

George Washington and his staff visited the Johnston home.

Until his death on November 25, 1808, Dr. Johnston was host to many other Revolutionary officers and political leaders of the period. His remains are buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

10 THE JOHNSTON DISTILLERY

12837 or 12845 Williamsport Pike
(Private Residence – Observation Only)

The most famous distillery of the Greencastle-Antrim area was the Johnston Distillery, built in 1838 by Robert Johnston (no relative of the physician). Although the house, barn, and at least one distillery building and a smoke stack are still standing, they can only be seen off of the Williamsport Pike by turning right onto Jasper Drive, left onto Harvest Wagon Way, and right onto Autumfest Court to the cul-de-sac.

Johnston whiskey was sold in bulk quantities and to individual customers who came to the establishment to fill their containers for home consumption. A peak sales period came in 1919 when Maryland enacted a law prohibiting the sale of whiskey, at which time many Marylanders came across the Mason-Dixon Line to purchase Johnston liquor since it was still available in Pennsylvania.

After national prohibition went into effect, the United States government bonded fifty-four barrels of Johnston whiskey and placed it in the warehouse of the distillery grounds under constant guard. In 1924, the Thompson Distillery Company of Philadelphia, a subsidiary of the Schenley Corporation, purchased the liquor from the government. A 1970 listing of available premium liquors sold by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board included this Johnston whiskey. It was priced at \$232.11 for a case of 24 pints. Alas, the last of the Johnston whiskey has been sold.

11 CROWN STONE MARKERS

(Private Residence – Observation Only)

As the team of surveyors, headed by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, determined the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania, a stone marker was placed at one-mile intervals; and at every five-mile point, a crown stone, was used.

One of the original crown stones is located on a

farm at the intersection of the Williamsport Pike and Mason Dixon Road. The original spot of the crown stone is marked in the field by a nose-cone shaped, metal object, which is situated about 500 feet from the west side of the Williamsport Pike. The original crown marker was moved years ago, for safety's sake, to the backyard of the farmhouse at 2160 Mason Dixon Road. The crown stone can be seen from the roadside.

These five-mile markers bear the coats of arms of William Penn and Lord Baltimore, the proprietors of the two colonies. One of the few remaining crown markers, this stone was put in place in late September 1765.

12 JOHN MITCHELL HOMESTEAD

(Private Residence – Observation Only)

The ancient stone structure at 431 Leitersburg Street was erected circa 1780 by the family of John Mitchell, a pioneer settler in Antrim Township. During the Civil War, the farm was owned by Jacob Shook; and throughout the war, its land served as encampment sites for both Union and Confederate forces. The home was restored to its original beauty by the late Joe Henson during the 1980s. Its importance as part of the community's heritage has been recognized since it was named to the National Register of Historic Places.

13 PRE-REVOLUTIONARY LOG HOME

(Private Residence – Observation Only)

The log home located at 680 Osborne Avenue was dismantled, moved and reconstructed on this site. Its origin goes back to the pre-revolutionary war period when it was originally built on what is now the farm owned by the Borough of Greencastle, adjacent to the municipal water reservoir. Early records indicate that it stood, circa 1768, along "the old road to Baltimore," which was just north of today's Route 16.

14 TAYAMENTASACHTA

Tayamentasachta is an Iroquoian name, which means "endless hills." It was the name given to the farm by the two daughters of Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Winger, during his ownership.

In 1822, Emmanuel Stover purchased this land, known as "Poplar Spring" from James McLanahan. Later, the land was transferred to Emmanuel's son, Jacob P. Stover. An early log house and a barn were replaced by the present main section of the mansion house and a barn, which was built in 1849 and burned in 1876. Under the Stovers, the farm became one of the earliest holdings to venture into diversified farming. It contained extensive orchards and also specialized in the dairy business. Daniel Stover, grandson of Jacob P. Stover, invented the Stover windmill as well as many agricultural implements, which were manufactured in his factory in Freeport, Illinois.

Today, the farm, which is nationally known, serves the Greencastle-Antrim School District as a center for environmental studies for students in grades K – 12. Tayamentasachta is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

The text, originally written by the late William P. Conrad, was edited and updated by Bonnie A. Shockey in 2006.



The printing is courtesy of the Franklin County Visitors Bureau.

Trails of History
Driving Tour of Greencastle



1 MOSS SPRING GRAVEYARD

(North Allison Street to Grant Street extended)

The Ulster-Scots, Lowland Scottish Presbyterians, settled Antrim Township, c. 1734. It was here at Moss Spring (located on Grant Street extended) that they built the first church structure in Franklin County, c. 1737. The original log structure, which was burned during the French and Indian War, was replaced with a weatherboard building, c. 1767, called the Red Church. It stood at the northern end of the graveyard, the ground gently sloping from it to the spring, a few rods below.

All that remains are graves of some of the early parishioners – silent reminders of the pioneers who first came to this frontier part of Pennsylvania in the first half of the 18th century.

2 THE OLD BROWN'S MILL SCHOOL

(North Allison Street into Brown's Mill Road)

In 1834, the Free School Act was enacted; but because the law did not provide for financing school buildings, 51 citizens of the Brown's Mill community raised sufficient funds to construct the schoolhouse in 1836.

This limestone structure, located on the Kauffman Road, served as an educational institution and community center for the Brown's Mill area through the spring of 1922. Evening singing schools, debates, and spelling bees were held during each school year. One report tells of as many as a hundred sleighs bringing people on a winter night to take part in a social event at the school.

3 BROWN MILL'S CEMETERY

The Brown's Mill Cemetery, adjoining the school lot, contains the graves of many early settlers. (Note: There are two cemeteries within 200 yards of each other.) Recognized as an historic cemetery and the final resting place of 17 Revolutionary War veterans, the Franklin County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a memorial to these soldiers in 1935.

Among the burial sites is the grave of Major General James Potter, one of three generals from Pennsylva-

nia to be accorded this rank in the War for Independence. James Potter's memory was perpetuated by the Commonwealth when Potter County was created on March 26, 1804. Also buried in the cemetery is James McLene, who was a member of the Continental Congress, as well as a political leader in state government during the Revolution and for a decade following the war.

4 THE ENOCH BROWN PARK

On July 26, 1764, Enoch Brown and 10 of his pupils were massacred by three young Indians, who were part of a campaign to pillage the Conococheague Settlement. This took place during the Pontiac Rebellion, which followed the French and Indian War.

In 1883, a campaign to raise funds for an appropriate memorial to these unfortunate pioneers was organized. Through the public schools of the county, private donations, and churches, \$1,400 was raised. With this amount, 20 acres of land surrounding the site was purchased and two monuments were erected over the site of the schoolhouse and the common grave of master and scholars. The memorial park was dedicated on August 4, 1885.

5 CORPORAL RIHL MONUMENT

(west side of Route 11 at 9389 Molly Pitcher Highway)

Corporal William H. Rihl of Philadelphia was a member of the 1st New York cavalry regiment. On June 22, 1863, Rihl's company, with 43 men, made a dash on Jenkin's advance scouting party and drove them back to the main command. M. S. Cafferty and Corporal Rihl were struck down in a volley from a body of Confederate infantry lying in a wheat field, south of the Fleming house. The result was the wounding of Cafferty in the leg and the death of Rihl, the first Union soldier killed north of the Mason-Dixon Line. On June 22, 1886, the body of Corporal Rihl was disinterred from the Lutheran graveyard and buried at the site where he had been killed. Members of the Greencastle G.A.R. Corporal Rihl Post carried out this project and were responsible for raising money that resulted in the erection of the monument, which was dedicated on June 22, 1887 and now marks the final resting place of this soldier.

6 CIVIL WAR SIGNAL STATION

On August 17, 1864, a signal station was established on a site located on the property at 500 Buchanan Trail West. This Greencastle post was headquarters for the signal system attached to Pennsylvania's Department of the Susquehanna. Its line of communication connected stations at Mt. Parnell, Greencastle, Casey's Knob, Fairview Mountain, Williamsport, and Marye's Heights near Harper's Ferry. Its purpose was to monitor possible Confederate raids into Maryland or Pennsylvania. Information, sent by code with flags or lights to the Greencastle headquarters, was relayed by telegraph to command posts at Chambersburg or Harrisburg.

7 JAMES RODY HOMESTEAD

The property at 2206 Buchanan Trail West, on the east bank of the Conococheague Creek, was originally settled by James Rody, circa 1735. It was one of the four early homesteads in Antrim Township, which comprised the first white settlement in this area, which became known as the Conococheague Settlement.

After the killing of Joe and Hyram Smith in 1844, Sidney Rigdon, an excommunicated Mormon, through an emissary, contracted with Andrew G. McLanahan to purchase his 400 acre farm at the cost of \$14,700 with a down payment of \$6,000. Rigdon and about 150 of his followers moved to the farm in the spring of 1846, in hopes of establishing a self-supporting (non-Mormon) community. Among the group were farmers, professional men, mechanics, and capitalists. Some found employment in Greencastle while others worked on the farm. When money due on the mortgage could not be raised, McLanahan repossessed the farm in 1847, and over the next several years, Rigdon and his followers left the area.

In 1849, a weekly newspaper, called the Conococheague Herald, was started by Ebenezer Robinson, one of Rigdon's followers. The present day Echo Pilot traces its beginning to this paper.

In 2005, the Rody farm, the last of the original four homesteads in the Conococheague Settlement to be developed, was sold to a developer.

8 MARTIN'S MILL COVERED BRIDGE

As more traffic developed through the passing years, bridges were built to span the streams of the county. The first bridges were generally made of wood. They were crude open-floor bridges that later were often covered by a housing to protect the structure against decay.

Martin's Mill Covered Bridge, with a 200-foot long span, is one of the few remaining examples of this type of structure. It was built in 1849 to provide a crossing on the East Conococheague for the road that ran from Upton to the Williamsport Pike. After the bridge was swept off its foundation by the floods of Hurricane Agnes in 1972, the bridge under the auspices of the Martin's Mill Covered Bridge Association, was reconstructed to preserve it as an historical point of interest. It stands a memorial to an important contribution in the history of local transportation and to the workmanship of the bridge builders of years ago.

In December 2003, Antrim Township assumed ownership of the bridge.

9 THE DR. ROBERT JOHNSTON HOME (Private Residence – Observation Only)

Robert Johnston, the fourth son of the early Antrim Township pioneer, James Johnston Sr., was born on July 26, 1750. As a young man he was tutored by Francis Allison, D.D., a Presbyterian minister, who later became the vice provost of the University of Pennsylvania. Johnston's education continued in England where he studied medicine. Upon returning to America, he began practicing medicine in the East Conococheague community from the home he built at 12334 Williamsport Pike, which at that time was along the King's Highway, south of Greencastle.

During the revolution, Dr. Johnston became a surgeon in the 6th Pennsylvania Battalion, the surgeon general for the Southern Department of the Army, and the personal physician and friend of George Washington. He was present at Ticonderoga, Saratoga, Valley Forge, and the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

After the war, Dr. Johnston returned to Antrim Township where he continued his practice. On October 12, 1794, during the Whiskey Rebellion, President