Rolling Mill at the Village of Safe Harbor, which began 20 years earlier along Pequea Creek. It is briefly described as follows.

The Colemanville Forge, Rolling-Mill, and Slitting-Mill were built in 1828 by Edward Coleman (son of Robert) upon the old Martic Forge property, and about two miles farther down the Pequea Creek, in Conestoga township. For many years the specialty of these works was the manufacture of nails. Mark Hoopes managed these works for thirty years. The pig-iron they used was hauled in wagons from Elizabeth Furnace. The works were idle for some years until a recent date. The ownership has out of the Coleman family to Edward S. Davies. William J. Rutter is the manager. There are three forge fires, one run-out fire, and one hammer. The product is charcoal blooms for boiler-plate. Annual capacity, five hundred tons. The water-power is one of the finest in the State.²⁴

History and Significance (Item 39)



This grainy, late 19th-century postcard, provides an image of the Colemanville Forge and Rolling Mill colored in light yellow to the right, now gone, and the surviving historic Colemanville Covered Bridge colored in light red to the left, crossing Pequea Creek within the proposed Conestoga Township Rural Historic District.

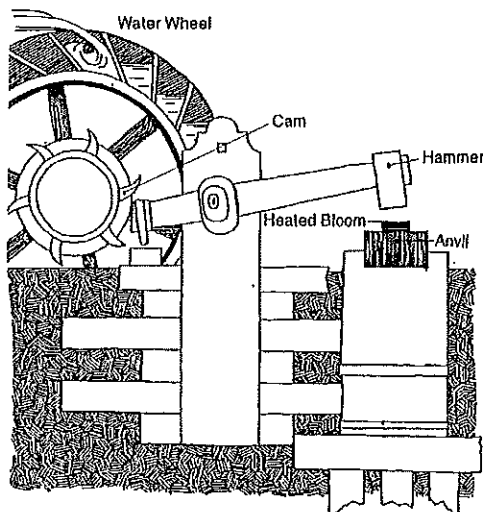


Fig. 1 Diagram of a forge trip hammer.

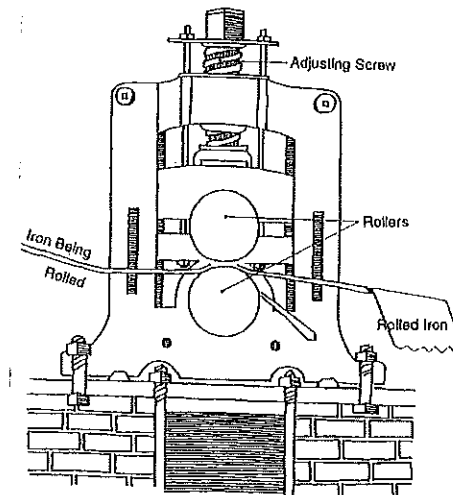


Fig. 10 Diagram of a set of rolling mill rolls.

The above illustrations portray the typical design and arrangement of a Forge Hammer and Rolling Mill Rolls, similar to those that would have been constructed and used at the Colemanville Forge and Rolling Mill, located along Pequea Creek, within the proposed Conestoga Township Rural Historic District. (source: Eggert, Gerald G., "The Iron Industry in Pennsylvania," pub. 1994)