

## THE BENJAMIN MUSSER HOME AND HOSPITAL

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In order that the results of my research be presented in a coherent and organized manner, I have divided this paper into several sections. The first is a brief introduction to the building. In the second and most lengthy section I will chronologically go through the history of the building, including any other historical information or events relevant to the building or its occupants. Also integrated into this section will be accounts of how I went about getting my information, and problems I encountered in the process. The third section is a description of the building, its plan and construction, and some of its particular features. The last part will include the footnotes and also a summary of the sources I used in my research.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Benjamin Musser House, so called after Dr. Benjamin Musser who lived there from about 1750 until the time of his death in 1820, is located in the farmland of Lancaster County, in Manor Township near Highville and Creswell, not far from the Susquehanna River. The earliest section of the house, probably built between 1747 and 1752 by Jacob Musser, father of Dr. Benjamin, is a typical early Germanic stone house. The later section of the house was added in the early nineteenth century by Dr. Benjamin Musser to be used as his hospital and is in keeping with the Germanic tradition, although with some changes. The house still stands today, in good condition and occupied, and is still surrounded by farmland.

## II. HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

I've had great difficulty in determining the very early history of this building, particularly in finding just when the land was purchased and when the building itself was erected. Varying sources and opinions suggested dates anywhere from

c. 1730 to c. 1750. The present owners had the Pa. state archaeologist and another person from the Historical and Museum Commission come to look at the building and estimate a date for its construction. They dated the earlier section of the building at about 1730 and the later addition at about 1820, apparently for reasons of construction technique and style.

These dates, as I later found, could not be correct. Although I could not find definite proof of its date of construction, I did discover that a man in Lancaster by the name of John J. Snyder, Jr., who has done much research on the architecture of Lancaster County and is descended from the Musser family, was a bit more successful in his research and was nearly certain about the dates of the building. In addition, I discovered an article in one of the Lancaster County Historical Society Journals (Vol. 42, pg. 17) on the history of Conestoga Manor (as Manor Twp. was once called<sup>1</sup>) which also points to a later date of construction than that given by the State.

Before discussing the construction date of the Musser house, however, I feel it is necessary to give some background information on the early history of the township and on who owned the land prior to the construction of the building.

In 1717 or 18 a warrant was issued by Hill, Norris, and Logan, agents of William Penn, directed to Jacob Taylor, Surveyer General, to survey the Manor of Conestoga, containing over 16,000 acres.<sup>2</sup> About this time were the first large movements of settlers into Lancaster County, many of them Swiss and German Mennonites (mostly farmers and millers) fleeing from their home countries because of religious persecution, and many of them settling in Conestoga Manor. The Conestoga Indians who lived on this land complained to the government about these white settlers. The Quaker government apparently had reasons for keeping on good terms with the Indians, so they ordered the settlers to leave this land, and then set it aside as land on which the Conestoga Indians could live and hunt.

As the years went by and other areas around Conestoga Manor



were settled and cultivated, the Manor was still, for the most part, barred from settlers. After Penn's death and when his three younger sons assumed control of the province in the 1730's, this Manor became their personal property. Although a few pieces of land were sold, most of the land was still barred from settlers. Squatters seeing this rich and uncultivated land, and settling on it, were soon ejected by the Penns and their cabins burned. In 1732 the Penns appointed John Emerson as an agent to prevent hunters from shooting game in the area, as well as to prevent other practices on the land.

The plan to reserve the Manor for Indian use only was soon forgotten. In 1735 a huge chunk of the land was sold and then resold to a group of Swiss farmers. From that time on the land became open to settlers and purchasers, many of the purchasers being residents of what is now Lancaster Twp. (As we shall see shortly, this is the case with the Musser land.) It is interesting to note that by holding off on the sale of this rich land, the Penns were able to sell the land for about 4 times the going price of land in neighboring and more settled areas! It is not until about 1755 that patents to any appreciable number were issued by the Penns for the farms purchased in Conestoga Manor, about 20 years after many of the purchases were actually made. As can be seen from the above brief history of early Manor Twp., it is very unlikely that the Benjamin Musser house could have been built as early as 1730, when the Penns were still forbidding settlers on the land.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, there is additional evidence suggesting that the house would not have been built before the late 1740's, as I shall soon make clear.

We have finally reached the point where I can begin to discuss the Musser family and their entrance into this story. This was probably the most confusing part of my research- getting the Musser geneology straight; there are literally hundreds of Mussers in Lancaster County, and it becomes quite confusing! Fortunately I met Mr. Edgar Musser, of Lancaster, who has done much research on the Musser family; without his valuable help I

would still be wondering how all these Mussers were related and which ones I needed to be concerned with for my paper.<sup>4</sup> I'll begin with John Musser (also known as Hans Moser, the Swiss and German spelling of the name), son of Benjamin Musser of Canton Berne in Switzerland. (not to be confused with the Benjamin who lived in the house presently under discussion!) John arrived in Philadelphia in 1727 on the ship "Molly". In 1734 he purchased a 318-acre tract of land in what is now the southeast quadrant of Lancaster City from John Eby, and in 1737 the land was patented to him.

We will now jump back to the Manor Township land and see where this John Musser enters into the picture. John purchased the tract of land in Manor Twp., on which the Musser house was later to be built, on April 24, 1744 from John Wistar, a Germantown merchant. It was purchased for 200 pounds and contained 167 acres, 3 perches, plus an allowance of 6 acres on the hundred for roads.<sup>5</sup> (See map entitled "John Musser's Land in Manor Twp.", pg.16, which indicates the neighboring tracts of land as well as the relative location of the land.<sup>6</sup>) It appears that John Wistar acquired the land on July 30, 1741, either from the Penns, as one source indicates<sup>7</sup>, or from a Henry Bossler as part of 500 acres surveyed to Bossler in the Manor in 1740.<sup>8</sup> The latter is probably correct. As can be seen on the map, this tract of land is directly north of the tract known as the "Indiantown" tract, the only part of the Manor that remained reserved for the Indians after Penn's sons began selling land in the Manor. (The "Indiantown" land will be discussed again later in this paper.)

So we know that John Musser owned the piece of land beginning in 1744. It is, of course, very unlikely that either Henry Bossler or John Wistar would have built on the land; Bossler owned the land only for about a year, and Wistar was from Philadelphia and also owned the land only for a short period of time. It also is unlikely that John Musser would have built on the land, as he had a house on his land in what is now the City of Lancaster (the house was built about 1738, razed in 1960) and



lived at that location. What, then, did he do with this land?

John Musser died in April, 1752, leaving his Manor Twp. land to his eldest son, Jacob. The deed for this transfer is dated March 1, 1752.<sup>9</sup> The value placed on the property at this time was 500 pounds, over twice the amount of the original purchase price, indicating a valuable building on the land. Since John Musser probably wouldn't have built the house, it is possible that his son Jacob began building it before the land was officially willed to him. This is probably the case, since Jacob's Marriage to Mary Hershey took place c. 1747. It is likely that at this time he would have begun to build the house; so the house (the original section, that is) was almost surely built circa 1747-1752 by Jacob Musser. The first extant tax records in Lancaster County are in the year of 1751; unfortunately all records from before this date were destroyed in a fire in the old courthouse. Jacob Musser's name does appear on the Manor Twp. tax record for that year; he paid the taxes on the land although his father still legally owned it, indicating that he was very probably living on the land in his newly built house.

Jacob Musser died soon after he built his new house (and at a very young age), in 1755. He willed half of his land to his son John (born 1748) and half to his son Benjamin (born 1749), soon to become the noted Dr. Benjamin Musser.<sup>10</sup> Benjamin's 83½ acre tract apparently was the half on which the house stood, although I do not know if the will specifically indicates this. In any case, Benjamin was the one who ended up living in the house, while John probably eventually built on his own land. (It must be remembered that these two sons were quite young at the time of their father's death.)

The Manor Twp. tax records for the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries are not always complete or readable. John's and Benjamin's names do not appear on the tax records until 1771, either because the part of the records containing their names has been lost, or possibly because they were so young and perhaps would have had the taxes listed in another person's name.

Their names appear regularly in the tax records after this date, with John sometimes listed as Jacob, probably just a matter of confusion. When the value of the land is indicated in the tax lists, Benjamin's land is always valued much higher, indicating that he owned the house. Both John and Benjamin are listed as farmers and as owning horses and cattle. It is not until the early nineteenth century that Benjamin is listed as a doctor.

Knowing that Benjamin inherited the house, we can just about disregard his brother John as irrelevant to this research. There is, however, one more incident eventually involving John. This concerns the fate of the Indiantown land. As mentioned earlier, this reservation was directly adjacent to the Musser land. It is also of interest as a site of much activity and excitement. Many important conferences were held there between the government and Indian chiefs of various tribes. Iroquois Indians often came there from long distances to trade with the governors of Pa. and other colonies. The biggest excitement, however, occurred in 1763 when a group of men known as the "Paxtang Boys" massacred many of the Indians living on the Indiantown land. The rest fled to Lancaster where they were put in the county jail for protection. The Paxtang Boys shortly struck again, breaking into the jail and killing the remaining Indians.<sup>11</sup> This must have caused quite a stir in the Manor, even though the neighbors were mere bystanders.

This left the Indiantown land free to be purchased. In volume 12 (pg. 175-77) of Lancaster Co. Historical Society Journals I discovered a letter dated February 8, 1781 from Charles Hall, local agent, to the General Assembly of Pa., in which he gives an account of confiscated estates that remain uncold in the county of Lancaster. He describes one of these estates as "a plantation in Manor Twp. called Indiantown land said to contain 500 acres, 2 log houses, and a barn...thought to be worth 20 pounds/acre." The "P.S." of the letter states: "John Musser is selling large quantities of locust post from the Indiantown land." Four years later John Musser bought this tract of



land (actually containing 414 acres) from Robert Morris of Philadelphia<sup>12</sup>, thereby increasing his acreage greatly. (See map, pg. 16.) The tax records of this time also indicate the additional 400 acres. John sold some of this land, including a small tract to his brother Benjamin shortly after acquiring the land.<sup>13</sup>

John Musser's purchase of the Indiantown land, although it appears to be irrelevant, actually did have an importance to me. Records of this purchase were quite misleading to me in my research, for the simple reason that this John Musser is not the same John Musser that purchased the land on which the Musser house stands; it is his grandson. Unfortunately I thought they were one and the same person, as did some of my sources! For example, a booklet put out in 1965 entitled "Guide to Penn's Manor of Conestoga" states in a paragraph about the Benjamin Musser house that "the Musser family came into possession of this farm, which was also part of the land reserved for the Conestoga Indians, soon after the extermination of the last of this tribe by the Paxtang Boys in 1763." This information is absolutely false, but it was not until quite late in my research that I finally discovered this and managed to straighten the matter out.<sup>14</sup>

I can now return to Benjamin Musser, who is really the most interesting occupant of the house. Benjamin married Barbara Engel in 1770, just about the time that his name appears for the first time in tax listings. To this first wife he had 6 children, but Barbara died at an early age. He was married again in 1784 to Magdalena Bossler.<sup>15</sup> To this wife he had 11 children. With 18 children it is no wonder that Benjamin built an addition onto his small home in the early 19th century!

From tax listings we know that Benjamin kept a farm, owned a few cattle and horses, and grew various types of grain. His will also mentions various farm animals, an orchard, the kinds of grain he grew (wheat, rye, and corn), etc. The inventory of Benjamin's possessions, made after his death, lists many farming tools and supplies. In addition, he is usually listed as a



farmer when the tax listings happen to list the occupations of the taxpayers. But what is interesting is that Benjamin also became a doctor, and that he was not a graduate of any medical school, nor did he receive any advanced education. Evidently he was quite well known as a doctor and surgeon in the area and had a very extensive practice.<sup>16</sup> According to local history, he was especially famous for his cure of "white swellings", whatever they might be, and for a salve used in the treatment of ulcers. The 1883 History of Lancaster County says that he "introduced many medical combinations still in use." Beginning in 1807 he is listed as a doctor in tax listings, but must have been practicing medicine well before this time (since he added a hospital addition to his house in that first decade of the century). The deed in which the property goes from Benjamin to his son Benjamin Jr. describes Benjamin as a "practitioner of physic and surgery."<sup>17</sup> His will also describes him as "Doctor of Physics." Benjamin was the first of a long line of Doctor Mussers (most of whom did graduate from medical school, however), many of whom practiced in Lancaster County.<sup>18</sup>

In 1800 Benjamin purchased some additional land from a neighbor, James Pratt. This transaction<sup>19</sup> involved 3 tracts of land of 30 acres each. It is also mentioned in Benjamin's will and in the deed in which the property is passed on to his son, and also is indicated in the tax listings. From the listings of other deeds (all in the early 19th century) I get the impression that Benjamin also bought some other small pieces of land from neighboring farms, as well as selling some pieces of his own land. This is also supported by information in the tax records; the number of acres owned by Benjamin varies from year to year.

Evidence of increased value in tax appraisals in addition to stylistic and structural evidence in the building itself indicate that Benjamin added the later section of the building during the first decade of the 1800's. (The project probably took several years.) The first floor of this addition consisted of a large room which was an office and apothecary shop, and of

3 small rooms which served as hospital rooms. The second floor would have served as additional space for Benjamin's very large family. Keeping a private hospital (and apothecary shop) in such a rural area and at such an early date was really quite unusual and innovative. But of course the floor plan and interior spaces of this hospital section were still rooted in the Germanic tradition.<sup>20</sup>

In 1815 the tax records in Lancaster County were much more detailed than usual (a property tax, I am told). This, of course, is after the addition of the hospital wing of Benjamin Musser's house. The building is described as a dwellinghouse of stone, 2 stories high. Also described is another dwellinghouse of stone, and a barn of stone, both located on this 80-acre tract of land, along with the main house. The record also states that Benjamin owned another farm having on it a house of wood and one small old barn of wood. This is very likely the farmland he acquired from James Pratt, as it is listed as containing 90 acres.<sup>21</sup> As to the additional stone house and barn on the main tract, however, I do not know when they were built. On a map of 1763<sup>22</sup>, 2 buildings are indicated on the Musser land; one of them is probably the barn. As to the date and purpose of the other stone house, I can only guess. In any case, it is not particularly important since that is not the house under investigation here. On an 1899 map of Manor Twp.<sup>23</sup> 3 buildings are indicated on the land, so the barn and second stone house must have still existed at that date. One of these still existed in 1947; the Lanc. Co. Historical Society has 2 photographs taken in that year, one of the Benjamin Musser House, and one of an outbuilding to the house. (See Xerox copies of these photos, pgs. 17 & 18.)

Benjamin Musser died in 1820.<sup>24</sup> In 1819 he wrote his will; also in that year the deed is recorded in which his property goes to his son Benjamin Jr. (born 1736 or 1791, according to differing sources). So the land actually went to his son before his death. In his will Benjamin leaves various items to his wife Magdalena, including<sup>25</sup> "one ten plate stove with the pipe



...beds and bedding...2 milk cows, 1 horse or a mare allowing her the choice among those of which I shall die possessed of, 2 fat hogs weighing at least 120 pounds each... full right, liberty and privilege to live and reside in and possess and enjoy the new dwellinghouse where we now reside with the kitchen and cellar belonging to and under the same and the new building attached thereto with the use and benefit of the part of the garden which we now occupy and also the right and privilege of the well and pump and of the water thereof... and full right and privilege also to take as many apples and cyder and other fruit in the orchard and other trees on my plantation yearly and every year when there is fruit on the premisses... and as much grain consisting of wheat rye and corn... a sum of \$156 lawful money of Pennsylvania to be paid yearly and every year." This passage reveals quite a bit about the house and surrounding property. He goes on to will his entire plantation, containing "106 acres more or less", to his son Benjamin Jr., and directs his son to pay the yearly sum to Magdalena. He also gives other instructions as to money distribution amongst his children and so forth, and concludes by saying that if Benjamin Jr. does not wish to take the plantation at the valued price and payments, then any of his other children can take it "in the same manner if he or she are willing to move here on the premises where my son Benjamin now lives and not to sell it. But in case it has to be sold, the money is to be equally divided amongst my children share and share alike."

Benjamin Jr. did take the plantation, and his name begins to appear on tax lists about this time. Whether Benjamin Jr. was a doctor or not, I do not know. He died at an early age according to two sources<sup>26</sup>, as early as 1824 according to one of them. His name appears on tax lists up until 1830. However, so the 1824 date is probably inaccurate. He must have died young though, as no Mussers appear on the tax lists after 1830. On a map of Manor Twp. of 1824, curiously enough, the name of Musser does not appear; the date of Benjamin Jr.'s death is unclear.

As to the occupants of the Benjamin Musser House after Benjamin Musser Jr. until about 1948, my information is very sketchy. This is partly due to the limited amount of time I was able to spend at the Lancaster County Courthouse tracing deeds, and also to the disorder of the courthouse- it is in the process of moving into a new building and is in quite a state of confusion. Given more time I could possibly trace the continuous chain of deeds.

I do not know who the property went to after Benjamin Jr.'s death, or whether or not it even stayed in the Musser family for a time. The next bit of information I have is not until 1864; a map of Manor Twp. at that time<sup>27</sup> indicates that a man by the name of J. S. Witmer owned the house and land. An 1875 map<sup>28</sup> indicates that John Frey owned it. I did manage to find a listing of a deed<sup>29</sup> in which a transaction is made from a Jacob S. Witmer to a Jacob F. Frey (perhaps related to John Frey) in Manor Twp.; this is very possibly the Benjamin Musser land. The deed is dated 1856, which does not agree with the 1864 map, but it was not actually recorded until 1874, accounting for the map discrepancy.

An 1899 map of Manor Twp.<sup>30</sup> indicates that John Frey still owned the property. The next deed I was able to locate was dated March 31, 1948<sup>31</sup> when the land (71 acres and 57.08 perches) passed from Enos K. and Clara S. Frey to Herman W. and Elizabeth L. Rannels. This deed mentions previous purchase from Mary Frey, Ruth Frey, John H. Frey, and John Frey Jr. (the order of purchase was unclear to me), so it appears that the house was in the hands of the Frey family for quite a number of years. The two 1947 photographs (mentioned earlier), then, were taken while the house was still in possession of the Freys.

The Rannels, then, acquired the house in 1948, but Herman Rannels died in 1952, leaving the house to his wife Elizabeth.<sup>32</sup> On September 15, 1955 the property (again 77 acres, 57.08 perches) was purchased by Oliver B. and Mildred B. Antes.<sup>33</sup> And on January 20, 1976 it went to H. H. Haverstick, Jr., the present



owner.<sup>34</sup> Sometime between 1948 and the present date the out-building shown in the 1947 photograph was destroyed; the only building now on the land is the Benjamin Musser House itself.

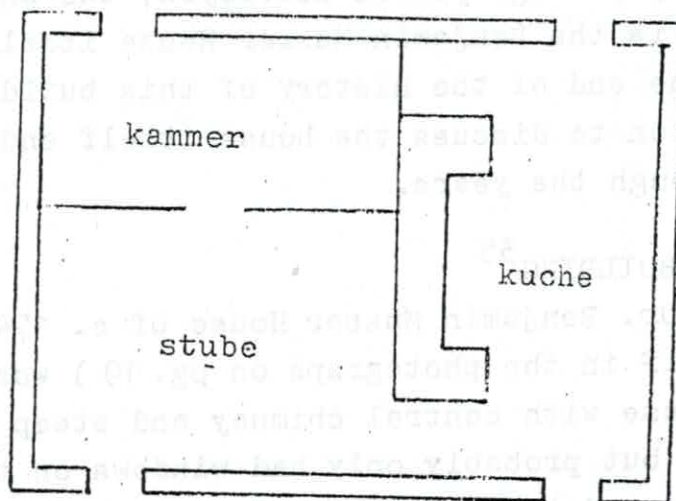
This brings us to the end of the history of this building thusfar. I shall now go on to discuss the house itself and the changes it underwent through the years.

### III. DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING<sup>35</sup>

The old part of the Dr. Benjamin Musser House of c. 1747-52 (the western end, left half in the photograph on pg. 19) was a typical Germanic stone house with central chimney and steep roof. It contained two stories, but probably only had windows on the first floor (except at the ends). The floor plan of this older section is the traditional Germanic type in which one enters into a large kitchen (kuche) with a walk-in fireplace (partly surviving). This kitchen extends the full depth of the house. The exposed ceiling beams running the length of the house can still be seen in this room. To the left was the most formal room of the house, called the "stube" in German- it was used as a sort of parlor. It was origionally heated by a stove feeding into the back of the adjoining walk-in fireplace; usually a 5-plate iron stove is found in houses of this type, but in Benjamin's will, as already noted, he mentions a 10-plate stove. Behind this parlor room was a somewhat smaller room, called the "kammer" in German. This was probably used primarily as a bedroom and was very likely unheated. The stairway leading to the second floor still exists; it is enclosed and winds upward from the inner back corner of the kitchen. The older section of the house also contains an attic which would have been used for storage.

The exterior stone work of the house is irregular; stones of rather random size were used, as can be seen in the two photographs on pg. 19. I do not know where the stone was obtained- probably it is just fieldstone. The original roof, of course, no longer exists- just what it was made of I am unsure.

A diagram of the typical 3-room Germanic floor plan appears below:<sup>36</sup>



It might be noted here that this original section of the Benjamin Musser House was very similar to the Hans Herr House in Lancaster County (built 1719). This is not surprising since John Musser's house (this is the John that came from Switzerland in 1727, Benjamin's grandfather) in Lancaster was also very similar to the Hans Herr House.<sup>37</sup>

The old section of the house also had a cellar entered from the exterior of the house. According to Benjamin's will a kitchen was also located under the house, although I did not notice any evidence of this kitchen in the cellar as it is today. The cellar is quite interesting for the vaulted ceiling (barrel vault) in one part of it. This vaulted room now contains the furnace, etc., but originally was used for storage of food and supplies. It has small niches in the walls (1 to 2 feet square), presumably used to keep certain food items cool. I am told that the Hans Herr House also has such a cellar although I've not seen it myself.

In the first decade of the 19th century the house was re-modeled (added on to) by Benjamin Musser. In the photograph on pg. 19 one can easily see the difference in the color of the newer stone. (The addition is the right-hand side of the building in this photo.) This addition was based on a slight var-



iation of the Germanic floor plan, again with a central chimney. The first floor contained a large room which served as an office and apothecary shop and had a large walk-in fireplace which still exists. Behind this room were 3 rooms, each with a window, which served as hospital rooms. The interior space of this floor has been changed since the time of this original floor plan, so that the division into 3 hospital rooms is no longer evident. Also originally there were two staircases leading up to the second floor in the new addition. The second floor served as additional bedroom space for Benjamin's very large family. The attic of the new section is interesting for 2 particular features. First, it has a second attic- one above the other. Secondly, it has a small plastered room which was used for storing grain; presumably this was to keep rodents out. Scribbled on an inside wall of this room is a list of grains harvested and stored there in 1838. Also in the attic are meat hooks, used for drying meat.

When the remodeling took place, some changes were also made in the older section. The pitch of the roof was changed to a less steep pitch. The line of change in the masonry on the west gable end can still be seen quite clearly. (See photograph, pg. 19 .) This allowed windows to be added in the second story front and back. The remaining windows were also made larger, as can be evidenced in the too-small and off-center arches over the windows of the west end. (See photo again.) The casement of one of the earlier and smaller windows can still be seen in place in the other original wall, in the attic, between the two sections of the house. Also changed in the original part of the house at the time of remodeling was the floorline of the attic, which was raised; the attic of the newer part has a lower floorline.

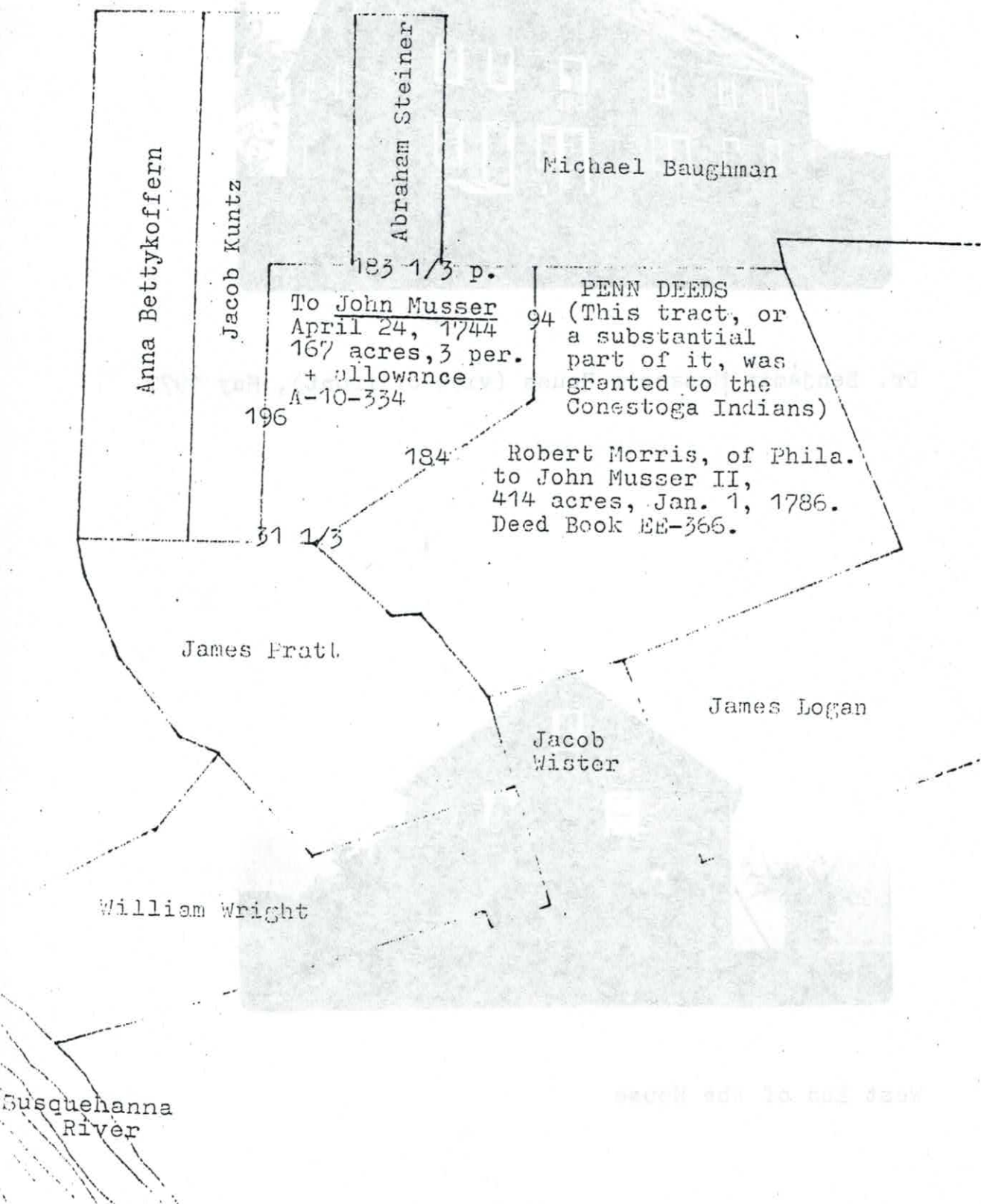
Most of the surviving woodwork remaining in the house (and there is much) dates from the time of the remodeling. Also from this time is an intact walnut corner cupboard with open shelves at the base.<sup>38</sup> One room on the second floor of the later section supposedly retains much of the original paint on the woodwork.

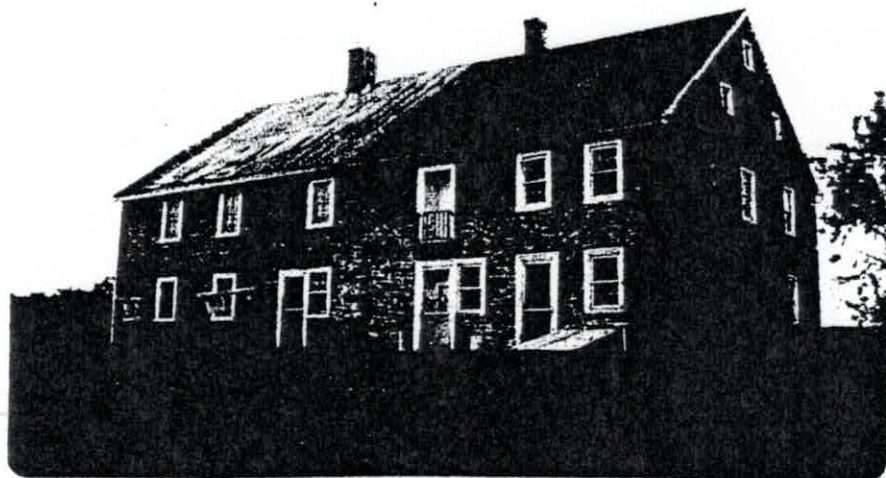
The prominent full door on the second floor of the addition (see photo, pg. 19; the door is now surrounded by a small iron railing) was probably intended for the purpose of raising heavy objects directly to the second story. It is an interesting but not unusual feature- remember that grains and other heavy provisions were stored in the attic, and an external second story door would have been useful. While on the subject of doors, I might make note of the number of doors in the 1st story front and back. The original part of the house had the usual (according to Germanic tradition) one door in front and one door in back, both leading into the kitchen. The later addition, in contrast, has 2 doors in the front and no doors in the back of the house. The windows, which are connected to 3 of the 4 doors in the house would not have been original; they were added at the time of remodeling or even later (I cannot be sure), probably to bring more light into the interior. It can also be noted that one of the front doors of the later section is a double "dutch door".

The 1947 photograph of the Musser House (pg. 17) reveals some further changes in the house, which took place at some time between the original construction and the time of the photo, and which were removed at some time between 1947 and the present. (Compare to the photo of the building as it now looks.) First is the porch which runs about three quarters of the length of the facade in the 1947 photo. If one looks closely at the photo of the present state of the house, the supporting stones for this porch can be seen just above the 1st story. Also in the 1947 photo is a third chimney, at the western end of the house; it no longer exists today. Other than these two features, the house as it stands today looks from the exterior just about the same as it did in 1947, and probably much the same as it looked at the time of Dr. Benjamin Musser's residence.

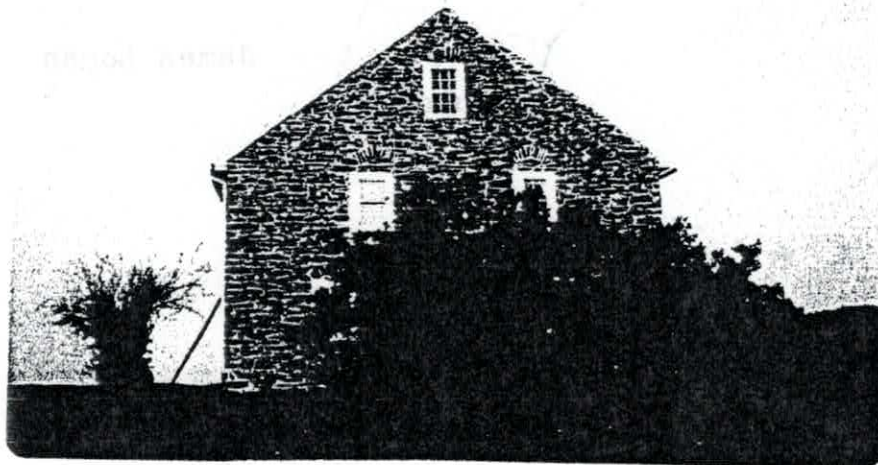


## JOHN MUSSEY'S LAND IN MANOR TWP.





Dr. Benjamin Musser's House (view of front), May 1977



West End of the House



## FOOTNOTES

1. The present Manor Twp. includes all of the original Manor of Conestoga as well as approximately 8,700 additional acres to the north.
2. Ellis and Evans, The History of Lancaster County, 1883. Also from the Lanc. Co. Historical Society Journal already cited.
3. It must be noted that this information on Conestoga Manor was acquired from the Lanc. Co. Hist. Soc. Journal already cited (written in 1938), and that I cannot be sure that all of it is accurate. From previous research, I know some of the other information in the article (information not discussed in this paper) to be true and some of it to be rather inaccurate, so it is likely that some of this information I have given may not be totally accurate.
4. It should be noted here that the Ellis and Evans book of 1883 is quite inaccurate as to Musser names and geneology. In addition to Edgar Musser's help, there is a file on the Mussers at the Lancaster Co. Historical Society which, although very jumbled and unorganized, was helpful in determining the line of geneology. Most of my information on the Mussers comes from either this file or from Edgar Musser's files.
5. Deed Book: A-10-334
6. From Edgar Musser's files.
7. Edgar Musser's files.
8. Same article in the L.C.H.S. Journals.
9. Deed Book: U-493 (?)
10. Deed Book: U-493 (?)
11. Most of this information on the Indiantown land comes from articles in the L.C.H.S. Journals and from Ellis and Evans.
12. Deed is dated Jan. 1, 1786. Deed Book: EE-366
13. Deed is dated April 22, 1786. Deed Book: EE-366
14. Edgar Musser, again, was largely responsible for setting me straight on this matter. At this point I think it may be useful to make an outline or sort of family tree of those Mussers with whom we are concerned in this paper:

I. John Musser-purchased the land in 1744, willed it to his son Jacob at the time of his death in 1752.

A. Jacob Musser-built the house, willed the land to his sons John and Benjamin at the time of his death in 1755.

1. John Musser-does not own the house. Purchased the Indiantown land in 1786.

2. Benjamin Musser-owns the house, adds an addition in the first decade of the 19th century, wills the house to his son Benjamin, Jr. at the time of his death in 1820.

15. Some sources differ on the names of Benjamin's wives; I have used those which occurred most often.

16. Ellis and Evans, whose information is not always accurate, say that Benjamin practiced in Lancaster as well as in the rural Manor Twp.

17. 1819, Deed Book: 16-602

18. Information on Benjamin's career as a doctor turned up in virtually all of the sources I used.

19. Deed Book: 1-3, pgs. 276, 281, 285.

20. Information in this paragraph comes from John Snyder.

21. Both of these farms plus the buildings located on them are valued at \$11,050.

22. Edgar Musser's files.

23. In an atlas of Lancaster Co. at the Lanc. Co. Hist. Soc.

24. There is a burial ground west of the house where Dr. Benjamin Musser, his first wife, and some of his children are buried.

25. Errors in spelling are not my own, but those occurring in the actual will!

26. Edgar Musser's files and the file on the Mussers at the Lanc. Co. Hist. Soc.

27. Bridgen's Atlas of Lanc. Co.- Lanc. Co. Hist. Soc.

28. -New Historical Atlas of Lanc. Co., Everts & Stewart- Lanc. Co. Hist. Soc.

29. Deed Book: L10-294. Note: I did not see the actual deed in this case, only a listing of it and its deed book number.

30. Atlas of Lanc. Co.

31. Deed Book: N39-125



32. Dated September 23, 1952, Deed Book: N42-22
33. Deed Book: H44-531
34. Deed Book: I67-96
35. Unfortunately this section is not as detailed and specific as I would like it to be. The house is occupied, so I only was able to spend a short time looking around inside. For most of my information in this section I must thank Scott Haverstick, who took me through the house and pointed out the most interesting features, and also John Snyder, who gave me much information concerning details. I also ought to note that since I wasn't able to look closely at all of these elements myself, there may be some slight inaccuracies in my description. Although I have only included 2 photographs with this paper, I do have additional slides of various details.
36. From Pennsylvania 1776.
37. A drawing of what this house looked like appears in The Mennonite Research Journal, April 1976, Vol. XVII, No. 2. It is smaller but very similar to the Hans Herr House.
38. I am taking John Snyder's word on this point. I do not remember seeing the corner cupboard during my visit to the house, but it very likely was there.

## SOURCES

1. Deeds & deed listings, located at the Lanc. Co. Courthouse.
2. Guide to Penn's Manor of Conestoga by Howard L. Feather, December 1965.
3. Scott Haverstick, son of present owners of the house.
4. History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania by Ellis and Evans, 1883.
5. Journals of the Lancaster Co. Historical Society.
6. Maps in atlases located at the Lanc. Co. Hist. Soc.
7. Edgar Musser, who has done much research on the Musser family.
8. The Musser file at the Lanc. Co. Hist. Soc.
9. Photographs (1947), located at the Lanc. Co. Hist. Soc.
10. John J. Snyder, Jr., who has done quite a bit of research on the house.
11. Tax listings, located at the Lanc. Co. Hist. Soc.
12. Wills, located at the Lanc. Co. Courthouse.

**Postscript by Alan S. Peterson, M.D.**

The story of finding this article and its author is an interesting one. I had read about the Musser home, now named "Conguegas", after a female leader of the Conestoga Indians who died in 1714. (See Footnote below). The previous article in this Publications section was written by Henry Wentz, MD, on the Doctors Musser in 1995. I thought Jack Brubaker (the Lancaster Newspaper "Scribbler") might write an article on it.

I attended a Circle Legacy meeting in Lancaster, also attended by Jack and Christine Brubaker, and was handed part of the article written in 1977 by Cynthia Cargas, at the time a student at Penn State.

Next I wanted to determine if I could find the entire article, but the author had moved to places unknown. After multiple searches on the web, as well as locally, I found Cynthia was living in Virginia. We started corresponding and she gave us permission to publish her article (that she had really forgotten about and had no copy of).

I attempted to find the two missing pages 17 and 18 from the original site the article had been resurrected from (The Historical Preservation Trust of Lancaster County). They say those missing pages are not to be found-- but did provide another article entitled The PA Historic Resource Survey of the Musser Home and Hospital, now placed later in this Publication section.

After the Scribbler wrote about this Musser home in the May 15, 2019 article (appearing next in this Publication section), the present Edward Hand Museum leaders along with Dr. Henry Wentz, his daughter, and Dr. and Mrs. Bowman were taken on a tour of the home and grounds (The annex to the home was added between 1800 and 1810 which included an apothecary and a "hospital".)

Presently it is owned and being restored by Pamela Lyons-Neville. She is doing so not only out of respect for its history (as one of the few remaining structures that stood in the area when the last of the Conestoga's were slaughtered by the Paxton Rangers in 1763), but she also as a descendant of the Musser physicians that built the home on the edge of the Conestoga's land. This is recognized by the Lancaster City and County Medical Society as the site of the oldest privately owned hospital in Lancaster County.

Footnote: Dr. Marlene Arnold of Millersville University adds the following: "Fourteen Quakers from Philadelphia visited the Conestoga Indians somewhere near there in 1706. The Conestoga's were already disgusted by these Europeans, even at that early date, and said that they did not want to receive the Quaker delegation. But an elder, a woman named Conguegas, said she saw the Quakers coming in a dream, and so she urged her people to meet with them, and so they did. The Quakers called her "Queen" Conguegas and expressed puzzlement that men would listen to a woman....."