

Cover Sheet

Overview

This is a chapter from the fourth edition of the e-book “**In Search of the Turkey Foot Road: Unraveling the mystery, charting new history, plotting the route**” (2014). To access other chapters, see the [online table of contents](#).

As described on pages 3 to 6 of [Addendum A](#), the fourth edition mistakenly claims that a dashed line route on the 1755 Fry and Jefferson map is an antecedent to the Turkey Foot Road. Shortly after publication, I realized that the dashed lines actually represent Christopher Gist’s second Ohio Company Tour. If that or another known mistake affects this or another chapter of the book, the relevant text will be highlighted in yellow, and the mistake will be briefly described in a comment that is accessible via a clickable comment icon.

In this and other chapters of the book, any supplemental information will be provided via clickable comment icons, inserted yellow sheets, or other readily identifiable means.

L. Dietle

August 23, 2026

8. The circa 1775 Leibundgutt traditions

The tradition of the first covered wagon into the Salisbury area

Peter Leibundgutt (Livengood)²²⁹ was an early settler in what is now Elk Lick Township²³⁰, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. He left an extensive business journal, which was translated into English by Doctor E. C. Saylor in 1935. It was published as “**The Peter Leibundgutt Journal**” by Lois Ann Mast in 1991. In her introduction, Mast relates the family tradition that Peter Livengood was **the first Amishman to bring a covered wagon over the Allegheny Mountains**, and indicates that he used the Turkey Foot Road to do so. As presented below, the date of his trip was likely circa 1775.

Not every detail in every tradition is true, and it is geographically possible that Livengood could have brought his wagon by way of Braddock’s road. Nevertheless, after he moved, he lived in the present-day Salisbury/Casselman River area just west of the Allegheny Mountain. A tradition that he came over the mountains likely refers to coming over it on the Turkey Foot Road. After all, it was well-known that plenty of wagons were brought over the mountains on Braddock’s road 20 years earlier during Braddock’s 1755 march. If Livengood had brought his wagon west via Braddock’s road, no one would have thought of it as being a “*first*”.

If Livengood did not use Braddock’s road, one has to wonder why. He probably avoided it for the same likely reason Colonel Morgan (Chapter 9) did. Braddock’s road may have been in bad condition²³¹. Another very likely reason is that the Turkey Foot Path would have been a much more direct route to the location of present-day Salisbury, compared to Braddock’s road. Lastly, there may not have been a wagon road connecting Braddock’s road with the Salisbury area; Howell’s 1792 map ([Figure 0001](#)) does not show such a road. Volume II, page 656 of the 1906 book **History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...** indicates that Joseph Markley did not know where the north-south road would come through when he laid out Salisbury in 1794:

The Markley plan²³² provided for three streets extending north and south. These are now known as Gay and Grant streets, and Smith avenue. It is said that the road from Berlin to the Maryland line was not then located, and that Markley, not knowing where this would be, provided these streets to meet the road on any route that might be chosen. The road entered the town on Market (now Grant) street, and became the main thoroughfare.

While traditions are interesting, facts are more so, and one such fact is this: The Salisbury area was settled before the Revolutionary War, and before Colonel Morgan’s 1779 road building activities

²²⁹ Peter Livengood is one of Mr. Dietle’s ancestors. A biography of Peter Livengood is provided on page 553 of the 1884 book “**History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties...**”.

²³⁰ The basis for the naming of Elk Lick Township is provided in Volume 2, pages 67 and 68 of the 1906 book **History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**

²³¹ While researching the Turkey Foot Road, Mr. Dietle encountered a 1778 or 1779 passage that describes the bad condition of Braddock’s road. Unfortunately, the passage was not copied down for incorporation into this book. The passage had something to do with a difficulty or inability to transport wives to or from Fort Pitt.

²³² For a 1959 copy of Douglas Baker’s plot of Salisbury, see [Figure 0531](#).

through the area. For example, John Hendrix, John Markley, and William Tyshoe (Tissue) appear in the 1772 Brothersvalley assessment list for 1773 taxes. Tyshoe already had 12 acres cleared, and Markley had 10 acres cleared. So much cleared land means they had already been in the area at least a few years. For another example, the early settler John Christner's property was warranted in 1775, and he and Christian Hochstetler were recorded doing business with Peter Livengood in 1776. For another example, Morgan brought his road through the area because the existing settlement would be a good source of forage for the packhorses. This prewar settlement activity means there had to be at least a bridle path into the area from somewhere that was used to transport settlers, farm animals, and necessities into the area.

The trip must have been difficult

If Livengood indeed came along the Turkey Foot Path in 1775, then it must have been a monumental struggle, and **he must have more or less taken to the creek bed in some portions of the Jennings Run water gap**. We do not know if June 1775 was a dry month. If it was, then such favorable weather conditions would have facilitated the use of the creek bottom²³³, for getting Livengood's wagon through.

Chapter 7 presents reasons why Braddock would have avoided the Jennings Run water gap. At least through mid-June 1755, Pennsylvania was experiencing a drought. The dry spell was serious enough to cause the Pennsylvania government to worry about its impact on Braddock's army and to proclaim a fast²³⁴. Lowdermilk's **"History of Cumberland"** states that *"Spendelow's road crossed the creek just above the mouth of Braddock's Run, and followed the course of the Run, crossing it at times, and in some instances taking the bed of the stream."* A dry spring would have made the creek bottom somewhat dryer than usual and firmer for Braddock in 1755, as well as for Livengood in 1775. There is a tremendous difference, however, between bringing one wagon through a creek bottom, and trying to get heavy cannon, an army of 2,400 men, and their wagon train of supplies through.

Jennings Run is an engineered channel today, which makes it straighter and faster paced than it was in its original meandering and changing creek bed. Even though the creek came close to the hillside in places, its original meandering path ([Figure 0425](#)) suggests that it would have had low banks in many areas. Considering that the larger Wills Creek was typically fordable, Jennings Run was certainly fordable by at least an occasional wagon.

Although we are not personally familiar with Jennings Run before the engineered channel, we know that like Wills Creek, it was prone to flooding due to snowmelt and heavy rains. Mr. McKenzie has observed that streams in the area can get high after a rain, but they generally subside rather quickly. He recalls his father taking the family to Cooks Mills in the summer, and driving the station wagon right out into Wills Creek to wash it. He also did a lot of fishing and swimming in Wills Creek while

²³³ "Creek bottom" is a phrase that is used, perhaps somewhat colloquially, to describe the low lying land that a creek flows through.

²³⁴ Washington's June 28, 1755 letter to his brother John mentions that Buffalo River (French Creek) *"must be as dry as we now found the Great Crossing of the Youghiogany, which may be passed dry-shod."* According to the minutes of the Provincial Council, in view of the drought in the spring of 1755, Robert H. Morris, *"Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania, and Counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex, upon Delaware"*, proclaimed a day of fasting for June 17, 1755. The introduction to the proclamation states: *"There having been no Rain for two or three Months, and all Sorts of Grain near perishing, and as the General was beginning his March, the Governor and Council unanimously thought it necessary to appoint a Fast, Which was done by Proclamation in these Words..."*

growing up, and can recall many times crossing it when the water was up (but not in flood mode). As long as he kept good footing, it was generally no problem. Based on these experiences with Wills Creek, Mr. McKenzie believes it is likely that Jennings Run was not a significant impediment to the occasional settler's wagon.

Other printed versions of the Livengood tradition

An early reference to the Livingood tradition is found in an article by David Husband in the January 12, 1894 issue of the "**Somerset Standard**":

The Livengoods were the first that brought a wagon into this section. The evening they arrived in the neighborhood they were pushing to get to Saylor's, but night closing on them they were compelled to stop, thinking themselves several miles off. On making a fire they were discovered by the Saylor family, and very unexpectedly received a visit from Mr. S. at their encampment, and learned they were but a short distance from his house. They rested here for a few days, looking around for a location, and having selected one near where Salisbury is now situated moved the wagon up there and lived in it until a cabin was built and prepared for their reception.

According to the June 1, 1894 issue of the "**Somerset Standard**", this and other articles were a reprinting of a 52-chapter series that had originally been published "20 years ago". The original circa 1874 printing is the earliest known published version of the Livengood wagon tradition.

The next printed version of the Livingood tradition is found in the 1884 book "**History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties...**", which states:

Not many years subsequent he started for the Great West, which at that time was anywhere west of the Alleghenies. This was in 1760, and he was one of the first to bring a wagon west of those mountains. He decided to locate in what is now Elk Lick Township, Somerset county. The first night they encamped under the friendly shelter of a broad-spreading oak-tree, when another heir, named Elizabeth, was born to Rev. Livengood. He selected a large tract of land, enough for all his children, just across the river from Salisbury, which he marked out by blazing the trees.

In the above quote, no basis is given for the 1760 date, which is extremely suspect. Livengood's land actually straddled the Casselman River, although most of it was located on the west side of the river. The story is also given in the 1899 book "**Biographical Review Containing Life Sketches of Leading Citizens of Somerset**", which states: "*The first night after his arrival in Elk Lick he camped beneath a spreading tree, and under its branches was born his daughter Elizabeth, who afterward became the wife of Jacob Breneisen.*"

The tradition varies

The Livingood tradition varies slightly from publication to publication. The variations probably result from the tradition being passed down orally in various branches of the family. One publication, for example, references a Conestoga wagon ([Figure 0952](#)). The "oak-tree" is given as a maple tree in other publications. According to the article "*The Markley History*" in the "**Casselman Chronicle**" (Volume XXXI Numbers 1 and 2), the child born under a tree the first night here was Mariah, born September 18, 1767.

The September 18, 1767 arrival date is incorrect. Peter Livengood's journal clearly records business transactions with a Jacob Kurtz in March 1767, December 1768, February 1770, January 1771, and February 1774. Unless Kurtz also moved to the Salisbury area, Kurtz and Livengood would not have

lived close enough to one another to have business transactions both before and after September 1767. The early assessment lists for Brothersvalley Township, Bedford County that were prepared in the years 1772 to 1774 do not record any residents named Peter Livengood or Jacob Kurtz.

Sugar Baby Betsy

A version of this Livengood tradition is provided on page 6 of the November 1963 issue of “**The Laurel Messenger**”. Published under the subtitle “*Sugar Baby Betsy*”, it helps to date Peter’s trip, and the presence of a wagon road:

A family tradition tells of the coming of the Peter Livengood family from Berks to Somerset (then Bedford) County. The time is calculated by determining the date of birth of a daughter named Elizabeth, in a crude shelter, beneath the spreading branches of a large sugar tree, at the site of their cabin homestead. It appears the family was camping out, pending the completion of their log cabin at this site when Elizabeth was born. The family Bible register of births fixes the date as 8 July 1775.

This tradition resonates because Betsy is a nickname for Elizabeth, and (unless it was invented by the 1963 author) the memorable nickname “*Sugar Baby Betsy*” would have helped following generations to remember the tradition, including the detail that Elizabeth was born under a sugar maple tree. The same article indicates that Peter Livengood bought property in the vicinity of present-day Salisbury in 1773, and warranted²³⁵ it in 1775. (Another source gives a different acreage.)

The article states:

William St. Clair obtained warrant for 100 acre tract in Elk Lick (then Cumberland County²³⁶) 12 Apr 1769. He sold this tract to Peter Livengood in 1773. The site of the Livengood homestead, is between Salisbury and St. Paul, and nearby is the old Indian Trail and packers path, known as the Turkeyfoot Road. St. Clair had six acres of the tract cleared in 1772 according to record in tax assessment file. The Commonwealth land office records show that Peter Livengood obtained warrant for said tract under date 6 Feb 1775, the date of survey is 30 Mar 1785, date of patent 13 Jan 1797, named “Liverpool,” area 156 acres.

The Turkey Foot Road may follow the edge of Livengood’s 1775 property

As shown by Survey Book C-138, Page 148 ([Figure 0605](#)), Peter Livengood warranted a 156¼-acre tract on February 6, 1775. The tract is located next to the Jacob Markley property, and straddles the Casselman River. As shown by [Figure 0293](#), this tract is related to the April 12, 1769 order number 3040. By comparing Figures [0293](#) and [0605](#) to Figures [0084](#), [0176](#), and [0300](#), one can see that the route of the Turkey Foot Road approaching the ford across the Casselman River appears to follow the edge of Peter Livengood’s 1775 property. The route to the ford shows up on the current parcel map of Elk Lick Township as a closed road, and as a property boundary.

²³⁵ For examples of Pennsylvania land warrants before and after the formation of the United States, see Figures [0290](#) and [0291](#), respectively (images courtesy of Harry Ringler, Junior).

²³⁶ Bedford County was formed as a result of the passage of Chapter DCXXXIX of the Pennsylvania Statutes at Large on March 9, 1771. It was “*Referred for consideration by the King in Council October 9, 1771. And allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter.*” The title of the act was “*An act for erecting a part of the county of Cumberland into a separate county*”.

The November 1963 issue of “**The Laurel Messenger**” indicates that the Livengood “homestead” was located somewhere near the Turkey Foot Road. This statement appears to be directed at the location of Livengood’s house, rather than his property. The preceding analysis proves his property was located directly on the Turkey Foot Road.

Livengood in the 1906 County History

The 1906 book “**History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**” also gives a version of the Livengood tradition. Page 68 states:

There is a story that when Peter Livengood, who located near Salisbury, came in with his family, they meant to stop with the Saylor, but were overtaken by night without finding them, and so were forced to camp in the woods. It so happened that they were quite near the Saylor at the time, without being aware of it. After they had built a fire, the Saylor noticed the light, made some investigation and found them. If the story has anything on which to rest, then it would look as though they were here as early as 1772, because shortly after coming in there was a happening in the family of Peter Livengood that would fix this as the date.

A Livengood reference on page 69 of the 1906 book is included later in this chapter as part of a longer quote about the early settlement of the Salisbury area.

Pages 71 and 72 state:

There remains something to be said of Peter Livengood. We consider the evidence good that he came here as early as 1772, although his name does not appear on the assessment lists until several years later. He came here from Berks county, although he was really born in Europe. He settled on the farm just West of Salisbury, now owned by Jeremiah B. Keim, who is one of his descendants. One of the family traditions is that on coming, a rude shelter of some sort was made beneath the spreading branches of a large sugar tree, and then a more substantial cabin was built, but that before the completion of the cabin the family was increased by the arrival of a daughter who was born under the sugar tree mentioned. The name of this daughter was Elizabeth, who afterwards was married to Jacob Brenison. She was still living in 1870, in which year her age was given to Michael F. Smith, Esq., census officer, as being ninety-eight years. This would fix the year 1772 as the time that Peter Livengood came here.

Compared to a census taker’s interview, the previously mentioned family Bible is a more reliable source for establishing the year of Elizabeth’s birth: July 8, 1775. As with the “**Laurel Messenger**” article, an article by Peter Livengood V in a circa 1937 issue of the “**Meyersdale Republican**” also describes Elizabeth’s birth as occurring on July 8, 1775, and indicates that Peter Livengood arrived in the vicinity of present-day Salisbury in 1775:

...Peter Livingood of Switzerland settled on the farm aforesaid ... in 1775, when his eldest son, Christian Livengood, was only fourteen years old. ... When this pioneer couple located in this locality with their eight children, they camped the first night under the spreading branches of a large forest tree not far from where Harry Keim’s farmhouse now stands, and there, many miles from a physician, their ninth child, a daughter named Elizabeth, was born July 8, 1775.

One can only imagine the difficulty of making such a trip with eight children and a pregnant wife who was nearing her delivery date.

Speculation that the Salisbury area was settled as early as 1768

The 1906 book “**History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**” speculates that the Salisbury area may have been settled as early as 1768. In doing so, page 69 mentions a property that Peter Livengood purchased:

Other settlers whose names are found on the first assessment list, supposed to have been made in 1772, were Bengamin Biggs, William Tissue, William Dwire, Andrew Hendricks, Hugh Robinson, William St. Clair, John St. Clair and James Claypool. Abraham Cable's name is identified with the Cox farm, and he may have lived on it, but this is by no means certain. How long they had been here at the time that this first written record was made, is not known. But some of them may have been of the trespassing settlers who were in the country prior to the time that it was legally open for settlement. Without mentioning any names, as he did when speaking of the Turkeyfoot region, Steele in his report of April, 1768, does make reference to a few settlers as “living nigh the crossing of the Little Yough,” to whom some proclamations were sent. The “Little Yough” is the Castleman's river. The crossings are in Garret county, Maryland, where the Braddock and National roads cross the stream. The distance from John Markley's²³⁷ improvement is about five and a half miles. If Steele in using the word “nigh” had no greater distance in mind than one of five or six miles, then this is the only settlement that could possibly have been meant. Just what distance Steele himself had in mind as falling within the meaning of the word “nigh,” we have no means of knowing, but for him to have had reference to the settlement about Berlin then it would have to mean fifteen or twenty miles, because the distance from the Little Crossings²³⁸ in Maryland to the then outskirts of that settlement is fully fifteen miles. This is a matter that we suppose everyone will have to decide for himself. We do not mean to claim that this settlement antedates that of Brothers Valley proper, but we do believe it to have been about as early. About three-eighths of a mile from the upper bridge between Salisbury and West Salisbury is a small farm of about one hundred acres that lies between the old Peter Livengood farm, now owned by Jeremiah B. Keim, and the Henry Keim farm, which has a history of one hundred and thirty-six years. It was on this farm that William St. Clair, one of these first settlers, made his improvements and on which he had six acres of cleared land in 1772. He sold this farm to Peter Livengood in 1773, His deed to Livengood recites that his application for the warrant for the survey was made under date of April 12, 1769, or nine days after the opening of the land office. This is the earliest date for any warrant for survey in what is now Somerset county that we have so far encountered. Its date would show that he certainly was among the first of these Elk Lick pioneers, and he may even be one of those referred to in Steele's report. John St. Clair stands in the first assessment as a single freeman, but he certainly owned lands here. After the sale of this little farm to Peter Livengood we find no further trace of either of the St. Clairs in the settlement.

Although the property sale to Livengood may have taken place in 1773, even though the warrant date is two years later, in 1775, the sale would not be proof that Livengood moved there that year. More importantly, the statement “*living nigh the crossing of the Little Yough,*” may be a direct

²³⁷ According to Volume 2, page 68 of the same book, “*John Markley is considered by all the best authorities as having been the first settler here. He had taken up several tracts of land, but his home place was a large tract of several hundred acres, known under the name of ‘John's Fancy,’ All the older part of the town of Salisbury was platted on this tract.*” In the 1772 assessment for 1773 Brothersvalley Township taxes, John Markley is listed with 200 acres total, and ten acres cleared. This means Markley was in the area long before George Morgan had the 1779 road cut to supply Fort Pitt.

²³⁸ The Little Crossings historical marker at Grantsville, Maryland, states: “*The ‘Little Crossings’ (Of the Little Youghiogeny River now called Castleman's River) – So called by George Washington when he crossed on June 19, 1755, with General Edward Braddock on the ill-fated expedition to Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh).*”

reference to the place where the Turkey Foot Path crossed the Casselman River: Salisbury. After all, as described in Chapter 11, Doctor Craig's October 2, 1784 letter to George Washington describes the Salisbury area as "*the Little Crossing on the Turkey-foot road to Cumberland*", and the entire river was once known as "*Little Crossings*".

Livengood's journal entries suggest a 1775 arrival date

Although Peter Livengood's journal is difficult to read because it is not in chronological order, a hasty (two-hour) review reveals that he was weaving as late as April 4, 1775 (pages 171 and 208) and had resumed weaving again by April 2, 1777 (pages 159 and 206). In the year 1776, Peter writes very little. He records that he reckoned with John Christner²³⁹ on May 12, 1776 (page 166) and sold sugar to Christian Hochstetler²⁴⁰ on July 17, 1776 (page 165). These are two early Salisbury area settlers. One can presume that Peter Livengood was busy improving his new farm in Bedford County in 1776, and had no time to weave.

This written record fits perfectly with the above stated 1775 tradition; i.e. he stopped weaving in April 1775 in order to move, was in the present-day Salisbury area by July 1775, and clearly already had his weaving equipment across the Allegheny Mountain by April 1777. Moving the weaving equipment from Berks County presumably required a wagon. If one accepts the Livengood traditions, the Turkey Foot Road was evidently already passable by occasional wagon traffic circa 1775 to 1777, because that was the only route of record across the Allegheny Mountain, and into the present-day Salisbury area.

According to the Somerset County assessment lists in John Cassaday's 1932 book "**The Somerset County Outline**", Peter "*Levergood*" first appeared as a taxable²⁴¹ in Brothersvalley Township in 1776. In the Brothersvalley Township assessment list for 1784, Peter Livergood is listed with 12 people in his household.

1776 maps appear to show the Turkey Foot Path

The October 1776 Sayer and Bennett map of the middle British colonies ([Figure 0639](#)) is, to a considerable extent, a copy of the 1755 Lewis Evans map ([Figure 0003](#)). The 1776 map makes a slight correction to the course of Braddock's road, moving the crossing of the Casselman River from Pennsylvania to its correct location in Maryland. Both the Evans map and the Sayer and Bennett map show a road heading northward out of Maryland to the vicinity of Berlin, Pennsylvania, and then swinging east to Raystown. One important difference from the 1755 Evans map is a road to the Casselman River on the 1776 Sayer and Bennett map that lies north of, and generally parallel to Braddock's road and passes through a "*Gap*" northwest of Cumberland.

²³⁹ According to Paul V. Hostetler's 1982 book "**The Three Zug (Zook) Brothers of 1742**", a John Christner was in the 1779 Brothersvalley tax list. The same book indicates that there was no tax list for the years 1777 to 1778. In reference to Elk Lick Township, the 1884 book "**History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties...**" lists Peter Livengood and John Christner "*among the earliest in the township*", and states that the township was organized circa 1785. The same book indicates that a John Christner was listed in the 1796 Elk Lick Township tax list.

²⁴⁰ Page 57 of the 1912 book "**Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler**" indicates that Christian sold his Lancaster area farm in 1775 and was taxed on property in Somerset County in 1776. This is confirmed by the 1898 book "**Returns of taxables for the counties of Bedford (1773 to 1784, ...)**", which lists a tax of "7.6" for "*Christian Hostelder*" on uncultivated land. Christian Hofstotler appears in the list of 1779 Brothersvalley Township property holders, and is listed with 150 acres.

²⁴¹ An individual that is subject by law to taxation.

In the area north of Cumberland, there is only one suitable place for a westerly road, and that is the Jennings Run water gap. Based on this, at least part of the road to the Casselman River on the 1776 Sayer and Bennett map is believed to be the Turkey Foot Path, even though it is seemingly illustrated as going to the Casselman River at the mouth of Blue Lick Creek or Buffalo Creek. The road branching northward to what seems to be the general vicinity of Berlin is interpreted to possibly be Buzzard's old road or part of the Hays Mill Path. See Chapter 19 for delineation of the Hays Mill Path, and see Chapter 37 for the related interpretation of the 1776 Sayer and Bennett map.

The caption to the 1776 Sayer and Bennett map states that it is "*Corrected from Governor Pownall's Late Map 1776*". Pownall's March 1776 map ([Figure 0640](#)) also shows the road to the Casselman River and faintly shows the road to the Berlin area. Like the Evans map, the Pownall map incorrectly shows Braddock's road crossing the Casselman River in Pennsylvania. The caption to the Pownall map states that it was "*First Published by Mr. Lewis Evans of Philadelphia, in 1755; and since corrected and improved...*".

The 1755 Fry and Jefferson map shows a path to Turkeyfoot that passed through the Salisbury area. The route to the Casselman River on the Pownall and Sayer and Bennet maps suggests that at least part of the Turkey Foot Path was still open in 1776. This may help to explain how Livingood got his wagon to the Salisbury area in 1775.

In describing the Salisbury area settlement, the January 12, 1894 issue of the "**Somerset Standard**" implies a path from the Salisbury area to Cumberland, stating:

These settlers of course passed through the ordinary privations and make shifts of frontier life. All the flour they used for four or five years was packed to and from Bedford or Cumberland, these being the nearest points where they could get grinding done.

The January 19, 1894 issue describes the building of a rude tub mill, circa 1777 to 1778 at the present-day site of Meyersdale, that was used by the Salisbury area settlement.

Peter Livengood's Indian clearing tradition

Volume II, page 3 of the 1906 book "**History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**" describes Indian clearings in the vicinity of Salisbury as follows:

Grandsons of Peter Livengood, one the first settlers in this region, who were born about 1804, and who remembered their grandfather quite well, informed the writer that when he settled there he found an Indian clearing on his farm.

Page 548 of the 1884 book "**History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties...**" also recites an Indian clearing tradition:

Peter Livengood, a native of Switzerland, came to America, married in Berks county, Pennsylvania, and removed to Elk Lick township, settling on the farm now known as the Arnold property. ... It is said that there was a small clearing on the farm which had been made by the Indians.

This Indian clearing is evidence of fairly recent Indian occupation, and supports the existence of an Indian path into the area. When Harry Ringler, Senior was a boy, he found a rich supply of Indian artifacts on the portion of Peter Livengood's property that is located on the east side of the Casselman River.

Livengood was born in Switzerland

The Somerset County, Pennsylvania book “**Genealogy of the Relatives of William J. Miller**” was originally written circa 1874 to 1899. It was supplemented and published in Meyersdale in 1963 by an anonymous author. The original part of the book states:

Peter Livengood was born in Switzerland, in Europe, and emigrated to America in 1749. He died in Somerset Co., Pa. in the year 1826 on the 27th of April at the age of 96 years. Barbara, his beloved wife, also from Europe, intermarried in America and begat the following number of heirs and died in a good old age of 72 years...

For additional information on the Livengood family, see Katherine Mulanax’s 1976 book “**The Livengood and Related Families**”.

