A Few Facts in the History of Logstown.

(Abstract of Address of Dr. George P. Donehoo.)

The origin of the name "Logstown" is difficult to discover. It is probably due to the fact that large numbers of logs were left upon the flat after the floods in the Ohio River. The English name is certainly not a translation of any of the Indian names which may have been applied to the site. In fact I have been unable to discover any Indian name which was given to the village which was situated where we are now standing. Shenango has been mentioned as one of the probable Indian names, but this name, as thus applied, is probably due to the pronunciation of the name Chiningue', which is used by the French writers. Shenango is a corruption of Ochenango, a Seneca word meaning "large bull thistles." The river and city in New York state, Channango, perpetuates this Indian name, as does also the branch of the Beaver River, Shenango. Father Bonneumbs, who accompanied the expedition of Celoron DeBienville in 1749, states in his Journal of this expedition, "we call it (the Indian village at Logstown) "Chiningue', from its vicinity to a river of that name" (Jesuit Relations, LXIX, 183). Chiningué is the French word for "beaver," and the reference is to the Beaver River. Thwaites states that the Indian name of the place was Maughwawame (Wisconsin Historical Collections, XVIII., 42). The speaker has not been able to find such a name as applied to this site, in any of the records, letters or journals of the period. It was one of the names applied to the site of Wyoming, and of which Wyoming is a corruption. Its significance, "great plains," or "great meadows," might well have been applied to the site of Logstown. The great majority of the early Shawnee villages were upon great plains or meadows. There is a striking resemblance in the topography of all of the Shawnee village sites from those on the Potomac River, to those upon the Susquehanna and Ohio. This is especially true of
the sites chosen by the Assiwikale clan of the Shawnee. That Logstown was first occupied within historic times by the members of this Clan seems probable. The present Sewickley is a corruption of this Clan name.

The site was first occupied within historic times by the Shawnee, who came westward from the Susquehanna with Peter Chartier in 1725-7. There is a probability that the upper Ohio was occupied by the Shawnee in pre-historic times, and that the Indian Mounds at McKees Rocks and at various other places in Western Pennsylvania were the works of these ancestors of the historic Shawnee. The tradition given by David Zeisberger in his "History of the Northern American Indians" (pages 32-33) may be more than mere tradition. In fact, it is generally believed by archaeologists that the earliest occupation of the Allegheny and upper Ohio was by the Cherokee, or Talligewi, or Alligewi. One of the earliest names for the present Ohio River, and the name by which the present Allegheny River is known, was Allegawi Sipu, or "river of the Alligewi," or to give the uncorrupted tribal name, "river of the Cherokee." It seems truly a romance of history that this region in which we are now standing was once occupied by some of the most historic tribes of the Red Men, and it is one of the great pities of history that the remains of these early occupations were entirely destroyed before they had been scientifically studied. Traditions dealing with the dim period before this region entered into the realm of written history are the most interesting in American ethnology. There are traditions of great conflicts between the Delaware and the Cherokee, in which the latter were driven from this region to the "Cherokee River" to the southward. This river to which they were driven is the present Tennessee River. One of the greatest conflicts in this struggle took place upon the island, where the government of the United States is to build the plant where great guns are to be made to drive modern savagery from the face of the earth. Does it not seem strange that here along these waters of the "Beautiful River" where Cherokee and Delaware once fought for supremacy, and where France and Great Britain fought for
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dominion, today we should be making munitions of war to carry across the "Great Water" to fight in union with the soldiers of France and Great Britain against savagery and barbarism as cruel as that which once stained the waters of this river with blood.

It is a pity that this most interesting region was covered by cities and railroads, which lie upon the very pathways of these aboriginal peoples, before men awakened to an interest in the remains which these people left behind them. Today it is almost impossible to study the archaeology of the upper Ohio Valley because all of the sites of real importance are covered with cities, mills, railroads and other evidences of a growing civilization. The latter are of more value, but the former are of more real historical interest. Many of the archaeological problems concerning the early occupation of eastern Pennsylvania and western New York would be nearer solution if the archaeology of the upper Ohio would disclose its secrets. Several of the most prominent archaeologists in this country are inclined to accept the theory of the northward migration of the Iroquois and Algonkian tribes. If this be true, and there seems to be no reason to doubt it, then the Ohio River was the pathway by which some of these tribes reached their historic habitats. A study of the entire course of the river from its sources in the mountains of Pennsylvania, to the mouth of the Mississippi River at the Gulf of Mexico, is necessary. One fact is certain, and that is that the culture of the Indian tribes from the mouth of the Ohio River to the headwaters becomes more and more primitive as one goes northward away from the centre of dispersion. The early tribes occupying this region were on the outskirts of the Indian development. They were immigrants, who had left behind them the developed arts of their racial groups. But, all of these statements are purely theoretic. As yet there are few facts to support any of them. The facts may be found some day, when more is known of the archaeology of the upper Ohio, the Allegheny and the Susquehanna valleys.

The historical period of this region has been so completely covered by Congressman Temple, that little remains
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to be said about it. Logstown became an historic place when the rival traders of France and Great Britain entered the region. That it had not been occupied very long before this period by the historic Indians, is stated in the Journal of Father Bonnecamps (1749). He says, "The village of Chiningue' is quite new; it is hardly more than five or six years since it was established." (Jesuit Relations, LXIX., 183). It seems probable, as previously stated, that some of the band of Shawnee, under Peter Chartier, who reached the Ohio region in about 1731, after leaving "Chartier's Old Town," settled at the site of Logstown. When Chartier fled down the Ohio in 1745, taking with him a number of Shawnee, quite a number of his tribe remained on the upper Ohio, probably at Logstown. We know that the Shawnee migrated to the Ohio before the migration of the Delaware commenced. Every effort was made by the Provincial Council, as well as by the Iroquois Confederation, to have the Shawnee returned to the Susquehanna. All of these efforts were fruitless, and in a short time the Delaware commenced to follow their "cousins" to the Ohio, to escape the debauchery of the rum traffic and to get beyond the control of their Iroquois masters. The migration of the Shawnee and the Delaware to the Ohio led to the development of the Indian trade—the trader followed the Indian wherever he went. It was not long until the traders of Pennsylvania and Virginia became keen rivals for the trade on the Ohio. The conquest of the Ohio was as much a struggle between Pennsylvania and Virginia, as it was a struggle between France and Great Britain. In fact all of the earliest movements in the direction of actual possession of the Ohio region were taken by Virginia. Conrad Weiser's mission in 1748 was the first actual official mission of the English speaking people to the Indians west of the mountains. But Virginia, through the mission of Christopher Gist in 1750 and Washington's mission in 1753, and the building of the fort at "the Forks" by Edward Ward, took measures to gain actual possession of the region of the Ohio. These measures led to the conflict at the "Great Meadows" and to the struggle between France and Great Britain. It is doubtful whether this conflict would
have ever started on the Ohio, had the initiative been left to the Province of Pennsylvania, with its Quaker Assembly and influence. However much we may laugh at some of the verbal efforts of the bluff old governor of Virginia, one thing is certain about him, and that is that he did not spend all of his time in idle letter-writing. While he was waiting to hear "from home," he started things moving. And, another thing which he did for which we can be thankful, he discovered George Washington and started him on his way to immortal fame and he started a nation on its pathway to the Marne.

I will not dwell upon any of these historic missions which Congressman Temple has covered in his address. We must bear in mind that the Colony of Virginia claimed this region, not only because of the King's Charter to the Ohio Company, but also according to the terms of the Treaty of Lancaster of 1744, by which the Iroquois sold to Virginia the lands "to the setting sun." This phrase came up for discussion at several councils with the Indians, who explained that they meant the lands to the top of the mountain ridges below which the sun set. Virginia understood it literally, and acted accordingly. In 1751 Governor Dinwiddie appointed James Patton, Joshua Fry and Lunsford Lomaz as Commissioners to the Indians at Logstown. They arrived at Logstown on May 31, 1752, and held various conferences with the Indians. On June 13th, the Commissioners had the Indian chiefs sign a ratification of the Treaty of Lancaster (1744), allowing the English to form settlements on the south and east side of the Ohio River. But, at the same time the Indians denied the English claim to any lands on the western side of the mountains. The mission of Christopher Gist and George Washington in 1753 had as its purpose the holding of these lands for the "Ohio Company," and to enforce this claim, not only against France, but also against Pennsylvania. This most unfortunate lack of harmony between the plans of the two great colonies of Pennsylvania and Virginia was one of the chief causes of the disasters which came to the attempted settlement of western Pennsylvania. "The Virginia Dispute" was one of the most unfortunate incidents in the early history of this entire region.
It was at the foundation of nearly all of the troubles with the Indians, after the new nation had been born.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I hope that some of the historic events which have taken place upon this ground, where the real struggle for the "winning of the west" had its commencement, may lead us to a realization of how important those events are for all time. Within a radius of fifty miles, or slightly more, of this place, occurred the first actual clash of arms of the French and Indian War, the battle at Fort Necessity, the defeat of General Braddock, the capture of Fort Duquesne, and thrilling events almost without number in the border wars. The young man who came to meet with the Indians at this place, received his training as a soldier within this region west of the mountain ridge, where he had his first baptism of fire. Fort Necessity was his starting point on the way to Brandywine and Valley Forge, and to his place beside the Immortals of the World.

In these days, when this nation is engaged in the greatest conflict of all time, let us remember these historic events which have made this nation possible. Without George Washington and the heroic pioneers of human liberty who followed him as he blazed the trail, this Great War never could have been possible. Savagery and barbarism would have remained triumphant. The Liberty Bell would never have rung out its message, which today is re-echoed in the cannon thunders on the Marne.

And, let us be inspired by the thought which comes to us as we remember that the three flags which have flown over the waters of this river, once as flags of hostile forces, are today leading the hosts of human liberty in the struggle of the ages. On this spot was flown to the breezes of a summer day the flag of Great Britain. Then came the Royal banner of the French kingdom, and then "The Star Spangled Banner." These banners today are at the head of the Allied armies as they press onward to the victory which must come.