

Campbells of Donegal Twp

by

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Introduction to enclosed files

The enclosed files are genealogical studies that have the primary purpose of identifying the descendants of Wm Campbell, Sr. and Cornelius Campbell, probable brothers, who came from York County, Pa., to that part of the "New Purchase of 1768" that was first in Cumberland County, then, in 1771 Fairfield Township of Bedford County, then in 1773 Donegal Twp. of Westmoreland County, and finally Cook Twp.. Cornelius had purchased property just north of present Mansville by 1768. Robert and Cornelius Campbell are on the 1772 Fairfield Township, Bedford County, tax list. James Campbell purchased property just east of Cornelius Campbell by 1773 and in 1775 William Campbell, Sr. of Straban Twp, York County, Pa., purchased 300 acres from Michael Coffman, just south of James Guffy. About 1783 my 4th great-grandfather, William Eakman and his wife, Margaret Campbell, daughter of Cornelius Campbell, came to own the Guffy property and James Guffy that same year purchased 293 acres from Philemon Waters just south of the William Campbell property.

The study had been enlarged in an attempt to find the names of the first land owners in the area of the Ligonier Valley now called Cook Township. Those owners listed on the tax maps who applied for, warranted, surveyed, and patented their land, in the many cases, may not be the first owners. The property may have changed owners several times before the patenting process was started or completed. Many who began the process of patenting the land are the children or grandchildren of the first owner or they may be unrelated. A majority of the earliest land owners did not go thru the application, warrant, survey, and patent process and if they stayed on the land for years the process was done later by their descendants.

Sources examined to determine the names of the earliest landowners are the early property deeds, the 1769 New Purchase Applications, the 1772 tax list of Fairfield Township, Bedford County, the 1790 and 1800 census of Donegal Township, and the 1798 Direct Tax lists. All these sources are on the enclosed files of this CD.

Comparing the names on the 1772 tax list with the names listed in the 1769 New Purchase Applications shows that few settlers took out applications at that time.

The enclosed file of the warrantee connected draft map of the Mansville area of then Donegal Twp. Cook Twp. was drawn in October 1993 by this researcher from an early warrantee-survey connected draft supplied in May 1993 by Jonathan Strayer of the Land Records Division of the Pa. Archives. Kevin Campbell later digitized the map. This Mansville area of Cook Twp is covered by the enclosed file *Early Landowners* compiled in April 1994. The joiners list in the *Early Landowners* file covers the Mansville area only not the entire township. In making this file most of the actual surveys were read either at the Westmoreland Co. Courthouse or at the Pa. Archives in Harrisburg by this researcher.

The file *Cook Twp. Tax Map Warrant, Survey, & Patent Entries* was made in 2006 using the individual tax maps and the Patent Map Index Map supplied to me in 2005 & 2006 by the Map Maintenance Dept of Westmoreland County and information already researched in 1994 listed in the above *Early Landowners* file.

New Purchase Applications

Donegal Twp of the Ligonier Valley lies within the New Purchase area of 1768. This "New Purchase of 1768" was the "Last Purchase" made by the Proprietors, the Penn Family. The purchase by the Penns was made from the Iroquois at Fort Stanwix near Rome, N.Y. on 5 Nov 1768 and signed by William Johnson, General Superintendent of Indian Affairs. The Land Office decided to make two large grants of lands to special persons before opening the Land Office to settlers already on the land..

Officer's Grants: Officers that served in the First and Second Battalions of the Pa Regiment of 1764 under Col. Henry Bouquet during the French & Indian War were granted 24,000 acres alongside the south branch of the Susquehanna River near Bald Eagle Creek in now Northumberland Co. On February 3, 1769, twenty four Officers made applications for 24,000 acres at a cost of 5 # sterling per 100 acres agreeing to settle a family on each 300 acres within two years..

.Gentlemen's Tracts: A "Gentlemen's Tract" was granted to a second group of Pa. Officers and civilians who had served during the Indian Wars 1756-1760. There were 45 "Gentlemen" who received the tracts numbered 2 thru 46 totaling 80,000 acres in the Register that included men such as Andrew Byerly of Bushy Run, John Campbell, #39 of Ligonier, for 300 ac near the Fort on the Conemaugh, Arthur St. Clair #19 for 300 acres opposite the great bend of the Loyalhanna Creek and extending downwards about four miles above Fort Ligonier. (Survey D56-103 & C207-29), and George Crogan 400 ac at the 4 Mile Run including the Bly's improvement in Donegal Twp. Surveys D-57,68,69.

. Settler's Tracts: Settlers desiring to make Applications for land in the New Purchase area were not accepted by the Land Office until 3 April 1769. When they were received they were placed in a box and then drawn either every day or every other day and numbered in the order drawn. The first 2802 applications were dated April 3, 1769. Between April 3 and September 5, 1769 when the Land Office was closed there were a total of 3853 applications made. Each applicant was limited to 300 acres at a price of 5# per 100 acres. No purchase money was required at time of application but the full price was to be paid within a year after the survey. The application was the order to survey. A "warrant to accept" was issued after the survey had been returned to the Land Office. Interest accrued from the date of the return of the survey which was to be within 6 months of the date of the application. A patent was issued after the purchase price was paid. If the applicant sold the property before he received a warrant the warrant would be made out in the new owner's name.

Many New Purchase applicants did not complete the patenting process. Many did not bother even with a survey. The requirement to pay for the land within one year of the survey was not enforced so there seemed no good reason to complete the process. The "Application System" thus contributed to a large amount of settled and improved but unwarranted and unpatented land to be inherited by the Commonwealth after the Divesting Law of 1779 gave all the Pennsylvania land still owned by the Penns to the Commonwealth of Pa.

Applications ceased at the Land Office on 5 September 1769. The Commonwealth of Pa. was formed during the Revolution and by 1776 had adopted Penns land policies and procedures of application, warrant, survey, and patent documents in the title process. The Divesting Law of 1779 gave the legislature all of the ungranted land within the bounds of the Penn Charter for 130,000 pounds.

The Commonwealth Land Office opened in 1781 to address the issue of the lack of completion of the land titles in the Purchase of 1768 area. Settlers who had started the process of patenting their land could get a survey by paying one third of the purchase price by April 9, 1782. If a survey had been made the settler could get a patent by paying the remaining purchase price. The land cost remained 5 # per 100 acres, the same as in 1765. There were also mortgage plans.

Land that had not been titled was deemed vacant even though settled and improved. This was the usual case in the Ligonier Valley. On 14 July 1784 the Commonwealth began accepting applications for "vacant land". The price was set at 3# or \$9.33 per 100 acres with a maximum of 400 acres but with no limit on the number of applications per person. The burden of proof of vacancy was placed upon the applicant. The applicant had to make a description of the land, make a statement whether the land was improved or unimproved, and if improved when it was first improved. The signatures of two Justices of the Peace of the County was required. The law was amended in 1786 to allow two years for squatters to complete their titling. After April 10, 1788 unwarranted land was available to anyone who applied. In 1792 the price was reduced to 50 shillings per one hundred acres. By 1814 the price was \$26.66 per one hundred acres. If land was improved before it was warranted the warrant was called a "warrant to accept". If the land was not improved before it was warranted the warrant was called a "warrant to survey"..

Source: Munger, *Pennsylvania Land Records*

