

# A Brief History of the Old Mills Farm - Slabtown, PA

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## A Brief History of the Old Mills Farm

Slabtown Road, Quincy Township, Franklin County, PA

For 67 of its 204 years, this residence was owned by members of the Mills Family.

### 1. Builders and First Owners: Samuel and Anna Barbara Lane

Samuel Lane...

- *Built grist mills throughout Quincy Township.*
- *Supervised the building of the Hughes Iron Furnace and Mansion House. The Hughes Mansion, later to be named Wiestling Hall, was built in 1807.*
- *Served as Superintendent of the Iron Furnace while residing with his family in the Hughes Mansion and while Lane Farm was being built on his 600 acre property, Laneton Estate. Lane Farm was completed in 1818.*

Newspaper Ad placed by Samuel Lane in the Chambersburg Public Weekly,  
23 November 1819 as superintendent of the Mont Alto Furnace.

**BAR IRON.**  
THE subscriber has now on hand and intends constantly keeping, a complete assortment of  
**BAR IRON,**  
OF SUPERIOR QUALITY,  
At the Mount Alto Furnace,  
which will be sold for Cash or exchanged on liberal terms for *Wheat, Rye, Corn, Beef or Pork.*  
Also, a full assortment of  
**STOVES & HOLLOW WARE,**  
☞ All kinds of CASTINGS made to patterns in the neatest manner, on the shortest notice and of the best Iron.

**SAMUEL LANE,**  
*For Samuel Hughes, Jr*  
November 23d, 1819.

1818 In Perspective: Paul Revere died in 1818. 2nd President - John Adams, 3rd President - Thomas Jefferson, 4th President - James Madison were all still living. 5th President - James Monroe, moved into the renovated White House that the British had burned during the War of 1812. There were only 20 states in the Union. General Andrew Jackson invaded Florida in the First Seminole War. The US/Canadian Border was established.

Washington Township		Return		1799	
		Doll.		C	
Johnston John Esq.	640 <sup>ac</sup> Land	4800		Herbauch George	100 <sup>ac</sup> Land
	Stone House				Cabin & Log Barn
	half Stone Barn				2 Horses
	Stone Spring				2 Cows
	house March 1799				
	Saw Mill log				
	Still House &c.				
	5 Horses	300		Knirly Henry in Maryd.	2 Lots in Wright
	6 Cows	60	5160		
Jacob Michael Junr.	1 Horse	50		Lane Samuel	300 <sup>ac</sup> Land
	1 Cow	8	58		two log Houses
					two by Stables
					Grist & Saw Mill
Jacob Martin Senr.	150 <sup>ac</sup> Land				2 Horses
	two log Houses	900			3 Cows
	and Barn				
	1 Cow	10	910	Lighner William	1 Horse
					1 Cow
Jacob Henry	30 <sup>ac</sup> Land	180			
	2 Horses	100	280	Lindsay Robert	1 Horse
					1 Cow
Johnston James in Antrim	125 <sup>ac</sup> Land	750	750		
				Lady Daniel	100 <sup>ac</sup> Land
Harron Richard	2 Horses	30			Log House & barn
	2 Cows	16	46		2 Cows
	1 Slave				
Haggy Christian	125 <sup>ac</sup> Land			Lady Henry	2 Horses
	Log House				3 Cows
	Stone Barn Stone	875			
	Spring House &c.			Lawman John	150 <sup>ac</sup> Land
	Log Still House				Log House & Barn
	30 <sup>ac</sup> Mountain Land	30			4 Horses
	3 Horses	120			3 Cows
	4 Cows	40	1075		
	1 Lot in Wright	10			

This 1799 Tax Assessment for Washington Township, Franklin County, Pa. shows that Samuel and Anna Barbara Lane owned **300 acres of land** in the Funkstown/ Mont Alto area.

This was 19 years before their home, Lane Farm, was built in 1818.

In addition to 300 acres of land, the Lanes also owned two log houses, two stables, a grist mill, a sawmill, two horses, and three cows.

The value of these was placed at \$1,930.00 and the tax was \$19.32.

1804. Washington

Name		Value	Tax	Total Value Tax	
Johnston John Esq	300 <sup>ac</sup> Land & Mills, 352 <sup>ac</sup> 7 Hous. 5 Cows	5752	575	Layman Peter	1 house 2 Cows 60
Laub Henry	290 <sup>ac</sup> Land 3 Hous 3 Cows	3630	363	Lady Fran <sup>d</sup>	115 <sup>ac</sup> Land 1 Cow 1277
Keggy Christian	140 <sup>ac</sup> Land 140. d. mount. 4 Hous 4 Cows	2804	280	Lady Henry	2 Hous 3 Cows 136
Kequin Michael	150 <sup>ac</sup> Land 2 Hous 2 Cows	2350	235	<b>M</b>	
Knave John	5 Hous 4 Cows	240	24	Miller Jacob (weaver)	100 <sup>ac</sup> Land 100 <sup>ac</sup> 1 House 1 Cow 14
Knave Jacob	80 <sup>ac</sup> Land 2 Hous 2 Cows	870	87	Money Patrick	546 <sup>ac</sup> Land & Summit 2 Hous 1 Cow 1652
Kelly William	1 House & Lot	100	40	Money John	75 <sup>ac</sup> Land 250
Kinty Peter (Shoem)	1 House & Lot	250	37	Money Daniel	120 <sup>ac</sup> Land & 40 <sup>ac</sup> tilling 3 Hous 2 Cows 1100
Keabaugh John	100 <sup>ac</sup> Land 2 Hous 2 Cows	1100	110	McGwire John (Smith)	2 Hous 3 Cows 240
<b>L</b>				Maun John	120 <sup>ac</sup> Land 3 Hous 1 Cow 1290
Leister Jacob (Smith)	5 Hous 2 Cows	370	37	Mycer John (Wh. Ind)	1 Cow & Trade 112
Lane Samuel	600 <sup>ac</sup> Land with Saw mill 2 Hous 3 Cows	4936	493	Mock Jacob	128 <sup>ac</sup> Land 3 Hous 5 Cows 1962
Lowry John	144 <sup>ac</sup> Land 3 Hous 3 Cows	2166	216	Miller John	1 Cow 12
Layman Jacob	3 Hous 2 Cows	160	16	Mensor David Senr	550 <sup>ac</sup> Land with a grist 4 Saw mill, Hemp & Oil mill - Dwelling &c 2 Hous 10 Cows 6462.50
Leap Daniel	335 <sup>ac</sup> Land	5205	520	Miller Michael	154 <sup>ac</sup> Land 150 d. m. 4 Hous 3 Cows 2820

By 1804, Samuel and Anna Barbara Lane had increased their property to **600 acres**, a grist mill, a sawmill, two horses and three cows.

The property value was \$4, 936.00 and the tax was \$4.93.

This 600 acre tract of real estate was known as **Laneton Estate**.

It would still be 14 years until 1818, when the Lanes built their home, Lane Farm, on their 600 acre estate.

The Lanes took out a mortgage to build their home, Lane Farm.

[LANDEX DOCUMENT SEARCH](#)

Inst. # 181800009

Recorded Date: 25 SEP 1818

Book A, Page 275

Municipality: Washington Co.

County: Franklin

Mortgagor: Samuel Lane  
Barbara Lane

Mortgagee: Not Entered

Amount: Not Entered

**Samuel Lane was born at Berlin, Somerset County, Pa. in 1772**

**He came to Franklin County in the 1790s**

**The 1887 publication, "History of Franklin County PA"- Warner, Beers & Co., Chicago - provides this information about Samuel Lane on pages 658 and 659.**

**Samuel Lane** was a millwright by occupation and erected grist mills throughout Quincy Township. Col. Daniel Hughes, Sr. and sons, Samuel and Daniel of Hagerstown, Md., owned a large tract of land on South Mountain (17,000 acres) which was rich in iron ore. (*\*This property was a land grant from Lord Baltimore to the Hughes family of a previous generation.*) Upon this land they determined to erect a furnace, **and chose Mr. Lane as their agent to carry their design into execution.** Under his superintendence, the Mont Alto Iron Works and the Mansion House adjoining were built from 1807-08. **Samuel Lane had married Anna Barbara Bittinger**, daughter of a wealthy landowner in Funkstown, Col. Nicholas Bittinger. **Samuel and Anna Barbara with their four children: Mary, Juliana, Elizabeth, and Nicholas**, were living in a log house in **\*\*Funkstown** when Mr. Lane was approached by the Hughes family to oversee the construction of the ironworks and Hughes Mansion.

After construction of the Hughes Mansion House was completed, **Samuel Lane moved his family into the Hughes Mansion and remained there until construction of their permanent home, Lane Farm, was completed in 1818.** The Hughes Ironworks included the area known as *The Forge* on the East Branch of Antietam Creek, now the site of *Old Forge State Park and Camp Penn*. This site was chosen because the flow of the East Branch of Antietam Creek was sufficient to build dams to facilitate the construction and operation of water wheels, whereas the West Branch which ran through Mont Alto, did not provide sufficient flow and often went nearly dry during the summer months.

See: [old-forge-historysites.pdf](http://old-forge-historysites.pdf) ([explorefranklincountypa.com](http://explorefranklincountypa.com))

After retiring from the charge of the ironworks, **Samuel Lane** spent the remainder of his life in conducting his mills, and in agricultural pursuits. In 1864, a newly constituted Mont Alto Ironworks was created by George B. Wiestling, Holker Hughes, Isaac Waterman, and Thomas Bever. **Wiestling, as general manager, took the Hughes Mansion as his home and made many renovations to it.** The Mansion House was occupied by the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy from 1903-1929 and still stands on the campus of Penn State Mont Alto where it serves as the Campus Student Center, and is often referred to as *"the oldest building in the Penn State University system."* Among his remarkable list of achievements, Wiestling created the Mont Alto Railroad and its 24-acre summer resort along Antietam Creek. In 1902, the resort's acreage and facilities became Mont Alto State Park.

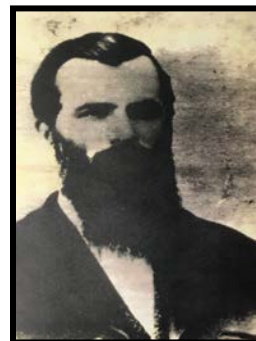
Read more @<https://montaltobotough.com/history>.

\* *History of Mont Alto State Park, dncr.pa.gov*

\*\*Funkstown, the village near the Mont Alto Ironworks, was named for John Funk who had built the first house there in 1817. The name later changed to Altodale, and in 1903, Altodale, Mont Alto, and surrounding areas were incorporated as Mont Alto Borough. **John Funk and Samuel Lane were contemporaries at this point in Mont Alto history.**



Wiestling Hall, Built in 1807 as Hughes Mansion



George B. Wiestling, 1836-1891

## MORE ABOUT THE HUGHES MANSION AND WIESTLING HALL

*Waynesboro Record Articles (1914-1916)*

### **The Hughes Iron Works**

The beautiful State forest academy was once the former home or residence of the early proprietors of the Hughes iron works. In fact it was the first building and used for the same purpose by the Mont Alto Iron Co. The structure from time to time has been enlarged.

The first to reside in this mansion was Samuel Hughes. His family was composed at one time of Holker or Major Hughes who became proprietor and general manager after his father, Samuel Hughes died. Dr. Henry Hughes was next James Hughes and the colonel or Napoleon Hughes.

The boys assisted their father in the management of the place until his death after which Holker Hughes became general manager.

Something to be noticed here was the meeting of Holker Hughes and his foremen. Every week a meeting was held in which all business was gone over. The cabinet consisted of the master miner, foundryman, general works manager, the boss carpenter, etc. These men would get together one night of the week for the express purpose of advancing the interest of the place.

To be continued.

**Enoch Brown**

**Waynesboro Record - 4 February 1914**

### Some History of Mont Alto

Some people might be surprised if they were informed that part of the building now occupied by the State forest academy, which was for a long time called the Wiestling mansion, is one hundred years old. Samuel Hughes had it built when he was a young man.

After the Mont Alto Iron Co. purchased the place Col. Geo. B. Wiestling had the building enlarged. One of the notable things about this building is that it has three roofs.

This is one of the old historic buildings on the place. In early days all the business of the place was directed from this famous structure. Here is was that Samuel Hughes, Lewis Hughes, Major or Holker Hughes, Dr. Henry Hughes and Napoleon Hughes did the planning for the place. Afterward Col. Geo B. Wiestling did the same.

The location is one of the finest in the county. The building sits on an elevation of land surrounded by large oak trees and a beautiful lawn stretches in front of it.

As already stated the mansion is being used for the teaching and training of young men in forestry. One of the fancies in the early days at this place was the old English tea parties which usually brought the society set under its ancient roof.

Waynesboro Record - 25 November 1914

### Old Buildings Continued—The Wiestling Mansion, Now State Forest Academy

The Wiestling mansion is one of the old buildings left standing and is a remembrance of bygone days. Of all the buildings on the place there was none that compared to this one, either in workmanship or material, and we doubt if there is a better building to be found in the county even today. Its brick walls are cased with mountain stone, which give it a very artistic and pretty appearance.

The old original part, built by the early Hughes and remodeled by the late Col. Geo B Wiestling, has double walls and double roof, while the annex, erected by Col Wiestling, is of the best grade of brick. It was at the remodeling of this building that Col Wiestling took ill and died and it is, today, a landmark worthy of the brain that so ably beautified it.

In the early days of old Mont Alto men like Samuel Hughes, Sr., Holker or "Major" Hughes, Henry Hughes, Samuel Hughes, Jr, and Napoleon Hughes occupied this noted place. In antebellum days, the Mrs. Hughes had slaves to do the house work. Among these was one they called old "Mammy" Charlotte. She was a little old colored woman who was greatly loved by all for her kind and noble disposition in rendering help to those in need.

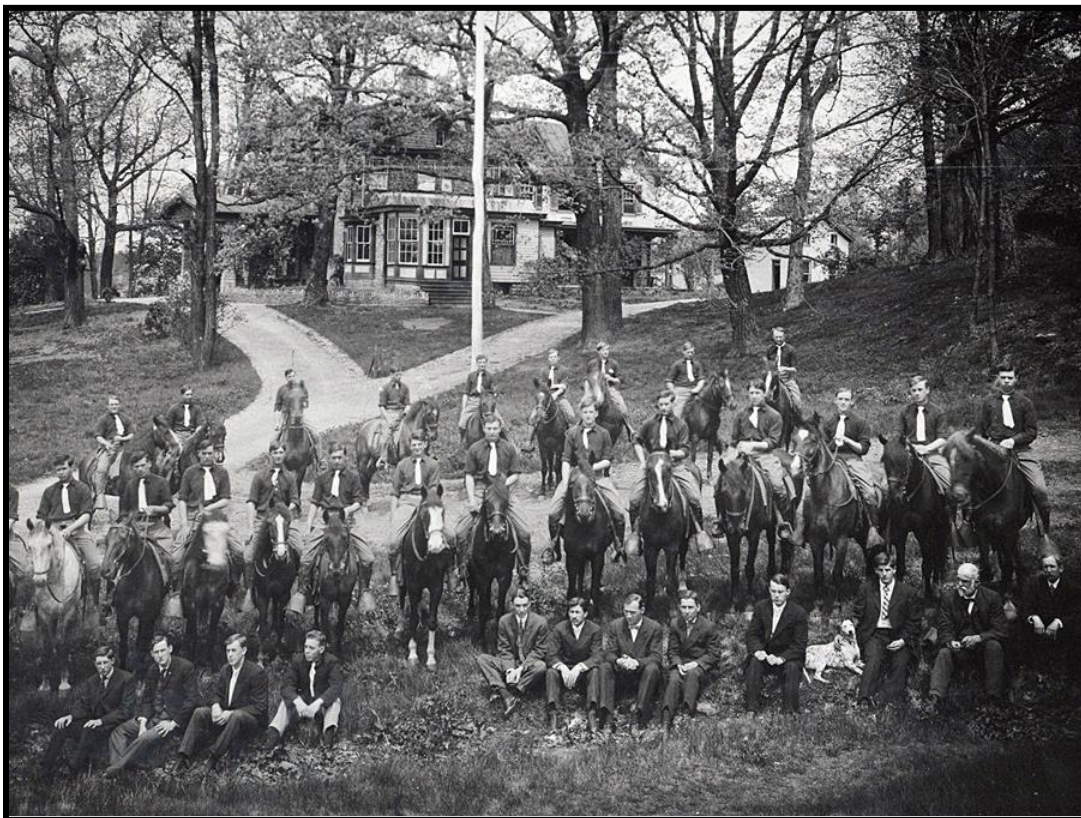
After the Hugheses, then Col George B. Wiestling and his sisters, Miss Anna and Miss Elba Wiestling, John Wiestling and, for some time, Edward Wiestling occupied this spacious building. The first four are now dead, while Edward Wiestling resides in Chambersburg. This was the home of the Hugheses and the Wiestlings.

Since the state has come into possession of the place it has been used as the forest academy, where young men are taught the highest thought and skill in forest preservation, which is so helpful to the grand old commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

This institution is now under the able and efficient superintendency of Prof E. A. Ziegler. Profs. Illick, Eyster, Netoskey and Retan are able instructors in the school, while Lewis Staley is the forester and B J Gutknecht the stenographer.

Waynesboro Record - 16 February 1916





**Pennsylvania State Forestry Academy Class of 1908  
with Wiestling Hall (formerly Hughes Mansion) in the background.**

The image above is as the mansion appeared following extensive renovations by Col. Wiestling. It was during Wiestling's final restorations that the great man fell ill and died after a 2-month bout with the "grip." He died on June 16, 1891 at the young age of 55.

The building served as an educational and dormitory facility for the Forestry Academy. The Pennsylvania State Forestry Academy was in operation for 1903-1939 when the property became part of the Penn State University system...PSU - Mont Alto Campus.

Hughes Mansion was built in 1807 by the Samuel Hughes family, owners of the original Mont Alto Furnace and Ironworks. In 1864, Col. George B. Wiestling and associates purchased the facilities from the Hughes family and established the Mont Alto Ironworks, the Mont Alto Railroad and, as a means of making the railroad more profitable, a 24-acre summer retreat along Antietam Creek.

This retreat area and its facilities were purchased by the Pennsylvania State Park system in 1902 and became Mont Alto State Park. Remnants of these by-gone days can still be seen in the woodlands in and around Mont Alto State Park.

**COL. GEORGE B. WIESTLING OBITUARY**  
**Waynesboro Village Record, Thursday, June 18, 1891**

**COL. GEO. B. WIESTLING DEAD.**

The entire community is again called upon to suffer the loss of an energetic and widely known gentleman, Col. George B. Wiestling, of Mont Alto, who was held in elevated esteem through his tender relations of private life and undeviating integrity which marked his career as a noble official and man of affairs. His illness embraced a period of about two months, suffering from the 'grip,' in which time he was on several occasions thought to be dying, but lingered on, being unconscious toward the last until on Wednesday morning about 6 30 o'clock when the spirit removed from our midst a bright face of marked intelligence, whose life is well worth studying. He departed this life at the aged of 55 years and two months, being unmarried.

Col. Geo. B. Wiestling, son of the late George Philip Wiestling, was born Jan. 28, 1836, in Harrisburg, Dauphin Co., Pa., his ancestors being of German Descent. At the age of seventeen, he obtained a thorough education and entered the engineer corps of the Sunberry & Erie Railroad, and was also connected with other Railroads. During the war he was honored with three separate commissions as colonel from Gov. Curtin, and was one of the active leaders in numerous conflicts of the late war, in which thrilling incidents occurred.

In 1879 he extended the Mont Alto Railroad to Waynesboro, and was till his death, engineer and superintendent. He was the originator of Mont Alto Park and was a prime mover in laying same out in 1875, and was also a member of different societies and organizations.

Particulars of funeral are not known.

Lane Farm was built in 1818. It was part of Laneton Estate, a plantation of 600 acres which reached to what is now Rt. 233 and beyond, encompassing either side of Little Antietam Creek and bordering the Mont Alto Ironworks. Except for superintending the Ironworks and building Lane Farm, little is discoverable about Samuel Lane until 1825 when he apparently experienced financial difficulties which resulted in Lane Farm being seized and offered at Sheriff's Sale.

**SHERIFF'S SALES.**  
 BY VIRTUE of sundry writs of *Vendition Expositis*, to me directed, will be exposed to Sale, at the Court house in the borough of Chambersburg,  
 On **TUESDAY** the 14th day of **JUNE** next, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon,  
 THE FOLLOWING REAL ESTATES, VIZ :

Also—Two hundred & twenty acres of land, more or less, about one hundred and fifty acres of which are clear, with a large two-story brick dwelling a log dwelling house, a large brick barn and a log barn and other buildings thereon erected, situated in Washington township, bounded by lands of Joshua Knep- per Christian Piper, John Heffner, and others; seized and taken in execution as the property of Samuel Lane.

Weekly Franklin Repository - 7 June 1825

At this time, 1825, the farm was located in Washington Township. Quincy Township was formed in 1838. Lane Farm did not sell at this time. It remained as seized property for 24 years. The grandson of Samuel and Anna Barbara Lane, William Hayman, Jr., was living on the farm when it was purchased at Sheriff's Sale in 1847 by John Lawson of Alexandria, Virginia.

Before the Sheriff's Sale, Samuel Lane was able to sell off portions of his estate which reduced Lane Farm in size to 152 acres. The newspaper ad below advertises a property of 104 acres that was part of Laneton Estate and offered for sale by Samuel Lane in 1828. Notice that this property is on the far side of Little Antietam Creek adjoining the Mont Alto Furnace.

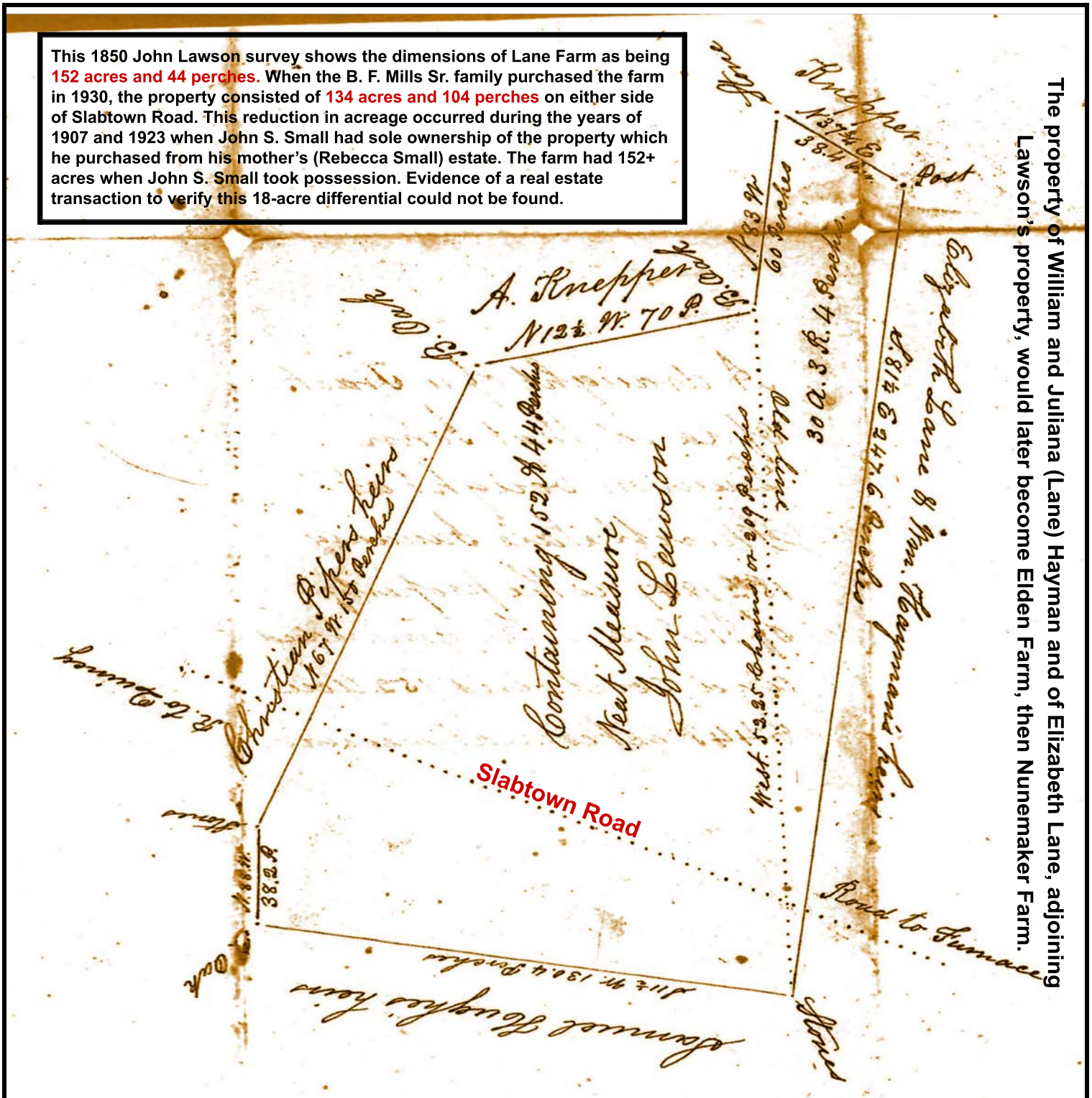
**FOR SALE.**  
 THE subscriber offers at Private Sale  
**A Plantation,**  
 situate in Washington township, Franklin county, Pa. adjoining Mont Alto Furnace, containing **104 ACRES,** more or less—about 40 acres of which are clear, the residue covered with good **TIMBER.**—On the premises, is a good 2 story Log **HOUSE & BARN,** and an excellent Spring of Water near the house—the place is well fenced, and the whole in good repair.— For particulars, apply to Mr. *Samuel Lane,* living near the premises.  
**TOBIAS KEPNER.**  
 December 16, 1828.

Weekly Franklin Repository  
 16 December 1828

The Lanes' daughter Juliana and her husband William Hayman, as well as the Lanes' daughter, Elizabeth, acquired substantial properties on Laneton Estate. These two properties appear on the Lawson survey on page 12. Wm. Hayman, a lawyer, would later oversee the 1847 Sheriff's Sale of the 152- acre Lane Farm. During this tumultuous time, Anna Barbara Lane died in 1831 at age 53. Samuel Lane died in 1853 at age 81 while living with daughter Elizabeth on her portion of Laneton Estate.

## 2. Second Owner: John Lawson of Alexandria, VA

Lawson purchased Lane Farm at **Sheriff's Sale** on January 15, 1847 as the property of William Hayman, Esq., son-in-law of Samuel Lane. The amount paid could not be discovered. After just four years, Lawson died in 1851 and his heirs sold the farm in the same year.



The author holds a photocopy of the original 1850 John Lawson Survey - the original being retained by a private owner.


### 3. Third Owner: Tobias Funk of Waynesboro, PA

The heirs of John Lawson sold Lane Farm to Tobias Funk in 1851 for \$6000. Funk owned a second farm in Washington Township one mile southwest of Waynesboro on Hagerstown Rd. *Mr. Funk named both of these farms "Locust Grove."* After just 2 years from taking possession of the farm, Tobias Funk died suddenly on 26 April 1853. The farm was put up for **Public Sale** by the heirs of Tobias Funk, **but it failed to sell.** **The author holds a photocopy of the original deed for the sale to Tobias Funk - the original being retained by a private owner.**

## PUBLIC SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE!

**I**N accordance with the provisions of the last Will and Testament of **Tobias Funk**, late of Washington Township, County of Franklin and State of Pennsylvania, dec'd., we will offer at public sale, on the premises, **ON SATURDAY THE 20TH DAY OF AUGUST, A. D., 1853**, that valuable plantation or tract of land, situated in Quincy Township, in said county, adjoining lands of Elizabeth Lane, Holker Hughes and Christian Piper, and known as the Lawson or Lane farm, containing

### 152 Acres.

The improvements are a three story  
<sup>22</sup> BRICK  
**DWELLING HOUSE** 

finished in a superior manner from the Attick to the Cellar; also a large and well built brick and frame Bank Barn; a two story log tenant house with a small frame Barn; an Apple Orchard of choice Grafted Fruit; a well of never-failing water near the Mansion house; and the out buildings are not excelled by those attached to any other farm in the County. The land is at present in a high state of cultivation.

Sale to commence at 10 o'clock on said day when the terms will be made known

For further particulars enquire of the undersigned or Mr Samuel Young living on the premises

D W FUNK, }  
E S TROXEL, } Ex'rs.

Waynesboro', June 23—1853

The ad to the left tells us that there once stood on the old farm "a two-story log tenant house and a small frame barn." It also advertises "a well of never-ending water." *Oops!*

In 1945, Bernard F. Mills, Sr. was granted permission by Mont Alto Borough to tap into the town's water system. He installed the 8/10 of a mile "**Mills Water Line**" from Route 233 to compensate for dry wells at both the farmhouse and barn, and to provide water for 21 residences along Slabtown Road. This project cost Mr. Mills \$3000. He charged the 21 customers \$3.50/month for water. This water line was sold by then widowed Mrs. Mills, Sr. to Mont Alto Borough in 1959 for \$500. *(See Below)*

Mont Alto's Borough Council Monday night approved purchase of the Mills Water Line on the Slabtown Road despite the objections of Dr. Louis J. Ostroff, burgess, and Walter Blubaugh, water committee chairman.

The action was taken on a motion by Councilman T H Mills. The water line will be bought from his mother, Mrs. Lela J Mills, for \$500.

**Record Herald - 21 May 1959**

#### **Waynesboro Village Record - 23 June 1853**

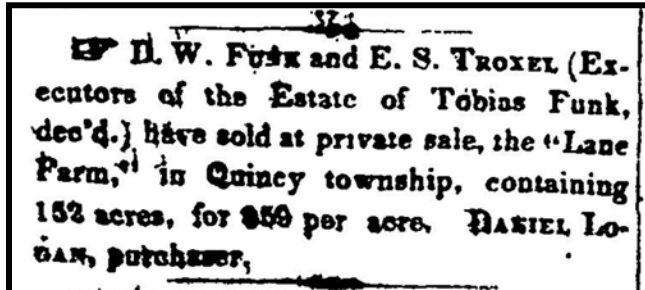
The house had a 4-room cellar with brick flooring. The largest cellar room was the mansion's kitchen with a walk-in fireplace and floor-to-ceiling recessed cabinetry. In the main house, there were 4 fireplaces on the first floor and 2 on the second floor, each with recessed cabinetry on one side.

Burgess, Dr. Louis J. Ostroff, and Water Committee Chairman, Walter Blubaugh resigned from Borough Council as a result of this action.

After failing to sell at [Public Auction](#), the property was advertised for [Private Sale](#).

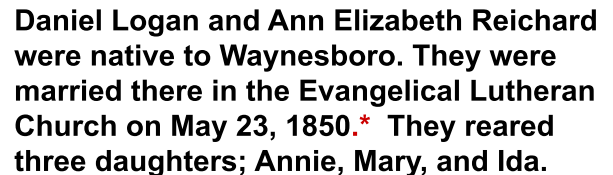
#### 4. Fourth Owners: Daniel and Ann Logan of Waynesboro, Pa.

The Logans purchased the old farm from the Tobias Funk estate at [Private Sale](#) on August 31, 1854. They paid \$59/Acre, or \$8,984. *The Village Record clipping below left is the sole discoverable evidence for this transaction between the Tobias Funk heirs and Dan Logan.*



D. W. FUNK and E. S. TROXEL (Executors of the Estate of Tobias Funk, dec'd.) have sold at private sale, the "Lane Farm," in Quincy township, containing 152 acres, for \$59 per acre. DANIEL LOGAN, purchaser,

**Waynesboro Village Record - 8 August 1854**



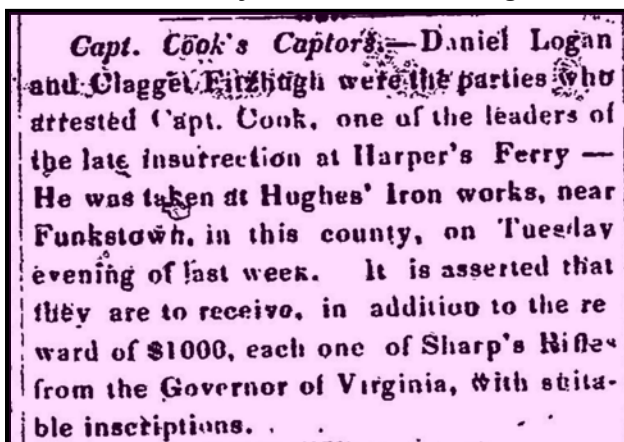
Daniel Logan and Ann Elizabeth Reichard were native to Waynesboro. They were married there in the Evangelical Lutheran Church on May 23, 1850.\* They reared three daughters; Annie, Mary, and Ida.

\*Record of Pennsylvania Marriages 1709-1940

Upon occasion, Dan Logan captured runaway slaves who were traveling through the Quincy area via "*The Underground Railroad*." The runaways were trying to make it to the town of Greenwood, some 8 miles distant. That area was one of several known as "Little Africa" to the freedom seekers. Nearby in Caledonia lived Thaddeus Stevens who would shelter the runaways and provide conveyance to places of safety. Logan would hold his captured runaways until their owners could arrive to retrieve them. The bounty paid to Logan was \$1,000 per capture. Other than capturing the occasional runaway slave, Logan and his family seemed to have had a normal and uneventful life [until one fateful day... October 25, 1859](#).

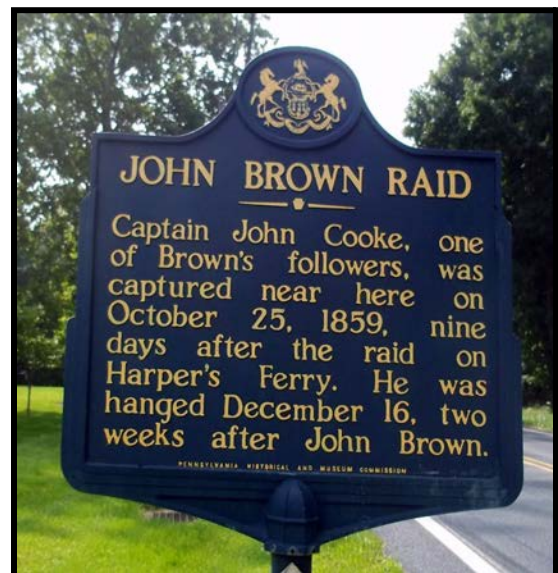
**Dan Logan Involved himself in the capture of Captain John Cooke at Mont Alto, Pa. Cooke and 4 others had escaped from Harpers Ferry when federal troops came to arrest John Brown and his band of insurrectionists.**

- Rewarded by the Governor of Virginia -



**Capt. Cooke's Captors.**—Daniel Logan and Clagget Fitzhugh were the parties who arrested Capt. Cooke, one of the leaders of the late insurrection at Harper's Ferry — He was taken at Hughes' Iron works, near Funkstown, in this county, on Tuesday evening of last week. It is asserted that they are to receive, in addition to the reward of \$1000, each one of Sharp's Rifles from the Governor of Virginia, with suitable inscriptions.

**Waynesboro Village Record - 2 November 1859**



**Historic Marker at Mont Alto, PA**

*A TRAGIC IRONY: Among the United States military officers sent from Washington, D.C. by President James Buchanan to arrest John Brown for his act of insurrection, were **Col. Robert E. Lee, Lt. J.E.B. Stuart, and Lt. Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson**. Within two years, all three would aid the Confederacy in orchestrating the greatest insurrection in the nation's history... *The American Civil War.**

The Cooke episode and its aftermath had a profound effect on both Dan and Ann Logan.

**Public sentiment turned against the Logans and their extended families.**

*(See "Dan Logan Remembered, Parts 1 and 2" on pages 28-36.)*

Abolitionists from as far away as Boston stirred up resentment against them. To the abolitionists, both local and distant, John Brown and John Cooke were heroes and martyrs. **In 1862, four years after the Cooke event, Dan and Ann Logan sold the farm. The Logans separated in 1863 and subsequently divorced in 1866.**

##### **5. Fifth Owners: John R. and Rebecca Small**

On August 28, 1862, Daniel and Ann Logan sold the farm to their tenants, John and Rebecca Small for \$8, 984.22. **This was 22 cents more than they paid for the farm in 1854. The author holds a photocopy of the original deed for the sale to the Smalls - the original being retained by a private owner.** John Small farmed until the year of his death in 1891 at age 82. Rebecca Small died in 1906 at age 86. The farm was purchased by the son of John and Rebecca, John S. Small, in 1907. All told, the farm was in the possession of the Small family for 57 years.

#### **So What Happened to Dan and Ann Logan?**

Following the Logan's separation in 1863, Dan purchased the Quincy Hotel for \$5,600 and lived there for some time. Ann stayed in the area until 1866 when the Logans divorced. **Ann Logan, with her daughter Mary, then headed west to Pasadena, California.**

*Property Sold.*—The Hotel property of Geo A. Anderson, dec'd, of Quincy, was sold on Friday last for \$5,600. Purchaser, Daniel Logan. The store property, opposite, was also sold for \$2200, to Rev. J F. Oller.

**Waynesboro Village Record - 4 Dec 1863**

**(Article Right)** After selling the farm in 1866, Dan Logan relocated to Lancaster, PA. There he remarried and took up the business of horse trading. He was seriously injured in a stable yard in 1867.

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT.**—Dan. Logan, formerly of this county, was seriously injured at Funk's Stable Yard in Lancaster on Friday morning last.

It seems that a young man had mounted a colt, which refused to go. Logan then stepped up behind the animal, and began to whip it. It kicked back viciously, striking him in the stomach just above the groin, injuring him internally, and breaking one of the bones of the pelvis.

**Waynesboro Village Record - 5 May 1867**

#### **A reminder: The Civil War was raging at this time.**

**The Battle of Gettysburg was fought from July 1-3, 1863. Confederate troops burned Chambersburg July 30, 1864 with 550+ structures destroyed and some 2000 citizens left homeless. Either Yankee or Rebel forces are known to have passed through Waynesboro, Greencastle, Mercersburg, Chambersburg, Quincy, Mont Alto, Fayetteville, Caledonia, South Mountain, and other communities throughout the Cumberland Valley and its east and west mountain ranges.**

In Lancaster, 25 years later and in a train yard, Dan Logan was **seriously injured a second time.**

Daniel Logan the well-known veteran horse dealer, was run over by a passing locomotive, at Lancaster yesterday. The engine struck the unfortunate man as he was getting out of the way of an engine backing down on another track. His right leg was crushed at the knee, and the left leg was hurt, but not so badly. Amputation of the right limb followed shortly after the accident. Logan was one of the captors of Capt. Cook, one of John Brown's lieutenants, after the raid in Harper's Ferry, in 1859, the arrest of the fugitive taking place at Mont Alto in this county, but we believe Logan never claimed the reward of \$1000, owing possibly to remorse. Dan. Logan is well known in this section.

**Chambersburg Public Weekly - 7 October 1892**

Dan Logan died in Lancaster as the result of his injuries.

**A Native of This County—A Photograph Taken of the Deceased.**

The accident which befel Daniel Logan last week at Lancaster, mention of which was made in the columns of the OPINION, resulted fatally on Saturday morning, the unfortunate man dying about four o'clock of that day. Up until within a few hours of his death, he was delirious, when he became conscious and recognized his brother Hugh before he passed away.

Dan. Logan was born, we believe, in Waynesboro, this county, where some of his relatives still reside. He was twice married, three children being born to him with the first wife, but only one survives, a daughter, Mrs. Mary Rinehard, of Los Angeles, Cal. A photograph of the deceased man was taken after the undertaker had perfected arrangements for that purpose, and this is believed to be the only likeness in existence of this remarkable man.

This is the daughter who went to Pasadena with her mother Ann after the Logans divorced.

**Chambersburg Public Weekly - 21 October 1892**



## Ann Elizabeth Logan's California Venture

Settling in Pasadena California, in 1878 Ann Logan bought a 150 acre property for \$3000, and like everyone else, she called it her "ranch." In 1881, Ann built a house and began improvements on her ranch. After 10 years, Ann was made an offer she couldn't refuse.

In 1891, Ann was approached by a "Pasadena capitalist" with an offer to buy her ranch. The gentleman, "Mr Foster," was invested in "The Orange Empire" which began to flourish in the 1870s. (*Spanish missionaries planted the first orange trees in California ...beginning in San Diego in 1769.*) A bargain was struck between Ann and Mr. Foster. Ann sold her ranch to the businessman for \$21,500...a hefty 700% profit for the lady from Slabtown.

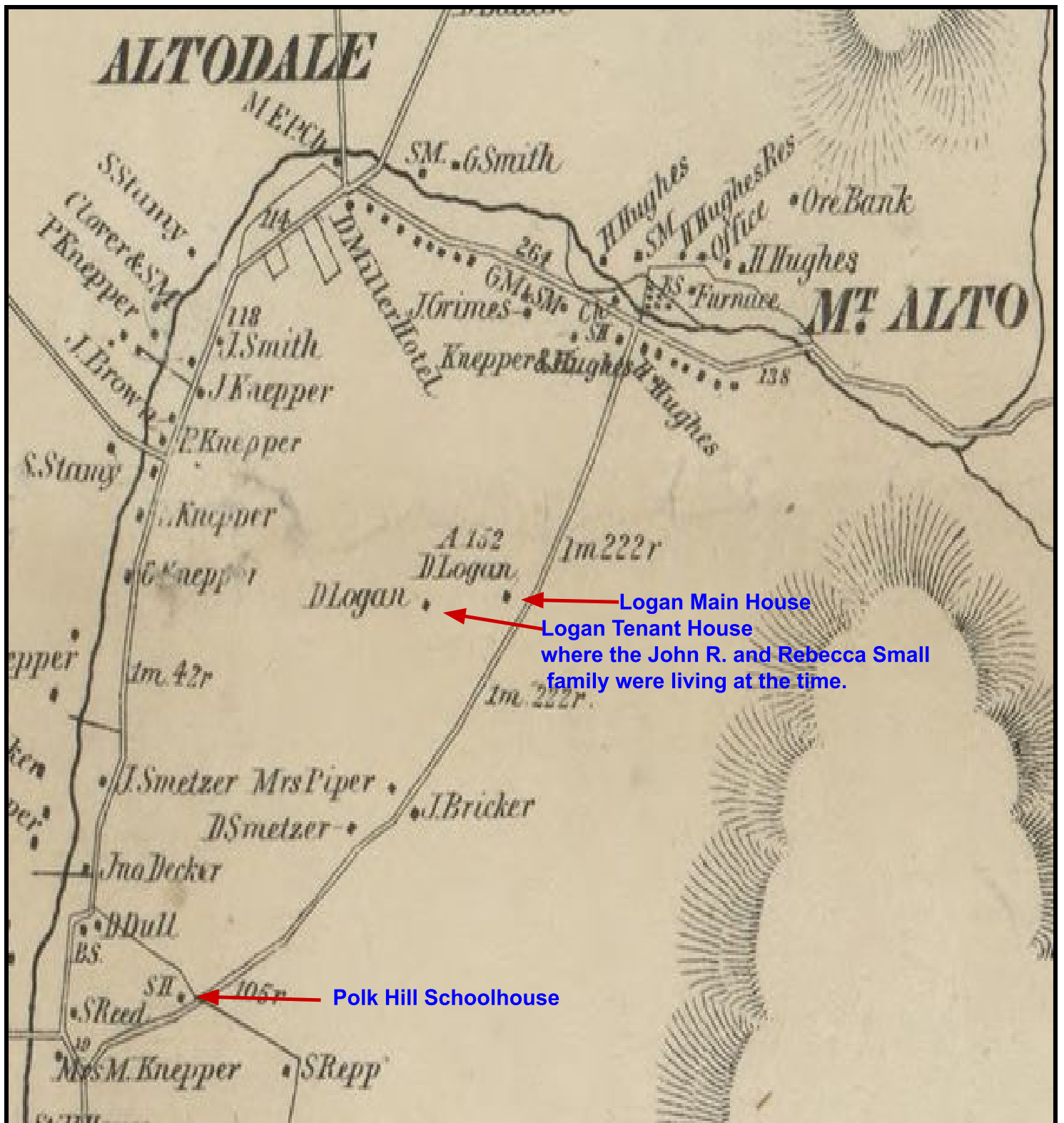
WHAT A WOMAN CAN DO — On last Thursday, June 27th the Logan homestead was sold for \$21,500 to a Pasadena capitalist, Mr. Chas Foster. This tract of 150 acres was purchased by Mrs A. E. Logan in 1878, for which she paid \$3,000. Three years later she built a residence on the north frontage of the land and began to improve it. Though advised by many that she had made a mistake in purchasing it she persevered and has now the satisfaction of selling out the entire ranch at an advance of 700 per cent over the cost or a uniform appreciation in value of 78 per cent yearly since she began the improvement in 1881. This is "what a woman can do" on a ranch in California. Mrs Logan informs us that it is the purchaser's purpose to plant the entire tract to

oranges. Mr Foster is a man of means and will be quite an acquisition to our rapidly increasing force of good business men. He will retain about 40 acres of the north frontage for a home and in less than a week after his purchase is busy planting orange trees. This fine sale of Azusa lands was made by F. A. Frye, one of our most useful and energetic young men and it is probably the largest bona fide sale of real estate made in this valley since the boom. Mrs Logan's many friends in Pennsylvania will be glad to learn that after years of patient waiting her property has risen in value from \$20 to \$140 per acre and that she had made a profitable investment. — *California Paper*

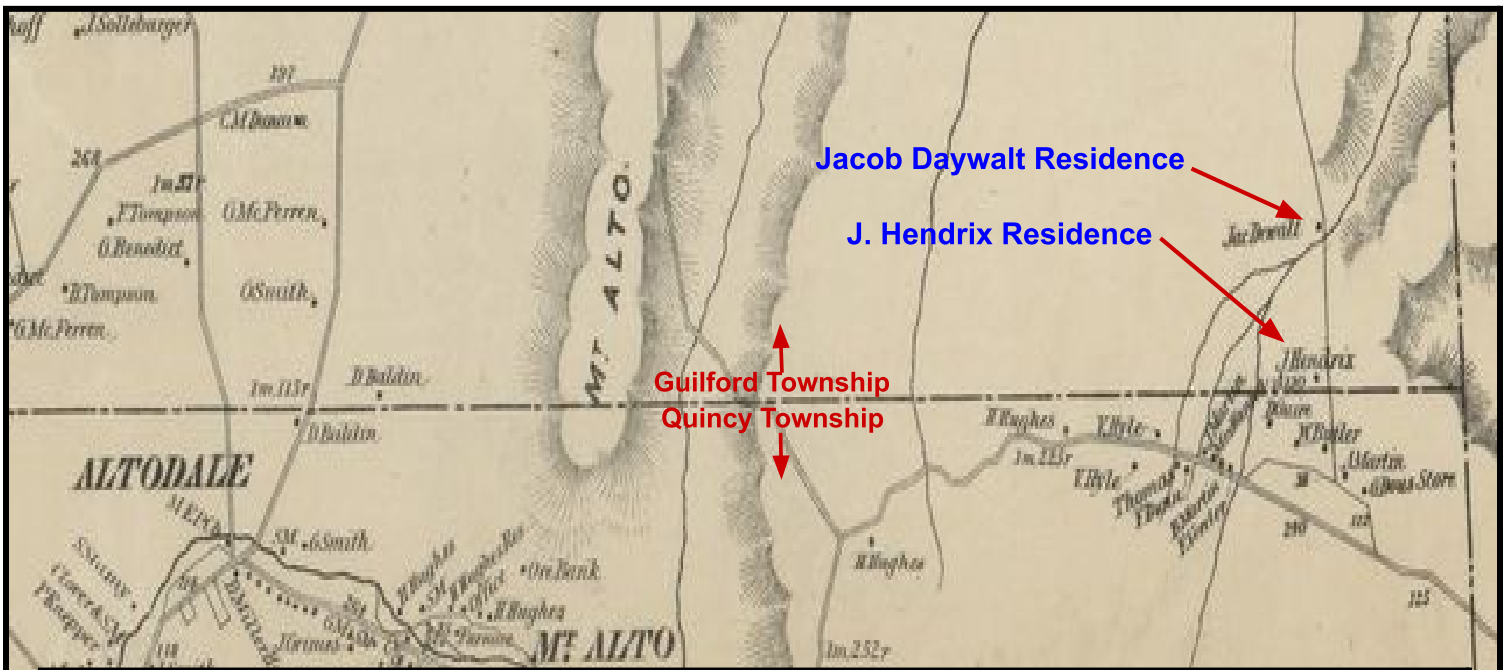
The lady referred to above is Mrs Daniel Logan, a native of Quincy township.

**Waynesboro Village Record - 14 August 1890**

**A California Paper, "The Oregon Letter" forwarded this article to the "Waynesboro Village Record."**



This 1858 map of Franklin County shows Slabtown Road with the Old Mills Farm, then owned by Daniel and Ann Logan. **There were two houses on the property at this time.** The main house is nearest to the road. The second house was a two-story log house for the tenant farmer. **John and Rebecca Small lived in the tenant house at this time. They would buy the farm from the Logans in 1862.** There was also a wood frame barn for the tenant. These tenant buildings are mentioned in a newspaper as from 1854 when the heirs of 3rd owner, tenant buildings are mentioned in a newspaper ad from 1854 when the heirs of 3rd owner, Tobias Funk, offered the farm for sale. (See Page 13)



-Another interesting thing about this 1858 map of Franklin Co., PA- Jacob Daywalt (the map spells his name "Dewalt") is the first Daywalt on South Mountain. *Jacob's parents, Daniel and Isabella Stoops Daywalt, as well as host of other Daywalts, lived on the east side of South Mountain in the Orrtanna/Cashtown area.* Jacob's residence is one of only two (the other being that of J. Hendrix) in the Guilford Township portion of South Mountain in Franklin County. Jacob Daywalt (1812-1885) owned what was known as Beaver's Lodge, built by Nicholas Beaver, which was a stopping point on the road from South Mountain to Caledonia. Beaver Lodge burned and Jacob Daywalt moved to the Adams County, Hamiltonban Township side of South Mountain where he owned a property of 134 acres. *Below is the 1868 ad for the sale of this property.*

Thanks to Lee Daywalt, Preserving our Heritage Archives & Museum, South Mountain, PA for this information.

**The Mills/Daywalt connection: In 1939, Bernard F. Mills, Jr. and Louella Daywalt married.**

**PUBLIC SALE!**

Will be offered at Public Sale, in front of John Mullan's Hotel Waynesboro, Pa. at 2 o'clock P. M. on the 25th day of January 1868, a fine tract of Mountain Land, situate in Hamilton Ban Township, Adams Co., Pa. containing ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOUR ACRES of land, neat measure. This tract is easy of access by a good road leading from the road to Mt. Alto Old Forge, and is distant about 7 1/2 miles from Waynesboro' Pa. About 60 acres are well set with choice Pine timber, and balance in Chestnut, Rock Oak and Hickory. Terms made known on day of sale

JACOB DAYWALT

**WAYNESBORO VILLAGE RECORD - 19 JANUARY 1868**

## 6. 6th Owners: John S. and Jennie V. Small

Following the death of John R. Small in 1891, his wife Rebecca moved from the farm and took up residence in Carlisle, PA. Eldest son, Jacob R. Small (1850-1930), remained on the property, then known as "The Jacob Small Farm," and farmed for many years before relocating to Altodale. The farm was deeded to the second eldest son, John S. Small (1854-1918) by his mother in 1898 as evidenced in [Franklin County Deed Book Vol.148, page 582, dated 31 MAR 1898](#). In her will, however, Rebecca Small stipulated that, upon her death, the farm should be put up for sale. John S. Small purchased the 152-acre farm in 1907 for \$57.50 per acre, or \$8,740. He managed the farm from 1898 to 1918.

**EXECUTOR'S SALE**  
— OF —  
**VALUABLE**  
**REAL ESTATE**  
**Saturday, October 20,**  
**1906 at 1.30 P. M.**  
**Court House Chambersburg, Pa.**


By virtue of the power contained in the will of Mrs. Rebecca Small, late of Carlisle, Pa., formerly of Quincy Township, Franklin County, Pa., the undersigned, executor, will offer for sale on Saturday, October 20th, at 1.30 P. M., at the Court House, Chambersburg, Pa., the following described real estate situated in Quincy Township, Franklin County, Pa.

No. 1. Situated on the road leading from Mt. Alto Furnace to Quincy,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile south east of Mt. Alto, Pa., adjoining lands of State Forestry Reservation. Jno. Smetzer; S. C. Rowe and Miss Haymans containing 152 acres and 49 perches. The improvements are a 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  story brick house, 12 rooms and hall, necessary outbuildings, two cisterns, water in house, slate roof, very large barn with good building, all in firstclass condition, wagon carriage house, blacksmith shop, hog cistern at barn, two wells for good water, good tenement house containing 5 rooms and cistern, good apple orchard and abundance of other fruit. Twenty-five acres are set with fine locust, chestnut and pine timber. Abundance of lime stone on farm.

This farm has been in possession of the present owner for almost fifty years. It is on the peach belt and is one of the very best farms in this part of Franklin County.

Additional information will be furnished by Daniel Bumbaugh, tenant, or J. R. Small, Fayetteville, Pa.

If desired, a large part of purchase money can remain



John S. Small, son of John and Rebecca Small, bought one of the two farms that were part of his mother's estate...the 152 acre farm on Slabtown Road near Mont Alto in Quincy Township, Franklin County, PA, later to be known as "The Old Mills Farm."

He paid \$57.50/acre or \$8,740.

Two farms belonging to the estate of Mrs. Rebecca Small, one in Quincy township, northeast of Mont Alto, to John S. Small, for \$57.50 per acre, and one situated one mile east of Altenwald, containing 169 acres, to D. N. Yaukey, for \$60 per acre.

THE FRANKLIN REPOSITORY - 2 OCTOBER 1907

### \* An Important Note \*

When John S. Small purchased the farm from his mother's estate, it was comprised of 152 acres - 49 perches. The size of the property when sold to George B. Croft in 1923 by the heirs of John S. Small was 134 acres - 104 perches. No evidence could be found of a real estate transaction that might account for this 18-acre difference in the size of the farm, but the reduction in acreage occurred at some point during 1907 and 1923 when John S. Small was the owner.

**7. Seventh Owners: George A. and Nellie P. Croft of Uniontown, PA**

John S. Small died on 14 JULY 1918 at age 64. The Farm was offered for sale by his widow, Jennie V. Small and others named below as the heirs of Mr. Small.

The Crofts' purchase of the farm is recorded in [Franklin County Deed No. 8878, Deed Book Vol. 180, Page 428 dated 17 MAR 1923](#). They paid \$12,017.51 for 134 acres-104 perches to the heirs of John S. Small being: *Jeannie V. Small, Mont Alto, PA...L.Roy Small and wife, Flossie M. Small, Chambersburg, PA...Millard T. Small and wife, Margaret H. Small, Rochester, NY...J.M. Small and wife, Marie I. Small, Waynesboro, PA.*

[There is no discoverable evidence that the Crofts took up residence on the farm.](#)

[This transaction is, however, evidence that the farm was reduced in size from 152 acres to 134 acres during its ownership by John S. Small from 1907-1923.](#)

**8. Eighth Owners: John W. and Margie E. Stuller of Smithburg, MD**

The Stullers' purchase of the farm is recorded in [Franklin County Deed No. 3171, Deed Book Vol. 211, Page 343 dated 18 APR 1929](#). They paid \$6,000 for 134 acres-104 perches to George A. and Nellie P. Croft on April 18, 1929.

[There is no discoverable evidence that the Stullers took up residence on the farm.](#)

**9. Ninth Owners: Bernard Franklin and Lela Jane Suffecool Mills, Sr.**

Bernard and Lela Mills were tenant farmers in the area of Indian Springs, Md. With their eight children, they moved to the old farm in 1930. The Millses purchased the 134-acre farm from John W. and Maggie E. Stuller on April 8, 1930 for \$6,000 - [Franklin County Deed No. 5557 dated 8 APR 1930](#). To clear the title, the Millses also paid, through the services of the Stullers, \$6,000 to George A. Croft for the mortgage he held against the property - [Franklin County Mortgage Book Vol. 101, Page 264 dated 8 APR 1930](#). So, in total, the Senior Millses paid \$12,000 for the 134-acre farm in 1930.

Before selling the farm to the Senior Millses, John W. Stuller held on the premises a public auction where all the stock and farming implements were sold. This auction of livestock and machinery occurred one year after the Stullers purchased the same from the Crofts, and four months before the Senior Millses purchased the farm.

**FEB 14—John W Stuller will sell on the Croft Farm, near Mont Alto, all his stock and farming implements**

**Record Herald - 1 February 1930**

**A LITTLE TOWN HISTORY**  
In 1768, when John Heefner first settled in Mont Alto, the section had no name. It was heavily set in timber, which was cleared and the land made ready for farming. Mr. Heefner had 1600 acres of land and it is said that it took him the better part of the day to go over it on horseback. The Heefner tract embraced all of the town, as well as adjoining land. One of the first farms to be laid out was the old Laneton farm, purchased by Samuel Lane. The farm later took the name of Locust Grove and was farmed for many years by Jacob R. Small, who was then one of the foremost citizens of this section. He was one of the school directors and later served as county commissioner. Bernard Mills now occupies the farm, and in addition to raising various farm crops, also has a number of excellent fruit trees.

**Record Herald - 4 April 1944**

As mentioned above, the Millses arrived at the old farm with a family of 8 children: **Thomas Hillard**, age 20...**Helen Marie**, age 15...**Bernard Franklin, Jr.**, age 13 **George Henry**, age 10...**David Franklin**, age 7...**Guy Leroy**, age 5...(Twins) **Glenn A. and Rebecca Jane**, age 3. Their ninth and last child, **Ronald Warren**, was born in 1933.

In addition to farming, the Senior Millses operated a small country store where they sold fresh meat products, farm produce, canned goods, and convenience items. The store was located in the cellar of a three room bungalow directly across Slabtown Road from the farm house. The senior Millses also operated a successful cider press and "The Mills Butcher Truck" which was used to deliver fresh meat products throughout the rural environs. **Over the years, "Father" and "Mother" Mills gifted property to each of their children and their spouses on which to build their homes. Near the end of their framing years, they began to sell building lots to new settlers along Slabtown Road. These transactions reduced the property's size from 134 acres to 75 acres...all on the west side of Slabtown Road.**

The Senior Millses gifted property along Slabtown Road to each of their children with the exception of the eldest, Thomas Hillard, "Hillard" as he preferred. Hillard married Beulah Verdier of Mont Alto in 1936. The couple took up residence in Mont Alto and lived there for the remainder of their lives.

#### Distribution of **Gifted Property** to the Mills Children and Their Spouses

To: MILLS, Bernard and Louella (Daywalt) in 1942  
To: MILLS, George and Jeanetta (Dull) in 1949  
To: ROOK, Daniel and Helen (Mills) in 1949  
To: MILLS, David and Dorothy (Betoney) in 1949  
To: MILLS, Guy and Margaret (Barnes) in 1950  
To: MILLS, Glenn and Betty (Creager) in 1950  
To: STRAUSNER, Clarence and Jane (Mills) in 1952  
To: MILLS, Ronald and Joyce (Monn) in 1955

#### Distribution of **Property Sold** by Bernard F. Mills and Lela Jane Mills. Sr.

To: WAGAMAN, Lester in 1946	To: WAGAMAN, William in 1946
To: POWELL, Willis in 1946	To: BECRAFT, Thomas, Betty, Cara in 1947
To: HAUGH, Reginald and Gladys in 1948	To: STRAUSNER, Gilson and Viola in 1951
To: BUMBAUGH, Oscar in 1951	To: BENDER, George in 1951
To: FREEMAN, Alice in 1952	To: SMETZER, Ralph and Annabelle in 1952
To: DECKER, George and Eldora in 1952	To: FREEMAN, Elworth and Jane in 1952
To: KAUFFMAN, Cloyd and Mary in 1952	To: BECK, Maurice and Ada in 1953
To: FREEMAN, Gilbert and Alice in 1955	To: FREEMAN, Pershing and Betty in 1955
To: WAGAMAN, Keefer and Alvia in 1955	To: GIPE, Nelson and Suella in 1955



**Bernard Franklin and Lela Jane (Suffecool) Mills, Sr.**

**This picture was taken when the Senior Millses lived on the old farm. Take notice of the old grindstone in the background...still in service by the Bernard Franklin Mills, Jr. family when they lived and farmed there.**

**In 1950, the Senior Millses began construction on a new “retirement home” across Slabtown Road from the old homestead. The home was of two stories and of brick construction with a detached brick garage. They moved into their new home in 1951. Daniel and Helen (Mills) Rook took up residence with them in the new home. Mr. Mills died in 1952 at age 63. [The Mills’ 1951 home stands at 7220 Slabtown Road.](#)**

**In 1960, Mrs. Mills, Sr. sold her new home and financed the building of a new brick ranch-style home for Dan and Helen (Mills) Rook on property which Mrs. Mills, Sr. owned. “Mother Mills” lived there with the Rooks until her death in 1963 at age 70.**

## 10. Tenth Owners: Bernard Franklin and Louella (Daywalt) Mills, Jr.

Bernard F. Mills, Jr and his wife, Louella (Daywalt) Mills, purchased the 75-acre farm in 1954 from Bernard's now-widowed mother, Lela J. Mills, for \$9,500. The farm was now completely situated on the west side of Slabtown Rd. - *Franklin County Deed No.15482, Vol. 464, pp. 129-131, dated 11 April 1954*. Bernard and Louella sold their first home and 1.51- acre property to Max and Arlene Shearer for \$4,500 - *Franklin County Deed No.10444, Vol. 451, pp. 74-76, dated 27 MAR 1954*.

In addition to farming, Bernie Mills, Jr. had a 30-year career at Letterkenny Army Depot. After retiring from Letterkenny in 1972, and after 12 years of farming, (the farming was shared by Bernie's brother, George H. Mills, Sr.) in 1974, Bernie and Louella Mills began selling off the farmland.

Buyers included Bernard F. Mills, III - Ray Tharp - George H. Mills, Sr. - Allen Mills - and Sunny Hill Development Corporation. **As a result, after 156 years, the old farm was gone.** The barn was sold and torn down during these transactions.

**What remained was the old house resting on 6.22 acres of land.** Bernie Mills died in 1985 and Louella Mills lived in the old house until 1987 when it was sold to her nephew, Allen Mills for \$53,000. **As of this 2022 writing, the house is 204 years old. The house stands at 7185 Slabtown Road.**



### Last day of farming for Bernard Franklin Mills, Jr. - Making hay in the "Hill Field"- 1963

This picture of Bernie Mills (old hay rake in the background) was taken by son, Greg, who tells of working with his Dad that fateful day, and of the mystery of his Dad bringing along to the field his old Polaroid Land Camera, stashed in the toolbox of the 1952 Farmall Super C tractor. (This model was manufactured from 1951-1954 and cost \$1,700.) Bernie knew his farming days were at an end, but Greg was totally unaware. On the same day, Bernie took this picture of Greg at age 16.

Bernard F. Mills, Jr. died in 1985 at age 68. Louella Mills sold the farmhouse and 6.22 acre property to nephew Allen L. Mills in 1987 for \$53,000 - *Franklin County Deed recorded in Volume 998, pp. 539-542, dated 3 SEP 1997*. Louella moved into the small house across Slabtown Road which she owned. The house had been remodeled by three of her sons and two brothers-in-law. this house was formerly the site of the Senior Mills' country store which was situated in its cellar. Louella Mills died in 2008 at age 86.





**This photo of Bernard and Louella Mills, Jr. was taken in 1964 as they posed at the old farmhouse, Bibles in hand, and ready to make their way to church.**

***A brief note on how Bernie and Louella met...***

***The Mills/Daywalt connection was made in 1937 when young Bernie Mills was driving "The Mills Butcher Truck" delivering fresh meat products. On his route, he stopped by the Oliver Daywalt residence on South Mountain. There he met the Daywalt's only daughter, Louella... "Sis," as she was called by her four brothers. (Louella was known by this nickname for the rest of her life. "Aunt Sis" to all her nephews and nieces.) A connection was made and Bernie soon asked Mr. Daywalt's permission to court Louella. Bernie was 20 at the time and Louella 17. After a courtship of two years, they were married in 1939 at Hagerstown, Md.***

**Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Franklin Mills, Jr. reared a family of seven children:**

**Darryl Edgar Mills, 1940-1958**  
**Rodney Lynn Mills, 1942-2000**  
**Dennis Lee Mills, 1944-2011**  
**Bernard Franklin Mills, III - born in 1945**  
**Gregory Jay Mills - born in 1947**  
**Martha Melissa Mills - born in 1951**  
**Perry Blake Mills - born in 1953**  
**The Millses were grandparents to 11.**



**This photo, taken in 1955, is the only photo in existence of all seven Mills children.**

**Back Row Left to Right:** Rodney Lynn, Perry Blake, being held by Darryl Edgar, Dennis Lee. **Front Row Left to Right:** Gregory Jay, Martha Melissa, Bernard Franklin, III

**In the background left is the house the Sr. Millses built for their retirement years. In the background right is the small house gifted to Dan and Helen Rook by the Millses in 1949...the same property where the Millses operated their country store... the same property where Louella Mills lived from 1987-2008.**

- 11. Eleventh Owners: Allen and Nancy Mills, 1987 - 1998**
- 12. Twelfth Owners: David and Beth Kelly, 1998 - 2004**
- 13. Thirteenth Owners: James and Cynthia Shank, 2004 - Present**

## You May Remember...

**Hillard “Speedy” Mills** was a standout baseball player on the Mont Alto Team during the 1930s. He served as a Mont Alto Borough Councilman. He had a 40-year career as a machinist at Landis Tool Company.

**George Mills, Sr. and Ronnie Mills** operated the Mills Sawmill on Slabtown Road.

**George Mills, Sr.** farmed with his father and later worked at Landis Tool Company for 13 years. He also worked for many years as a Truck and Tank mechanic at Letterkenny Army Depot.

**Ronnie Mills** was a standout baseball player at Quincy High School, on adult baseball teams in Franklin County, and played Minor League Baseball for the Philadelphia Athletics from 1953-1957. He was for a time the owner/operator of an Atlantic Service Station in Waynesboro.

**Glenn Mills and Ronnie Mills** were skilled carpenters and as Mills and Mills, Inc., built many homes in the Mont Alto, Quincy, and Waynesboro area.

**George Mills, Sr., Glenn Mills and Ronnie Mills** operated the Mills Abattoir on Slabtown Road.

**Bernard (Bernie) Mills, Jr.** was a masterful guitar player. He was a member of several music groups in the vicinity including “*The South Mountain Boys*,” “*The Blue Ridge String Band*,” and “*The Sacred Strings*.” With a number of his children, The “*Mills Family*” performed in church and civic engagements throughout Franklin County and beyond. In addition to farming, Bernie had a 30-year career at Letterkenny Army Depot.

**Bernard Mills, Jr., David Mills, Glenn Mills, and Guy (Geezer) Mills** served in the US Army during WWII.

**George Mills, Sr.** served in the US Navy during WWII.

**Bernard Mills, Jr. and Guy (Geezer) Mills** served in the Pennsylvania National Guard.



**Grave marker of Samuel Lane, 1772 - 1853  
Old Quincy Graveyard, Quincy Pa.**

**Samuel Lane built "Laneton Farm" in 1818  
which in 1930 became "The Old Mills Farm."**

**Samuel Lane's wife, Anna Barbara (Bittinger) Lane, is buried in the  
same graveyard. No photo of her grave marker is available.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**-Sources of information found in this presentation-**

1. "History of Franklin County, PA" - Warner, Beers & Co., Chicago, 1887  
by Samuel P. Bates, Professor J. Fraise Richard, and collaborators.  
(Online @ [https://www.google.com/books/edition/  
History\\_of\\_Franklin\\_County\\_Pennsylvania](https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_Franklin_County_Pennsylvania))
2. Franklin County Courthouse -Landex Document Search
3. Digital Archives of the Alexander Hamilton Free Library, Waynesboro, PA
4. Chambersburg Public Opinion - Historical Newspapers Digitized.

***This article appeared in the Waynesboro Village Record on March 29, 1900  
in a weekly feature called “Just A Moment’s Chat...  
Some of the occurrences of the past that will have more  
than a casual interest for Village Record readers.”  
(Transcribed from newsprint for easier viewing)***

***“Dan Logan Remembered” (Part One)***

The announcement in the Record last week of the death of the venerable Alexander Logan in Harrisonburg, Va., has recalled the capture of Captain E. Cook at Mont Alto furnace by Daniel Logan, a brother of Alexander. No act preceding the Rebellion was more widely discussed than this, and few men achieved more temporary notoriety than did Dan Logan. It can be truthfully added that no person ever deplored this unpleasant fame more than did Daniel Logan, or “Dan” as he was more familiarly known.

The brief history of the event can be told as follows: John E. Cook, who held a commission as captain in the army of the Provisional Government of John Brown, was captured by Dan Logan and a blacksmith at the Mont Alto furnace, while on his way north, after the well-remembered Harper’s Ferry and John Brown’s Fort incident, and while in search of provisions for himself and his comrades. For this arrest made in October 1859, Logan received \$1000. Cook was taken before the late Justice Samuel Reisher, in Chambersburg, committed to jail and then removed to Charlestown, Va., where tried and, on December 16, 1859, executed. His trial was a notable one. He was a brother-in-law of Governor Willard of Indiana and every effort was made to clear him. Hon Daniel W. Voorbees making a brilliant defense for him and his counsel but without avail.

So much for the story as it has found its way into our history text books. Let the *Record* amplify it for you with the help of a youthful acquaintance of Logan. Here is the more extended version given by Samuel K. Smith, foreman of the paint department of Frick Mfg. Co. It was given to him by Dan Logan, or at least the greater part of it was: that which is not from Logan will be readily perceived.

Cook and three companions were heading north after escaping the “Fort” at Harper’s Ferry and were using the “Underground Railway.” When they reached the top of the mountain near Mont Alto, they were nearly famished and determined to go to the settlement to procure food. At the “Pearl of the Park,” since the scene of so many lovers’ trysts and the guardian of the purist water a thirsty man ever drank, they met the two Misses Hughes, sisters of Holker Hughes, owner of the Mont Alto furnace. The men asked where they could get food. There were several negroes in the party and the suspicions of the Misses Hughes were aroused.

They advised the men to go to the furnace for food and Cook accompanied them, leaving his friends in the mountain. When they reached the old blacksmith shop, the Misses Hughes told Cook to await them there. They went to the house and told their nephew, Claggett Fitzhugh, of their suspicions. He at once sent someone to hunt up Dan Logan, who had caught some runaway negroes before then and held them until their owners appeared, and who owned the farm now owned by the widow of John Small, and occupied by her son, Ex-County Commissioner Jacob. R. Small, and Dan hurried to the blacksmith shop. He saw Cook there, a small man weighing about 140 pounds, standing with his back to Logan and fancied he would have an easy time capturing him. Advancing quietly, he threw his arms around Cook. But the little man was wiry and strong. He made a great effort to reach a pistol in his pocket but Logan kept his arms pinioned and prevented this. He could not, however, overcome Cook and called to Fitzhugh to help him. Fitzhugh would not take hold of Cook and Dan then appealed to Daniel Brumbaugh, the blacksmith (and a brother to Michael Brumbaugh, a present employee of Frick Co.) to help him.

They overpowered Cook and imprisoned him in a [brick smokehouse, which is still standing on the Small farm](#). Next day, Logan and Fitzhugh tied him to a horse, took him to Chambersburg and delivered him over to the authorities. For his capture of Cook, Logan received a reward of \$1000 as told above.

But Dan Logan never enjoyed the reward he received. He was of a superstitious nature and Cook had uttered a dire prophecy when captured. [“Every one of you who has sided with my capture will die an unnatural death!”](#) he solemnly declared. Dan could not forget these words. A few days afterward, Mr. Smith was riding on horseback to Chambersburg and saw Dan at Mont Alto. He talked to him of the capture and remarked that he would receive \$1000 reward. [“Yes, I know I will. But I tell you, Sam, I have \\$1000 in the bank in Chambersburg that I would give if I had not caught Cook and delivered him to the authorities,”](#) replied Logan, and his manner conveyed the impression that he was thoroughly in earnest.

Logan, after the war, removed himself to Lancaster and engaged in the buying and selling of horses until his unnatural death, a few years ago, as the result of an accident in the railroad yards in that place. Cook’s prophecy came true as to him.

Brumbaugh, who weighed 230 pounds when he helped capture Cook, died from the ravages of consumption in a few years afterward.

Fitzhugh, whose mother was one of the old Virginia Lees, went into the Confederate army and has been lost trace of.

Mr. Smith was a boy with Dan Logan and knew him well. Dan was the fourth of a family of five children and was born in the house No. 209 East Main Street. As a young man he worked on the farm owned by a brother of Dr. Benjamin Frantz of West Main Street. He was married to Miss Richards, whose home was near Mont Alto furnace and conducted her farm there until after the war. His widow resides in Shippensburg, where she removed many years ago.

All the Logan boys were of exceptional strength and skilled in the "manly art." They were inoffensive but administered quick corporal punishment to their antagonists. The oldest of the family was John. When a boy, he drove a cow and ran errands for Merchant Besore. Afterward he became a member of the firm of Logan & Besore. He married Miss Wertz of Quincy township and went to Illinois before the war. He received a commission in the Union army. He died in Illinois.

Anna Logan, the only girl in the family, married Jacob Sechrist who was the owner of the farm near Tomstown now owned by A. Herring of Harrisonburg, Va. There they were converted to the Mormon faith and went to Utah where, it is said Mrs. Sechrist became one of the wives of a prominent Mormon apostle. She died there.

Hugh Logan, third child of the family, learned coachmaking with Alexander Hamilton, then engaged in butchering and later bought Thompson's coach factory in Ringgold. When the war broke out he was suspected of being a Rebel sympathizer and was "sent across the line" by the provost marshal. He enlisted in the Rebel army and was with Stuart on his raid into this state. He was afterward captured in Maryland and was kept a prisoner for several years. Then he engaged in mercantile business in Woodstock, Va, and organized a bank and became its president. He was an ardent Methodist. He died in Woodstock.

Dan you have been told about and last week you were given a brief sketch of Alexander, the youngest of the family. He learned plastering with Francis Bowden and married Miss Wolfinger of Leitersburg and moved there. He served in the Rebel army and afterward went to Harrisonburg, where he died.

So you have been recited a history of all the Logans, made to an extent of Dan's capture at Mont Alto of one of John Brown's lieutenants.

At this time it may not be amiss to relate how the genial and popular Squire H.E.Wertz of Quincy hauled one of Brown's confederates part of the way to Chambersburg. Albert Hazlett made his way north from Harper's Ferry before Captain Cook, and was caught at Mont Alto. Mr. Wertz met him on the road while he (Mr. Wertz) was driving to Chambersburg and offered him a place in his buggy. At New Franklin Hazlett left the vehicle and started to walk in the direction of Greenwood. When Mr. Wertz reached Chambersburg, he learned of the Harper's Ferry incident and remarked that he believed he had one of the men who had escaped as a companion on part of his trip to the county seat.

Immediately there was a commotion in the crowd at the hotel (now the Washington House) where Mr. Wertz told the story. While he was detailing the circumstances, he saw the man on the street and called attention to him. Charles Campbell and Michael W. Houser, father of the ex-Postmaster W. R. Houser, of Chambersburg, went in pursuit of him, but Hazlett had a good start. He went to Mrs. Ritter's house on East King street, where John Brown and one of his confederates had boarded, hurried through the house, into the yard and out of town. Messrs. Campbell and Houser followed him. A slightly tilted board in the walk in the yard of Mrs. Ritter's house seemed to them suspicious, and they moved it, to find beneath it a heavy blanket which Hazlett had been wearing, wrapped carefully around his carbine.

Determined to catch him, they boarded the next train going east. Campbell got off at Shippensburg and started toward Carlisle. Houser went to Carlisle and returned toward Shippensburg. He captured Hazlett who was afterward executed.

Thus has been told in some detail the story of the Logans and some of John Brown's lieutenants except that of the men Captain Cook left near the "Pearl of the Park." above Mont Alto. They were alarmed by the failure of Cook to return with provisions and made their escape from the vicinity as soon as possible.



***This article appeared in the Waynesboro Village Record on April 12, 1900  
in a weekly feature called "Just A Moment's Chat..***

***Some of the occurrences of the past that will have more  
than a casual interest for Village Record readers."***

***(Transcribed from newsprint for easier viewing.)***

### ***Dan Logan Remembered " (Part 2)***

The *Record's* chat two weeks ago concerning the capture of Captain John E. Cook, one of John Brown's officers in his "Provisional Army," by Daniel Logan, at Mont Alto, has brought to this office a number of letters bearing upon the subject. Almost all of them make additions to the story as told to the *Record* by Samuel K. Smith, of this place. None tells the story differently except as to the manner in which Cook was captured. Mr. Smith's story was that Cook was captured by Logan and Daniel Brumbaugh at the blacksmith shop at Mont Alto. Several *Record* readers, including Rev. Cyrus Cort, D.D., of Sabillasville, say he was overpowered in the road to Funkstown by Logan and one or more companions. The difference in the stories is slight. Logan is, in all the versions, the leader of the captors of Cook.

Dr. Cort adds this: *"Cook's comrades awaited his return with great anxiety on the mountains and for nights lay near Chambersburg in hopes of effecting his rescue in some manner. One of them, named Merriam, being unable to travel on foot, was disguised and forward in the Cumberland Valley train cars to his home in Connecticut. The others, including a son of John Brown, worked their way through the mountains of Pennsylvania up to Canada where they remained until the war broke out, when they entered the Union Service."*

With respect to Cook's companions, Hon. M.A. Folts, then editor of *The Chambersburg Times* says: *"On October 28, 1859, three strange men came to Chambersburg. They were almost starved and devoured gluttonously the provisions which a good woman set before them. They alleged that they had slept in the woods the previous night and had woke up in the morning frozen to the ground. Their appearance supported their story, for leaves and moss and dirt were yet adhering to them. The next morning, a farmer in Green Township, I have forgotten his name, saw three men bearing a wounded companion from his barn. These men were members of John Brown's party who had escaped from Harper's Ferry, it was believed at the time. Only a few people in Chambersburg (not half a dozen) knew of their visit to the town."*

In his "*Lincoln and Men of War Times*," Col. A.K. McClure, editor-in-chief of the *Philadelphia Times*, and in 1869 editor of the *Chambersburg Repository*, a practicing attorney, but recently elected State Senator, tells at length of Cook's capture. When the latter expressed desire for a lawyer: "*Col. McClure was recommended to him by Logan. Col. McClure in his story says that all preparations had been made for the escape of Cook from the Chambersburg jail on the day after his incarceration. They were frustrated, however, by the quick arrival of the requisition from Governor Wise of Virginia, and the surrender of Cook to the Virginia authorities. The requisition was unexpected at the time.*

*After Squire H.E. Wertz had driven Hazlett nearly to Chambersburg, without an idea as to the identity of his companion, and Hazlett had been captured near Shippensburg by the father of ex-Postmaster Houser of Chambersburg, the information was sent to Virginia that Captain Cook was a prisoner in the Carlisle jail. A requisition was immediately forwarded, but when it reached Carlisle, the identity of Hazlett was established. The requisition for Cook was, however retained there and afterward hurried on to Chambersburg as soon as the capture of Cook was learned of and before the plans for Cook's escape could be carried out.*

Sympathy was with Cook. Even Dan Logan was willing that he should escape. And in Chambersburg, there were two women who proposed to rescue him the night of his capture. They were Mrs. McClure, wife of Col. McClure, and Miss Virginia Reilly, who was well-known in Waynesboro and who became the wife of Rev. Thomas Orr. Their purpose was to go to the jail, gain an entrance to Cook's cell, which the sheriff would readily have permitted, and dress the unfortunate follower of Brown in the extra woman's apparel they carried in a bundle. Then Cook was to walk from the jail with one of the women, while the other remained to be released the next day. The plan could not have failed, but Col. McClure objected to it. There was no necessity for such haste, he argued. The requisition would not arrive from Virginia for several days and Cook would be free the following night.

The Women protested that Cook should be started on his way to freedom that night; that any delay was dangerous. But they were overruled. Their intuition was better than Col. McClure's counsel, however, and had their wishes been heeded, Cook might not have died on the gallows.

B.L. Mauer, Chambersburg, was one of the Franklin County men who witnessed the execution of Cook in Charlestown, Va., December 16, 1859. *“A big force of soldiers was there to keep the crowds in check and the crowds were immense”*. Mr. Mauer says, *“Cook, when taken from the jail, wore an expression of hopeless despair but when he mounted the scaffold, was as firm as John Brown himself had been.”* Three others of Brown’s followers were hanged the same day with Cook.

Cook and Coppie, a companion, nearly escaped from jail the night preceding their execution. Mr. Mauer says this: *“About 9 o’clock, I was awakened by the firing of a musket and a great confusion in the street. Going down, I found Cook and Coppie had made an almost successful attempt to escape. With an old Barlow knife, which someone had managed to give them several weeks before, they had succeeded in filing their shackles so that, whenever necessary, they could remove them. With a bed screw which they had taken from their bedsteads, they had made a hole in the wall large enough to squeeze through. The bricks and mortar were secreted in the drum of a stove and between their bed clothes. Their room being on the first floor, their descent to the yard was easy, but a ten-foot wall, smooth inside, still stood between them and liberty. The timbers of the gallows on which John Brown was hung a few days previous, were piled in the yard and they soon reached the top of the wall by the aid of some of these. But a sentinel observed a man on the wall and challenged him. Receiving no answer, he fired at him. The man seemed determined to jump. The sentinel threatened to impale him on his bayonet. He...it was Cook...then retreated to the jail yard and he and Coppie gave themselves up. Cook said it was their intention to jump down outside, throttle the sentinel and escape to the Shenandoah Mountains, ten minutes away.*

*It was first charged that the Pennsylvanians present, among whom I was one, were responsible for the near escape of the men, and had this not been disproved, there would have been a ‘hot time in the town’ that night for some of us.”*

Another *Record* reader furnished this contribution: *“Gerrit Smith, a well-known abolitionist, was committed to the New York State Lunatic Asylum, November 11, 1853. Claggett Fitzhugh was a nephew of Mr. Smith’s wife and it was said that the part Fitzhugh took in the arrest of Captain Cook helped drive Mr. Smith insane.”*

It is not generally remembered that unknown parties threatened to come from Boston and execute vengeance on the captors of Captain Cook. On October 31, 1859, three anonymous letters were started from the Boston post office and addressed to Postmaster John Liggett of Chambersburg, Sheriff John S. Brown, and District Attorney Lyman S. Clarke. That to the former (John Liggett) was printed at the time. Those to the Sheriff and District Attorney were similar to the Liggett letter, portions of which are reproduced here. The writer, "A friend of the entire Union" says:

*"I write to apprise you on a measure on foot in this vicinity and knowledge of which I communicate to you for the benefit of the two infamous wretches it concerns (Logan and Clagget Fitzhugh) should you think proper so to use it. The infamous treachery attaching to the capture and delivery of the misguided Cook into the hands of the authorities of Pennsylvania, has aroused a feeling of indignation in this community, which has caused a band of determined desperados to join together for the purpose of avenging what they deem the base and unpardonable betrayal of the first indistinctive principles of honor, planted in the human heart by God Himself.*

*They profess no sympathy for Cook or his traitorous confederates, and are quite willing they should suffer the full penalties of the laws they have so wantonly outraged. But a traitor like Logan, and his more infamous associate, to the very instinct of humanity, deserve not only the execration of all good men, but justifies them in taking into their own hands the punishment of these dastardly traitors.*

*This band of desperados will leave here in a few days, with the determination never again to turn their faces Northward, or retrace their steps until the base treachery and dastardly crime of Logan and his more infamous associate is wiped out with their own blood. My utter abhorrence of the shedding of human blood, and to prevent its further effusion, has induced me to forward you this timely hint, that you may, if you may, if you please, save the wretches from the certain and awful doom that awaits them."*

It is not necessary to say that the visit of the proposed slayers was never made. These contributions to the story of a widely famous event in Franklin County's history are none of them new, but they are of interest now because of the recent death of the last of the Logan brothers who once called Waynesboro their home, and a part which a woman well-known here took in a scheme to save Captain Cook.