

## SOME PIONEERS AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

MARGARET PEARSON BOTHWELL

**W**ESTERN Pennsylvania land tells some startling stories through official records. A recorded deed of historical significance reveals that the heroic, amazing Irishman, George Croghan,<sup>1</sup> drew his last breath at his Croghan Hall plantation near the Allegheny river in the Pittsburgh area. This will be surprising news to those who have read through the years in various publications, that he died at his residence in Passyunk near Philadelphia. The revelation that George Croghan died in the Pittsburgh area is contained in a deed<sup>2</sup> which was executed in 1788 by one of Croghan's friends, Henry Heth,<sup>3</sup>

---

Mrs. Margaret P. Bothwell, member of the Board of Editors of THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE and a former business woman, has contributed the following articles to previous issues of the magazine: "The Astonishing Croghans"; "Edward Ward, Trail Blazing Pioneer"; and "Incline Planes and People; Some Past and Present Ones."—Editor

- 1 Readers who are not familiar with Croghan's career will find a brief sketch of it in the *Concise Dictionary of American Biography* (Charles Scribner's Sons, N. Y., 1964). Readers who wish more facts regarding Croghan should refer to *Index to the Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*; to *Penna. Archives; Colonial Archives; The Papers of Sir William Johnson*, Vol. XIV. Two recent books of interest are *George Croghan: Wilderness Diplomat* by Nicholas B. Wainwright, and *Forth to the Wilderness* (1961 — Dale Van Every).
- 2 The deed was dated August 21, 1788. Henry Heth signed it in the presence of A. Tannehill and Geo. Wallace, and it was recorded on July 13, 1795, in Allegheny Co., Pa., in D.B. 4, p. 226. The grantor signed his name as "Henry Heth," but he was known also as Henry Heath. Actually, within two weeks after Henry Heth executed that deed to his son William, the executors of George Croghan executed a deed for that very same land to Henry Heth and his son William Heth. Two of the executors, Thomas Smallman and William Powell, signed the deed on Aug. 29, 1788, and the third executor, James Innis, signed it on Sep. 1, 1788. The latter deed was recorded in Allegheny Co., Pa., in D.B. 4, p. 221, on July 13, 1795. The executors made the deed to insure that Henry Heth and William Heth would have a valid title to the land. The deed from the executors to the Heths recited that the tract of land conveyed had been surveyed on June 28, 1769, in the name of George Croghan in pursuance of Order No. 22 dated the first day of April 1769.
- 3 Henry Heth [Heath] Capt. Va., b. 1718-d. 6-12-1793, m. Agnes McMahon. Henry Heth, in his last will and testament, mentioned his wife Agnes; and sons William, Andrew, John, Harry and Richard Mc. Heth. The will was dated March 30, 1793, and was recorded on Sep. 2, 1793, in W.B. 1, pp. 67-68, Allegheny County, Pa., records. A biographical sketch of Samuel L. Heath, West Elizabeth, Pa. (p. 433, Part II, *Warner's History of Allegheny County, Pa.* — 1889), reported that "The Heath family

a Virginia captain, in favor of his eldest son, William Heth. The deed conveyed to William Heth:

A certain tract of land lying and being on a run which empties into the Allegheny River about five miles above Pittsburgh *and contiguous to the plantation whereon Colo George Croghan died, formerly lived . . . and containing upwards of four hundred acres.* [Italics are mine.]

The pertinent statement in the deed that the land conveyed was "contiguous to the plantation whereon Colo George Croghan died, formerly lived" is certainly factual. It is obvious that Captain Henry Heth, a very intelligent man, wanted to make a lasting record of the exact place where his friend, George Croghan, had died. Croghan had vanished from earthly scenes six years before Captain Henry Heth's aforesaid deed was executed.

Some historians who have written about George Croghan's death have either stated explicitly that he died at his home near Passyunk near Philadelphia, or have implied that he died there. They probably concluded that he died at Passyunk because of the fact that his last will and testament<sup>4</sup> began "In The Name of God Amen I George Croghan late of Pittsburg now of Passyunk in the County of Philadelphia and in the State of Pennsylvania, Esqr." Henry Heth's aforesaid deed leaves no doubt that Croghan died at Croghan Hall in Pittsburgh.

It was fitting, indeed, that Croghan's life had ended in Pittsburgh, fitting because, as a noted historian wrote, Croghan "had selected the site which later became the Pittsburgh area."<sup>5</sup>

Henry Heth and George Croghan had probably often discussed their military services, as well as their mutual interest in the Virginia courts which had been established on land in controversy between Virginia and Pennsylvania. They may also have spoken of the fact that George Croghan had owned the land at the Point<sup>6</sup> as well as the

---

descended from three brothers who went from Ireland to England and from there to Virginia, where one of them made a permanent settlement; and the remaining two settled in western Pennsylvania, where they married and reared families."

4 Will No. 156. It was dated June 12, 1782, and was probated in Phila., Pa., on Sep. 3, 1782. Croghan died on Aug. 31, 1782.

5 Nicholas B. Wainwright, *George Croghan: Wilderness Diplomat* (1959), 26.

6 *Ibid.*, 152. Wainwright, after writing that the French "had abandoned and burned Fort Duquesne on November 24," 1758, wrote that "The next day, the British army occupied the forks of the Ohio." He then reported that "Bouquet's elation was surpassed by Croghan's. The very land the army camped on belonged to the Irishman, for it was part of the purchase he had made in 1749. Now, after four and a half years under the French flag, he had regained possession."

hundreds of thousands of acres of land he had owned elsewhere in the Pittsburgh area and in other places in North America.

Henry Heth, just eight years younger than George Croghan, outlived Croghan by eleven years. Research indicates that Henry Heth — who was also known as Henry Heath — was a son of Andrew Heath at whose farm near West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, many sessions of the Virginia Court for Yohogania County<sup>7</sup> were held.

It is important to keep in mind that members of the Heth clan were also known by the name of Heath. There are many descendants of that clan residing in western Pennsylvania. One is Mrs. Edna (Heath) Denniston, widow of Lawrence Denniston who died in February 1969. Mrs. Denniston resides on a farm in Finleyville, Pennsylvania, that has been in her husband's family since 1837.<sup>8</sup> She mentioned, by way of drawing attention to how building costs have soared through the years, that the spacious house on the Denniston farm was built in 1848 for five hundred dollars, and that when a porch was added to that house about thirteen years ago, the family had to pay seven hundred and fifty dollars for that porch. The Dennistons' son, William, and their now deceased daughter, Mrs. Marian Hughes, grew up on that farm.

Another member of the Heath clan in Allegheny County is a well-known physician, Dr. Erle M. Heath, who resides in Upper St. Clair. He and his brother Robert are first cousins of Mrs. Edna (Heath) Denniston. Henry K. Heath of Allegheny County is also a member of the Heath clan, and so is Ross Heath of Greenock, Pennsylvania, whose gracious wife is as proud of his lineage as she is of her own. Their forty-four-year-old son, Don Reid Heath, of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, is a war veteran and a well-known architect, who specializes in designing schools and churches.

Much more could be written about the interesting Heath clan, the pioneer member of which settled in western Pennsylvania about two hundred years ago, but now space should be given here to another pioneer who settled in western Pennsylvania a little more than two

---

<sup>7</sup> *Annals of the Carnegie Museum*, Vol. II, No. 1 (Edited by Boyd Crumrine), reports the *Minutes of the Court of Yohogania County* beginning with the first day's business, Dec. 23, 1776, down to and including March 26, 1778. Vol. II, No. 2, of said *Annals*, p. 205, has the following heading: VII. MINUTE BOOK OF VIRGINIA COURT HELD FOR YOHOGANIA COUNTY, FIRST AT AUGUSTA TOWN (NOW WASHINGTON, PA.), AND AFTERWARDS ON THE ANDREW HEATH FARM NEAR WEST ELIZABETH; 1776-1780.

<sup>8</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Denniston operated for years the Denniston Turkey Farm on the old Denniston farm in Finleyville, Pa., but since her husband's death, Mrs. Edna (Heath) Denniston operates it.

hundred years ago. The pioneer was Christopher Walthour (1728-1802)<sup>9</sup> who settled in 1750 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, but moved, in 1767, to Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and became a member of the militia of that county.

Christopher Walthour merited and received a goodly measure of acclaim in his lifetime. Persons who are fully conversant with western Pennsylvania history have read about Walthour Fort, which was also known as Waldhower Fort.<sup>10</sup> It was a haven for years for persons who could reach it when the Indians were on the warpath.

Christopher Walthour (1728-1802) acquired vast amounts of land, but his most interesting property acquisition was certainly the one by which he became the owner of Croghan Hall and 506 acres and 26 perches of land which had been taken in execution as "late the property of George Croghan dec'd." The sheriff's deed to Christopher Walthour conveyed "All that certain tract of land situate formerly in Westmoreland now in the County of Allegheny at or near the Banks of the Allegheny River within a few miles of the town of Pittsburgh (adjoining another tract late of the said deceased in possession of Captain Heath) which said land was surveyed upon Application number twenty *whereon is the mansion house of the late George Croghan deceased* and containing by computation five hundred and six acres and twenty-six perches . . ." (italics are mine). The consideration paid by Christopher Walthour was "Eleven Hundred and Sixty pounds lawful money."<sup>11</sup> It was John Brandon, High Sheriff

9 Christopher Walthour was a descendant of John Casper Walthour (1696-1766) who came to North America in 1736 and settled in the Ebenezer Colony about 25 miles north of Savannah, Ga.

10 *Report of The Commission To Locate the Site of the Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania* (Penna., 1896), II, 361-362, states that the fort was located "with regard to the present surroundings, eight miles west of Greensburg on the turnpike to Pittsburgh, twenty-three miles east of Pittsburgh, four miles south of Harrison City (Byerly Station, Forbes Road) and one and one-half miles from Irwin. It was built on the farm of Christopher Walthour (as the name is now spelled by the family, but spelled then Waldhower) who owned a large body of land there. The farm remained in the Walthour family and name until 1868." (The book mentioned is generally referred to as *Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania*.)

John N. Boucher, *Old and New Westmoreland*, 2, reports that "Old Fort Walthour was quite near Brush Hill."

The Walthour Genealogical Chart indicates that Fort Walthour was near Adamsburg, Pa.

11 Minute Book B, p. 34, Dec. Session, 1794, Westmoreland County, Pa. The minutes, in addition to referring to a Deed Poll from John Brandon, High Sheriff of Westmoreland County, to "Christopher Walthour, of same county, Farmer," and describing the land "as late the property of Geo. Croghan, dec'd," and giving the location of the land, stated specifically "whereon is the mansion house late of said deceased." The actual deed

of Westmoreland County, who executed that deed.

George Croghan's eventful life had ended at seventy-two years of age on August 31, 1782, at Croghan Hall, and the vast wealth he had amassed had vanished through the years. He had probably hoped that Croghan Hall would be owned and occupied after his death by his daughter Susannah and her husband, Lieutenant Augustine Prevost, and their children. Croghan accepted, with good grace, the inescapable troubles that had beset his dangerous journey on life's road.

Christopher Walthour, who became the owner of Croghan Hall, was probably a friend of Croghan's.

There are numerous descendants of the Walthour clan living in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and one is Christ C. Walthour, a capable attorney who is a member of the law firm of Kunkle, Walthour & Garland, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Attorney Walthour and his mother reside in nearby Irwin, Pennsylvania.

Another interesting pioneer family in southwestern Pennsylvania was the Benjamin Kuykendall family. There were and are many variations in the spelling of Benjamin's surname.

Benjamin Kuykendall (*bc* 1722-1789) settled in southwestern Pennsylvania about two hundred and sixteen years ago. He was a man of ability and a patriot of boundless courage. He served as one of the justices of one of the courts that Virginia had established on land it claimed, but which was eventually recognized as being within the boundaries of Pennsylvania. He was a justice of the Court of Yohogania County from the time of its first session on December 23, 1776, until its final session in the late summer of 1780. A namesake and relative of his served for awhile as a constable of that court. In the first minutes of said court the Justice's surname was spelled KirKindall and later on, in those minutes, it was spelled Kuykendall.

Benjamin Kuykendall had travelled the "Mon trail" in the early 1750's. The minutes of the Court of Yohogania County prove that he was in the area that became Pittsburgh as early as 1754. The minutes of the session of October 26, 1779, reported:

Benjamin Kuykendall . . . being sworn Sayeth, that in the Spring of the year 1754 he saw Maj. Edward Ward on his march to Virginia from what is now Fort Pitt, that the sd. Major Ward had command of the party with him & that he understood that he was the commanding officer of the post at the aforesd.

---

from "John Brandon, Esquire, High Sheriff of the County of Westmoreland in the State of Pennsylvania" to Christopher Walthour was recorded on Jan. 16, 1795, in Allegheny County, Pa., in D.B. 3, p. 422.

place as an officer in the Virginia line & Surrendered to the French.<sup>12</sup>

Benjamin KirKindall [Kuykendall] and Major Edward Ward, Croghan's half-brother, had taken the oath as Justices of the Court of Yohogania County,<sup>13</sup> on the first day's session of that court on December 23, 1776, which was twenty-two years after Benjamin Kuykendall had seen Edward Ward marching to Virginia after Ward had surrendered to the French the fort at the Point in Pittsburgh. Ward averred in a deposition that he and his thirty-three soldiers and eight workmen had to surrender because Contrecoeur, the French commander, had one thousand French and Indians under his command. George Washington confirmed those figures in a letter which he wrote regarding the surrender.

One of the tracts of land owned by Benjamin Kuykendall was named "Ravensburg."<sup>14</sup> The name has special significance even today for residents of Clairton, Pennsylvania, for the forebears of many of them knew the vicinity as Ravensburg. A bridge which some persons refer to as the "Peters Creek Bridge" was opened to the public on August 25, 1966, but its official name is Ravensburg Bridge. Benjamin Kuykendall's descendants have cause to rejoice because the name of his plantation, Ravensburg, survives today in the name of that bridge. His descendants can also be proud of the fact that Benjamin Kuykendall had been recognized as being the first person to settle in the area that now has the name "Clairton." The inscription on his tombstone gave his age as sixty-seven years at death, but another source indicates that he died at sixty-six years of age.<sup>15</sup>

Mrs. Cleopatra (Reed) Harnack of Pittsburgh, a descendant of Benjamin Kuykendall, says that "Benjamin married in Romney, Virginia, in 1756 or 1758, either a Ferree or a Heath, but his bride

12 Minutes of Court of Yohogania County, Va., of Oct. 26, 1779, as published in the *Annals of the Carnegie Museum*, II, 2, 392.

13 Minutes of Court of Yohogania County, Va. — First Day's Business, Dec. 23, 1776, as reported in *Annals of the Carnegie Museum*, II, 1, 78-79.

14 *Warranty Atlas of Allegheny County*, in re the Jefferson township area, shows the outline of "Ravensburg" acreage with the following information within the diagram:

BENJAMIN KIRKINDALL  
299 A<sup>s</sup> 9 P<sup>s</sup> & Allow  
Surveyed September 27, 1769 on Order No. 3508  
To SARAH & MOSES KIRKINDALL, EXRS  
on Warrant to Accept dated February 10, 1791  
RAVENSBURG

15 *The 1955 Year Book of the Pennsylvania Society — Sons of the American Revolution*, 438, "Benjamin Kuykendall (Justice of Yohogania Co., Va.) born 9-1-1723 — died 10-18-1789."

went by the name of Sarah Ferree.”<sup>16</sup> Whether Benjamin’s bride’s surname was Ferree or Heath, she was a member of one of the pioneer families of western Pennsylvania.

Despite the uncertainty as to whether or not Benjamin Kuykendall’s wife’s surname was Heath or Ferree, it is a fact that the Ferree and the Kuykendall families were related, for Christiana (or Christina as she was often called), one of Benjamin’s daughters, became the wife of Colonel Joel Ferree, son of Pennsylvania’s famous gunsmith, Joel Ferree (1731-1801). Christiana’s husband died in 1813. He stated, among other things in his last will and testament,<sup>17</sup> “There is a legacy due my wife from the estate of her deceased brother, Moses Kurkendall, in the State of Kentucky.” It is known that Moses Kurkendall was the eldest son of Justice Benjamin Kuykendall.

The story that has filtered down from Justice Benjamin Kuykendall’s time to his present-day descendants is that he first saw the Peters Creek area while he was en route to the Point, and decided then that he would settle there as soon as he could — and settle there he did!

Benjamin Kuykendall was with General Edward Braddock when Braddock set out in mid-1755 to wrest Fort Duquesne from the French — a venture in which Braddock not only failed, but lost his life. Braddock was wounded in battle on July 9, 1755, and died four days later.

Sarah, Benjamin Kuykendall’s wife, must have been blessed with the best of good health, for she bore to Benjamin three sons and at least eight daughters in their log house in the grand wilderness that today, completely altered by time and people, is the city of Clairton, Pennsylvania. The Kuykendall children must have had a wonderful time roaming the verdant hills and valleys near their home, and bathing and wading in the Monongahela River.

Legend has it that Justice Kuykendall had nine daughters — and he may have had nine; but, if so, one may have died before he made his will, for the names of only eight daughters appear in his will. His wife and their three sons were also mentioned in the will,<sup>18</sup> and so

16 *Ibid.* The maiden name of Benjamin Kuykendall’s wife is not shown. She was born in 1740 and died in 1802. Her name merely appears as “Sara.”

17 Col. Joel Ferree’s will was executed at Zanesville, Ohio, on April 15, 1813, and was recorded on May 5, 1813, in W.B. 2, pp. 9-10, Allegheny County, Pa.

18 Benjamin Kuykendall’s will began: “In the Name of God, Amen I Benjamin Kuykendall of Mifflin Township Washington County (now Allegheny).” He made bequests to his “loving wife Sarah Kuykendall”; to his “eldest Son Moses Kuykendall”; to his “youngest sons Benj<sup>n</sup> and Nath<sup>l</sup>

was his brother Nathaniel.

When Benjamin Kuykendall's life ended on October 18, 1789, the family had his body laid to rest in his Ravensburg land which he had enjoyed for many years. The tombstone which was later placed at his grave had inscribed on it:

BENJAMIN KUYKENDALL. DIED OCTOBER 18, 1789.  
AGE: 67 YEARS.

The body of another Benjamin Kuykendall was laid to rest later in Peters Creek Cemetery. The inscription on his tombstone was:

BENJAMIN KUYKENDALL. DIED AUGUST 12, 1802.  
AGE: 64 YEARS.

Some writers had mistakenly concluded that the man who died in 1802 was Justice Benjamin Kuykendall.

One of the Justice's descendants, Homer J. Reed of Clairton, Pennsylvania, perpetuates Justice Benjamin Kuykendall's surname, and the surname of two of his (Homer Reed's) other ancestors in his letterhead with the unique wording:

ESTABLISHED 1752

KUYKENDALL — FORSYTHE — REED FARMS

561 State Route 885 Jefferson Borough Clairton, Pennsylvania

Susannah Kuykendall, one of Justice Benjamin Kuykendall's daughters, was born in 1767. When she was eighteen years old she became the wife of James Forsythe (1756-1850). That marriage united two important pioneer families.

According to a reliable genealogy of the Forsythe family, three Forsythe brothers, James, William and John, were born in Londonderry, Ireland, and came to North America in 1739. That genealogy was prepared by Joseph Forsythe (1842-1924) who was, for many years, a notable member of the Allegheny County Bar Association, and who was a direct descendant of James Forsythe (1756-1850) who married Justice Kuykendall's daughter Susannah.

Joseph Forsythe (1842-1924), who compiled the genealogy, must

---

Kuykendall"; to his "Daughters, Mary, Elizabeth, Susannah, Sarah Margaret Christina and Rebbecca Kuykendall"; and to his "youngest daughter Annotchey Kuykendall." He named, as executors of the will, his wife; his "Brother Nathaniel Kuykendall" and "Moses Kuykendall," his (Benjamin's) eldest son. The will was dated Sep. 26, 1789, and was recorded on Nov. 6, 1789, as Will No. 6 in Will Book, Vol. 1, p. 23, Allegheny County, Pa. The will is very interesting.



have had the fullest white mustache and the widest and longest white beard ever grown in Allegheny County, judging by his picture in the issue of July 1921 of *THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE*.

A lady, who is a descendant of James Forsythe (1756-1850), said that her blood pressure rose sharply when she read in a novel [*The King's Orchard*] that was published a few years ago, the unflattering, untrue word picture of the John Forsythe family that a present-day novelist had drawn of that fine family. The irate lady stated — and her statement was true — that the Forsythe family had been considered one of Pennsylvania's best and bravest families in pioneer years.

It is important to state here that some members of the *Forsythe* clan insist that only the persons who have spelled the surname with an "e" at the end of it, or who spell it with an "e" at the end of the first name, are *Forsythe* descendants, but this would appear to be an incorrect supposition for there have been instances when persons of that clan have spelled the name, at times, without an "e" at the end.

James Forsythe (1756-1850), who wooed and married Susannah Kuykendall, one of Benjamin's daughters, was the James Forsythe who obtained a warrant in 1785 for three hundred acres and ninety perches of land in what was then Washington County, Pennsylvania. He gave the historic name "Long Knife" to his land.<sup>19</sup>

Just a few months later, John Forsyth secured a warrant for land which he called "Cavin."<sup>20</sup> His land was also in what was then Washington County.

William Forsythe, in the following year, became the owner of land in that same county, and he named his land "The Triple Attack."<sup>21</sup>

Those three men, James Forsythe, John Forsyth, and William Forsythe, may well have been the three Forsythe brothers who came to North America from Londonderry, Ireland, in 1739.

Homer J. Reed of Clairton, who has been mentioned earlier in this article, stated in a letter written in 1965, that James Forsythe did not take out his patent for the "Long Knife" acreage when he first became acquainted with that land. Mr. Reed also stated:

19 The warrant for James Forsythe's "Long Knife" land was dated Feb. 10, 1785; the survey was made March 7, 1785. *Index to Surveys*, Bk. 1, p. 226, Washington County, Pa.

20 The warrant for John Forsyth's land "Cavin" was dated Sep. 13, 1784. *Index to Surveys*, Bk. 1, p. 4, Washington County, Pa.

21 William Forsythe's land, "The Triple Attack," was located on King's Creek. *Index to Surveys*, Bk. 2, p. 597, Washington County, Pa.

However, this was the spot that was always used for a camp; he built his cabin sometime before he was married and then moved in . . . James Forsythe paid the 12c per acre for the farm by tapping the maple sugar trees. He boiled the sap down — made sugar — and took it to Cumberland, Md. by horseback.

Mr. Reed stated orally that, in the Clairton area, there had been two Forsythe log houses, that the second one was only a few yards from the first one, and that the last one was torn down about 1952. He also said that his mother was born in 1871 in the second of those two log houses, that her brother Joseph and their three sisters were also born in that log house.

Mr. Reed's mother was Jessie Bell Forsythe. She became the wife of Frank M. Reed in 1895. The marriage terminated when he died on Washington's birthday, February 22, 1940. His wife died twenty-five years later,<sup>22</sup> having lived to be ninety-four years old. She drew her last breath in Yuma, Arizona, where her son Homer had taken her in the hope that her life could be prolonged, even though she had been an invalid for a very long time.

Homer J. Reed, in a letter written in February 1965, stated that "William Forsythe (Mother's father) was a great old historian, clean mind and a wonderful character of yesteryear . . . He died in 1933 at the age of 96. He is buried in old Lebanon Cem., West Mifflin Boro."

Mr. Reed also wrote that Benjamin Kuykendall's

first cabin must have been close to Yough Court House where Bed Bug Row is today on the hill overlooking the River at, or close to, the Crossing. Ashland Oil Co. has a plant along the river where the Pioneer Trail crossed above Elizabeth about 2½ miles, (South), directly at the rear of Yough Court House is the old Lobb Cemetery where so many of the soldiers of the Whiskey Insurrection who contracted smallpox are buried — many, many died — they were using the basement of the old court house for a temporary hospital . . . Charles Carroll, the only Catholic who signed the Declaration of Independence and the fellow who also outlived all the people who did sign the document, is buried in Carrollton, Md. Some of his people are buried on our farm in Large, Pa., at the rear of Capt. Henry Large's old distillery; they were related also to the Kuykendalls. I have Capt. Large's sword — he was in charge of Peters Creek Rangers, the fellow who kept order in our area. It has the seal of the thirteen colonies on it . . .

In another letter, written early in 1965, Homer J. Reed stated:

The Samuel Pollock Large Diary brought back many memories of many of these Large people and particularly Fannie Large Stevenson . . . I purchased the old Large (distillery people) home adjacent to the old Large Distillery. I had hoped to restore it and did spend a lot of money on it and worked very hard myself. I had a wonderful old barn at home full of antiques of our old pioneer families stored in it — covered wagon, 2 stage coaches, 9

<sup>22</sup> Mrs. Frank M. Reed (Jessie Bell Forsythe Reed) died on Nov. 23, 1965. She was survived by four of the seven children of her marriage.

sleighs, harnesses, dog chucks, race carts, old automobiles, and too many other articles to mention, also 20 head of pure bred sheep (my pets). Someone burned the place to the ground in the night of Sept. 15, 1960 . . . The building alone was most exceptional — built in 1848 by Wm. Payne. Our family kept the place like new. I was so mad when I lost all of the antiques, the barn and my sheep, I decided to sell the old Large residence to Mr. Noble J. Dick — who owns it today. The house is still in good order. I bought it from the Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. I still have many relics of yesteryear . . . many old guns . . .

The paths of the pioneers who are mentioned herein must have crossed many times.

It is certain that Captain Henry Heth and members of his family often visited George Croghan at Croghan Hall and that he, in turn, visited them. The Heths and Croghan were friends of Justice Benjamin Kuykendall and must have visited him frequently at his Ravensburg plantation. Justice Kuykendall and his family certainly fared forth at times to repay the calls made upon them by the Heths, by Justice George Croghan, by Croghan's half-brother, Justice Edward Ward, and by others.

It is likely that Christopher Walthour, who acquired Croghan Hall twelve years after George Croghan's death, had visited Croghan Hall many times when George Croghan was there.

We can only conjecture about the topics of conversation when those important, rugged pioneers met, but we know, from the record of their hardships and of the perilous times in which they lived, that they and their womenfolk were very courageous men and women.

The past never dies!