

SOME OF THE EXPENSES IN THE FOUNDING
OF EASTON, PENNA.

The following documents which relate to the founding of Easton, Northampton county, Penna., are preserved in the Manuscript Division of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania: "Northampton County Papers," 80 vols.

The bond of William Parsons and John Jones to the executors of David Martin, for a tract of land and ferry opposite to Easton, was part of a grant and patent which Martin obtained in 1739, "with the privilege of keeping a ferry from the Pennsylvania shore to the upper end of an island called Tinicum, to a place in the county of Morris, West Jersey, called Marble Mountains." There is much of historical interest connected with this ferry in the days of the Province and Revolution, for it was one of the important crossings on the Delaware river for travellers between New York and the New England states and Philadelphia, and from authentic data preserved in the Moravian archives at Bethlehem, the following names of members of the Continental Congress; officers of the army and medical department; and British prisoners of war, who used this ferry, are gleaned: John Hancock, John Adams, George Taylor, Carter Braxton, wife and daughter; James Lowell, Lyman Hall, William Ellery, William Whipple, Philip Livingston, George Walton, William Duer, Henry Laurens, Richard Henry Lee, Louis Morris, and Titus Hosmer; Generals Gates, Stirling, Sullivan, Arnold, Glover, de Fermoy, Schuyler, Greene, Knox, Steuben, Pulaski, Conway, Ethan Allen, Maxwell and Armstrong; Doctors Ship-

pen, Morgan, Warren, Potts, Burnet; Baron Riedesel, wife and suite; Gen. William Phillips and Sir Patrick Houston. Lady Washington, returning from a visit to her husband, crossed June 14, 1779, and Gen. Washington, with two aides, July 26, 1782, *en route* to the Hudson. The sick and wounded who were transferred from the hospitals in New Jersey to Bethlehem, Lititz, and Yellow Springs; a part of the troops for Sullivan's expedition against the Indians of Western New York, and De Kalb's division of Washington's army which left Valley Forge, June 19, 1778, crossed here.

William Parsons, known as the founder of Easton, was a member of Franklin's Junta Club, and in 1743 was appointed Surveyor General of the Province, but resigned five years later owing to ill health. In 1752 the Proprietaries summoned him to repair to the site of the proposed seat of justice for the county, and accompanied by Nicholas Scull, the Surveyor General, they made the necessary surveys, lodging at Lefevre's tavern, on the Buskill creek. Parsons died at Easton in December of 1757.

John Jones, whose father immigrated from Wales, was born in 1714, in Merion, then in Philadelphia county. In 1749 he located in the vicinity of Bethlehem, where he followed his trade, that of a blacksmith, and in April of 1751, purchased of Patrick Graeme, of Philadelphia, a tract of 500 acres of land on the left bank of the Lehigh, touching the east line of the Moravian lands, where he died in June of 1781. It was in his house that a son of Indian Tatamy died from the effects of a gunshot wound he had received at the hands of a reckless boy in the Craig settlement, while on his way to Easton, with Tadeuskundt's Indians.

In December of 1752 it is estimated that there were eleven families living in Easton, some of whose names are represented in the account of expenses in clearing the streets and digging the town well.

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Know all men by these presents that We William Parsons of Easton in the County of Northampton and John Jones of Bethlehem in the said County Both of the province of Pensilvania are held and firmly bound unto Theoph^s Severns and Joseph Clayton both of Trenton in the County of Hunterdon and province of New Jersey Administrators to the Estate of David Martin Esq^r deceased in the Just and full sum of Eight hundred and Sixty Eight pounds Proclamation money to be paid to the said Theoph^s Severns and Joseph Clayton their or either of their Heirs Excers Admrs or Assigns for the which payment well and truely to be made and done We bind us or Heirs Excers and Admrs Jointly and Severaly firmly by these presents Sealed with our Seals and dated this first day of Agust in the Year One Thousand Seven hundred and fifty three 1753.

The condition of this Obligation is such that if the above bounden William Parsons and John Jones their Or Either of their Heirs Excers or Admrs do well and truely pay or cause to be paid unto the above named Theoph^s Severns and Joseph Clayton or their Heirs Excers Admrs or Assigns the Just and full sum of four hundred and thirty four pounds money Aforesaid on or before the first day of November next and that without fraud or further delay then this Obligation to be Void or Otherwise to Remain in full force and Virtue in Law

Signed Sealed & delivered }
 in the Presence of
 John Ford,
 Wm Godly.

W^m Parsons, [seal]
 John Jones. [seal]

10th August 1754 Received of the Receiver General the Sum of Four hundred Thirty four Pounds being the consideration money of the Land and Ferry bought at publick Vendue belonging to the late David Martin Rector at the Accademy. I say Received in full discharge of their Bond by order and on account of Theophilus Severns. Joseph Clayton Executors of the late Mr. Martin.

£485.00

Tho^s Barnes

Present:

Richard Peters
 William Mains

The Receiver General is to charge this to the Proprietaries general account of charges

R. Peters.

Account of Expences at Easton to William Parsons.

1752

Dr.

May 7 th	To travelling Expences from Philad ^a to Easton w th M ^r Scull viz ^t		
	At Abington	£0: 3: 0	
	At the Billett	0:14: 0	
	At Patrick Poes	0: 8: 0	
	At the Ferry	0: 2: 0	
	At John Lefever's	3:14: 0	£5: 1: 0

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14 th	To Cash paid Workmen for clearing the Streets at Easton viz ^t		
	To Jacob Bess	£0:10: 6	
	To George Reimell	0:10: 0	
	To Christian Miller	0:11: 0	
21 st	To Adam Mergell	0: 7: 6	
	To Henry Weidner	0: 6: 0	
	To George Reimell	0: 5: 0	
	To Philip Reimell	0: 9: 0	
	To W ^m Marks	0: 9: 0	
	To Albert Veltin	0:19: 0	
	To Conrad Veltin	0:12: 0	
	To Melchior Young	0: 6: 0	
	To Elias Detrick	0: 9: 0	
	To Sebastian Keiser	0: 6: 0	
	To Peter Best	0: 6: 0	
	To Jacob Cough	0:15: 0	
	To Barnard Walter	0: 9: 0	
	To Michael Blass	0: 9: 0	
	To Conrad Menger	0: 9: 0	
	To Christian Piper	1: 4: 0	
	To Philip Piper	0:18: 0	
	To Jacob Nierpass	0:16: 6	
	To Garret Snyder	0:10: 6	
	To Christian Miller	0: 6: 0	
	To Peter Hess	1: 2: 6	
	To Henry Hess	0:15: 0	
	To George Koon	1: 4: 0	
	To Anthony Ezer	0:19: 6	
	To Melchior Hay	0:19: 6	
	To W ^m Fulbert	0: 4: 0	
	To Philip Reimell	0: 3: 0	
	To George Reimell	0: 3: 0	
	To Isaac Lefever	0: 4: 6	
	To George Stengell	1: 1: 0	
	To Express to Minisink	0: 5: 0	
	To Conrad Mengass	0: 6: 0	
	To Lindorf, Piper & Ezer	4: 0: 8	
	To Expences when the Secretary was at Easton in order to eject the Setlers on the Dry Land viz ^t		
			£ s d
	To Cash p ^d Nicholas Best	1: 5: 0	
	To d ^o pd John Lefever	3:10: 0	
	To d ^o pd at Easton	0:12: 0	5: 7: 0

114 *Expenses in the Founding of Easton, Penna.*

To Cash paid on Acco^t of the Well viz^t:

To Paul Miller, his Acco ^t	£26: 7: 3
To Jaspar Scull, his Acco ^t	6:12: 9
To John Fricker, for Gun Powder	1:11: 6
To Nat Vernon, for d ^e	0:12: 0
To John Lefever, for d ^e	0: 6: 0
To Christian Moser, Mason	6:19: 2
To Godfrey Gruber, Mason	3: 0: 0
To John Guy, Labourer	1: 0:11
To Henry Koonsman, Miner	2:19: 6
To Michael Semer, for Stones & Labour	4: 6: 6
To George Stengell, Labourer & Miner	1: 7: 6
To Frederick Reitz, Mason	1:10: 0
To Elias Ledrick, carting Stones	1:15: 6
To Henry Rhone, Labourer	0:10: 9
To W ^m Lawrence, for Well Kerb and work at y ^e Frame	0:12: 0
To an Iron Handle, Gudge & Rings for the Windlass	0:12: 6
To a Rope &c	1: 3: 6
To Henry Richey, Labourer	0: 9: 0
	£96:14: 6

Cr.

1752

May 16 th By Cash of Mr. Peters at Easton	£7: 0: 0
By " pr. Mr. John Jones	23: 0: 0
By " of Mr. Peters in Philada ...	20: 0: 0
	£50: 0: 0
To Ballance	£46:14: 6

Errors excepted by me

W^m Parsons.

Mess^{rs} Hockley & Physick,

25 April 1753. I have perused the above Accounts and as the people engaged to raise twenty Pounds by Contribution towards the Well this is to be deducted and then the Ballance will be Twenty Six Pounds fourteen Shillings and Six pence which please to pay to Mr. Parsons

Richard Peters.

Reced the above Sum of twenty six pounds fourteen shillings & 6^d

pr. me

W^m Parsons.