

13th HISTORICAL TOUR
of the
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH (SUMMER SESSION)
and
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
to
FORT NECESSITY AND MOUNTAIN LAKE PARK
Saturday, July 24, 1954

The weather smiled on our 13th Historical Tour which took place on Saturday, July 24th, 1954. Skies were clear and the air comfortably cool as dozens of cars converged on the Summit Hotel, Fayette County. This was the focal point for meeting before a delightful lunch and here a spacious dining room, overlooking the mountains, offered a pleasing setting and comfortable sitting for introductory addresses.

Before the end of the day, all who were interested in such matters (and it included practically everyone) had a distinct feeling that George Washington must have been in the neighborhood at some period in history. Perhaps it is an understatement to say his name was mentioned a number of times by both speakers and markers.

This tour had as its objectives the site of Jumonville's defeat by Washington, Braddock's grave, the Washington Tavern and Museum, the battlefield of Great Meadows and Fort Necessity, a portion of Braddock's Road, a trip to Ohiole (a scenic spot on the upper Youghiogheny) and a trip to Mountain Lake Hotel near Oakland, Maryland, where, after a turkey dinner and an evening program, most of the entourage spent the night.

The guests at the luncheon numbered 230. This appears to have been a record for the tours to date and as if attributing this success to association with food, the instrument for convocation for the rest of the day was a dinner bell.

SUMMIT HOTEL LUNCHEON

The guests sat down at 12 noon and, thanks to Mr. Sam Stewart and Miss K. Harrington, a delicious cold luncheon was served with efficiency and expedition.

The master of ceremonies was Dr. Viers W. Adams, Director of Summer Session of the University of Pittsburgh, who at once expressed the pleasure of the committee on arrangements at the size of the gathering for the tour. By way of introduction he then recognized, by name, the officers, trustees and staff of The Historical Society of Western

Pennsylvania and the professional staff of the University of Pittsburgh as well as certain noteworthy guests. Among the latter were Buell B. Whitehill, attorney of Uniontown and President of the Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society; John P. Cowan, newspaper man who after 37 years is the sole surviving member of the small group which founded "The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine" he had attended the Sesquicentennial celebration at Fort Necessity in 1904 and as an authority on George Washington has done eminent related publicity in Virginia; and Dr. Philip S. Klein, head of the department of history at State University, one of our long distance attendants. Mrs. Agnes Starrett of the University of Pittsburgh Press was also introduced and, holding a copy of the newly printed "Traveler's Guide to Historic Western Pennsylvania" by Mrs. Lois Mulkearn and Edwin Pugh, gave it enthusiastic endorsement. Later this book met with ready sale.

We make no attempt to list the "Who's Who" of our many faithful attendants and distinguished guests but it is impressive if you care to see it at the Society building.

Mr. Adams introduced Mr. Edward Crump a former president of the Historical Society and now vice president. He had just qualified as one of the three persons present who had attended every tour (Mr. Belfour and Mrs. Starrett were the others). He properly claimed the title of "Summer President" in the absence of President Charles A. McClintock who was "melding" certain trust companies at home and could not leave. In his stead Mr. Crump extended felicitations to all "Tourists."

Mr. Stanton Belfour was recognized and rose to pay high tribute, first to the late Richard Rauh one of our devoted trustees who had died within the month and secondly to the late Dr. Frank W. Shockley of the University of Pittsburgh who had early given planning and vision for these annual Historical tours, and had made funds available. He had been responsible for the original arrangements and since his death, subsequent to the previous tour, "his boys," as he termed them, are now carrying on. Mr. Belfour then paid tribute to Dr. John W. Oliver who was able to come but had been prevented from attending. He, like Dr. Shockley, had assisted in planning the tours and had brought the views of the Middle West and also Eastern practice to them, and it was a matter of regret that he could not be with us.

The main speaker of the tour was then introduced, Dr. William Blake Hindman otherwise known as Mr. "Fort Necessity." He expressed the wish that all could have been present at their recent Bicentennial Celebration three weeks earlier. He described the attendants from the British, French and Canadian embassies; the high ranking officers of the military forces, the senators, congressmen and other notables. A feature was the attendance of the United States Army Band, and a fly over of the 112th Bomber Wing. A thrilling event was the entrance of 100 men from Virginia dressed in accurate reproduction of the original Colonial uniforms, accompanied by men of the 110th Regiment to make the same number as Washington had in 1754. They marched on the field from the old Braddock road and passed in review before General of the Army, George C. Marshall, and other high ranking officers.

Dr. Hindman then outlined his activities and problems in stirring up interest in the site, originally, and the steps by which he arrived at what he regards as the truth about the Jumonville affair and the battle. These accounts have been reproduced in programs and brochures as indicated elsewhere, but the Historical Society has a complete, unedited transcription of Dr. Hindman's address, as recorded by tape, which is available for use by researchers or others interested.

JUMONVILLE'S RAVINE

After Dr. Hindman's address at the luncheon the historians entered their cars and, following the road directly opposite Summit Hotel, drove 3 miles north to the place made famous as the site of the first armed clash which in time led to wars which followed. It might easily be described as, a hole in the ground in a forest. Dr. Hindman, standing in front of a marker on the ground above, called attention to the wording which described the action as a "skirmish" and not a "battle" as a former marker had stated (written by Albert Bushness Hart). He referred to the fact that there were no less than six different accounts of how Jumonville was supposed to have been shot and it is probable he was not shot at all but was dispatched by the tomahawk of the Half King. He also observed that it was unlikely that Jumonville with a rank equivalent to a second lieutenant was in command but rather La Force, for the latter with 20 men surrendered (May 28, 1754) to Washington and they were taken to Williamsburg (June 10, 1754). Dr. Hindman char-

acterized the early reports of the "assassination" of Jumonville as French propaganda adding that only now has Washington been cleared of culpability.

BRADDOCK'S GRAVE

About 3:06 P. M. the caravan halted on Route 40 beside the road directly opposite Braddock's grave. This is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the Summit Hotel. Here Dr. Carroll F. Reynolds introduced Dr. Russell Ferguson of the University of Pittsburgh History Department who, standing beside the grave, spoke briefly of the site and Braddock. It was here that the old military road crossed what is today Route 40 or the old National Pike, and 100 feet north is the supposed site of Braddock's first burial.

Dr. Ferguson said that in 1754 the Colonies for the first time played together and Braddock, fitful and impatient, if not arrogant, led his troops to attack the French. En route he had camped not far from that spot. As he approached Fort Duquesne he was surprised, attacked and defeated near the site of the railroad station in the modern town of Braddock Pennsylvania. (Dr. Ferguson commended a vivid account of the battle as contained in Baldwin's *Story of a City* and or Freeman's *Life of Washington*). Braddock was shot through his arm during the battle, the bullet lodging in his lung and on July 13th, 1755, he died as a result of this wound. Washington read the Anglican service over his remains next morning and he was buried on the east bank of a small stream. In 1804, workmen repairing the road excavated the grave of an important officer and there is a high degree of probability that the remains found there were those of Braddock. They were reburied on the spot behind the speaker. One hundred years transpired before a fitting marker indicated the end of the road for Braddock after the disaster. His expedition proved fruitless and only served to lower the opinion held by the Colonial volunteer troops for "regulars."

Most military men would prefer not to live beyond such a disaster and it is probable that he never suspected he would be buried on such a hallowed spot.

FORT NECESSITY

The cavalcade again took to the road proceeding about two miles further east, where some stopped at the Commonwealth's Fort Necessity Museum by the side of the road, while others went directly to Fort

Necessity just south of the road. The site was gay with flags flying on tall poles against a clear sky, and the unfamiliarity of two, the Tricolor of France and the British flag, gave pointed emphasis to the occasion.

Dr. Hindman, speaking again, explained that on the 24th of May 1754 Washington with 150 men had cleared the meadow and built the fort after his skirmish, anticipating an attack by a superior force. A log cabin was constructed inside this "palisado'd fort" for the protection of stores. This was completed June 1st and two days later Washington wrote to Gov. Dinwiddie, that even with small numbers "I shall not fear the attack of 500 men."

This fort, as originally reconstructed in 1832, was four sided but in April 1953 having been tipped off by a study of the deposition of one, John Shaw, contained in the Journal of Council (of South Carolina) January 1, 1755, the archeologists renewed their search and discovered evidence that the fort had been *round* and much smaller than supposed; as the original reconstruction had followed the lines of the *trenches* outside the stockade.

Today's reconstruction is regarded as accurate. This work was done by the National Park Service and was completed this year. The park consisting of 312 acres is Federally owned by the National Park Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior and its care and that of the museum are under the U. S. Department of Forests and Waters. A splendid account of the battle of Fort Necessity is to be found in National Park Service Historical Handbook, Series No. 19, price twenty-five cents, and also in the Souvenir Program of the Bicentennial Celebration at Fort Necessity on July 3rd and 4th, 1954, written by Dr. William B. Hindman (also 25c) under the caption "The Great Meadows Campaign." Both of these pamphlets were available at the Museum and may still be available there.

At 4:10 P. M. Mrs. Preston Martin, Curator of the Fort Necessity Museum assembled the crowd returning from the fort on the slope behind the Museum. She held in her hand the photostatic copies of the deposition of John Shaw, referred to above, and stated briefly that they were available for study and were of special interest as having inspired the search which changed the form of the reconstructed fort. She had moved a large spinning wheel from the museum and gave a most interesting outdoor demonstration of the steps involved in carding and spin-

ning woolen yarn, using wool which had already been washed to remove its oil. In the meantime most of the tourists had visited the museum to study the many specimens of shells, buttons, bullets, bones, Indian artifacts and colonial furniture on display.

OHIOPYLE

With Ohiopyle as the next objective the cars proceeded only a short distance, before turning northeast on Route 381. This road, about 6 miles in length, brought us to the falls of the Youghiogheny River. Mr. Belfour introduced Dr. Graham Netting, Director of Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, who addressed us from the flat area overlooking the water. (Incidentally, it was remarked that this was Dr. Netting's wedding anniversary which may have involved something in the nature of another surrender, but might also be regarded as a form of victory.) He explained that Washington had visited this water, for he was interested in its navigation as a gateway to the Ohio, and while it is the largest falls in Pennsylvania, carrying water, in the spring, from bank to bank, Washington in May 1754 gave up the idea of its use because the ground was too rough and the water too swift. Your recorder may not have heard correctly due to the roar of the falls, but the explanation as to the derivation of the name from Indian sounded like "Oh! Who? Hi Kelly," meaning the "cross of the mountain." In 1951 the Western Pennsylvania Conservatory with the aid of a Philadelphia philanthropist leased 100 acres known as the "Peninsula" with the idea of developing it as a natural rather than amusement park. At one time ('80-'90) it was one of the most popular places in Pennsylvania for recreation and a canopy covered a walk from the B&O Station to the hotel. In the spring it is magnificent with wild flowers and more than 30 southern plants are now growing there. There is no other state park south of Pittsburgh. The only source of revenue for the management is a parking charge of twenty-five cents, good all day, and the audience was given a cordial welcome to return with their cars.

(Note: A young man, who had no connection with our party was swept over the falls and drowned shortly after this. Maybe he was considerate in delaying his ill advised wading above the falls until after we had left.)

OAKLAND, MARYLAND

The motor cars returned to Route 40 about 5:30 P. M. and con-

tinued 13 miles east turning south into Maryland at Keyzers Ridge on Route 219 adding 24 miles more, to Oakland, Maryland. This is in Garrett County, that peculiar little triangular section of Maryland surrounded on three sides by West Virginia.

The Mountain Lake Hotel lies a mile east of Oakland and while some of our tourists were quartered in the William James Hotel, the Oak-Land Motel, and various homes, the Mountain Lake Hotel was our headquarters. It is a summer hotel, long familiar to Pittsburghers and the park was at one time the second Chautauqua of the country and the scene of choral competition in the days of Harvey Gaul. The hotel is now owned and under the management of Mrs. William Grimes, widow of a former Pittsburgh attorney, and Mrs. Lillian Davis. It is old but clean and comfortable and the elevation made blankets desirable, we were pleased to discover later. The evening dinner featured Garrett County turkey. There were 123 reservations from our party and some 30 local people joined us for dinner and entertainment. We were only about 45 minutes behind schedule and that fact had been telephoned before leaving Fort Necessity.

Mr. Jesse Walker, retiring president of the Garrett County Historical Society presided after dinner and extended a cordial greeting to us. He then introduced Miss Edith Brock, newly elected president of the society, who made a most pleasing presentation to Mr. Holbrook, our librarian. It consisted of a set of the first magazines published by the Garrett County Historical Society, known as "The Glades Star," beginning with the issue of July 2, 1941, and comprising 43 issues. Mr. Holbrook accepted them for the Society in a gracious little speech and said they would be filed with other similar records. The presiding officer then called upon the Director of the Historical Society who said that the men responsible for the tour had quickly recognized they would be among cooperative friends in Oakland and had been greatly pleased, not only with their hospitality but with the fine spirit with which all had extended it. He thanked Mr. Felix A. Robinson for his cooperation and commended the publication "Tableland Trails," of which he is editor, to all present.

Mr. Robinson expressed appreciation that the tour had been routed to Oakland and hoped we would return. Mr. Robinson then by way of entertainment read extracts from an early hunting classic "The Story

of Meschach Browning the Hunter" who for 40 years had roamed that area and had meticulously set down his experiences and his game record.

Mr. Robinson, his wife and daughter then went to the piano and, playing their own accompaniment, sang a tuneful, haunting pastoral, the music of which had been written by Mr. Robinson, himself, entitled, "The Glades of Garrett." After two verses the audience joined in and were quite pleased with their own rendition, which of course was a tribute to the writer of the song.

The next feature on the program, as anticipated, was a pleasing variation from a lot of history. It was under the direction of Joe Blundon of Keyser, West Virginia, a neighboring town, and consisted of a thirty minute program by the Allegany Square Dance Club. A space was quickly cleared in the dining room and to the music of a record, eight couples came gliding into the room as smoothly as a milk snake entering a pasture. Using three different callers the dancers went through a series of square figures in six dances from Germany, New England, Colorado and Garrett County, Maryland. Their performance had a freshness and enthusiasm which every stage manager seeks. There was nothing theatrical about it but there was just a touch of the rustic in the dress. On the call to "swing your partners don't be shy" it was obvious that "toreadors" had given place to ruffles, and on instruction to "kiss the caller" the nearest girl fell out, in compliance, without missing a beat. At times they shook the hotel and at others the pace could only be maintained by the unbounded energy of youth. Some of the calling was routine but at times the figures were called without reason to expect them. It pleased and interested everyone.

On the seventh dance the audience was invited to participate and by that time everyone had steam up and felt they were very young and a few shoes came off. We had been assured by the chief caller that the dance was so simple that even stupid people could not go wrong, but what happened was part of Garrett County education, however the caller was most patient and presently with the help of a few of his team we may not have done "pretty" but we had a lot of fun. Some found they were not as young as they thought. The Square Dance Club then took over for the last number and as they were short of a few gals the men selected a few of ours, who had just come off the floor, and we were "right proud" of their performance. This was the end of the tour.

The group was ready to retire and did.

After a breakfast of sausage and buckwheats the various tourists separated. Some were observed at Friendship Hill and others were attracted by the waters of Deep Creek which was dammed in 1952 and now offers 88 miles of shore line and an extensive surface for motor boating.

This seems to have been our largest tour and some have said it was our best. It is the opinion of your recorder that all will want to go on next year's tour. If the credit for planning and execution is to be placed, it should be accorded to Messrs. Stanton Belfour, Viers Adams and Carroll Reynolds.

(This report is the result of consolidated accounts submitted by a committee on modern history without benefit of doctorates.)