

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

12. The circa 1745 to 1801 path from Cumberland to Jennings Run, and northward

The old Indian war road on the west side of Wills Creek

The 1762 Frederick County, Maryland survey ([Figure 0466](#)) of “*Herts Field*” for Doctor David Ross³⁰⁹ mentions an early “road” along the west side of Wills Creek:

I have carefully laid out for and in the name of him the said David Ross all that Tract of Land called Herts Fields lying and being in Frederick County ?? Beginning at two bounded white Oaks standing at the point of a piney hill, on the East side of Gladens Run about three(?) miles up said run and about sixty or seventy perches on the West side of the old Indian war road that leads up on the West side of Wills Creek a Draught of potomack river...

This is a reference to the western branch of the “*Warrior’s Path*” (Chapter 18), which is credited by Wallace with sharing a section of route with the path to Turkeyfoot. This Warrior’s Path ran from Frankstown Pennsylvania to Cresaptown Maryland.

The Herts Field tract must have been in what is now Pennsylvania

Although there is a Gladdens Run in Pennsylvania that runs through Kennels Mill³¹⁰ and into Wills Creek one mile north of the state line, no similarly named stream could be found in Maryland. It is probable that Pennsylvania’s Gladdens Run was considered to be in Maryland in 1762. The local portion of the Mason-Dixon line would not be established for another four years.

A supporting piece of information is the 1762 “*Wills Town*” survey of David Ross ([Figure 0986](#)) that was located on the west side of Wills Creek, and supposedly all in Frederick County, Maryland (The survey states: “...all that Tract of Land called Wills Town lying and being in Frederick County...Beginning at a bounded hickory tree standing in a Fork of Wills Creek on the West side of said \Creek about three miles from Fort Cumberland...”). The “*Wills Town*” survey clearly extends well into what is now Pennsylvania,³¹¹ and proves that Maryland considered the state line to be well north of its present location before the Mason-Dixon line was surveyed.³¹² The 1787 Veatch map of

³⁰⁹ The survey was brought to our attention by Cumberland Road historian Steve Colby.

³¹⁰ The actual gristmill that Kennels Mill is named after ([Figure 0667](#)) is believed to have been located approximately at Latitude 39.773976°, Longitude -78.806764°. The McKenzie family found the burr stones from the mill at a stone foundation located roughly at these coordinates. Mr. McKenzie’s brother rented the old house on that property at one time.

³¹¹ Tomlinson apparently encountered a property conflict in Pennsylvania. Volume 2, page 377 of the “**Pennsylvania Archives**” includes an entry recorded in Land Office Caveat Book 3 on January 20, 1767. The entry states: “*Joseph Tumbleston Caveats an acceptance of a Survey made by Cap’t Finley on applications Nos. 902, 903 & 1773, Obtained by a John Hinthorn on a Part of Wills Town on Wills Creek S’d Lands being Imp’t on by Said Tumbleston & held under Maryland Patent since the Year Sixty-two & Said Hinthorn Paying Said Tumbleston Yearly Rent this two years past for s’d Land.*” According to Volume 2, page 201, In the legal action of Joseph Tomlinson or Tumbleston against John Henthorn, Henthorn lost his right to the property because “*upon Doctor Ross’s securing the Land Henthorn agreed to give the Whole purchase up to Tomlinson and to rent the Improvements he had made upon the place of Tomlinson for four years paying a bushel of Indian Corn a Year Rent.*”

³¹² Mason and Dixon’s journal entry for November 19, 1767 indicates that they were at Laurel Run, on the west side of Savage Mountain. The November 20 journal entry reads “*The weather being so bad our Hands would not proceed on*

lots west of Fort Cumberland ([Figure 0467](#)) illustrates the 1762 “Wills Town” tract as being truncated by the Mason-Dixon line, proving that parts of Pennsylvania were once considered to be in Maryland. The “Herts Field” property should appear on the Veatch map if the property was located south of the Mason-Dixon line. It does not.

An Indian village at Corriganville

Ross’s 1762 Wills Town survey is Frederick County Patented Certificate 5196. Page 837 of Frederick County Maryland Deed Book J indicates that David Ross sold the Wills Town tract to Joseph Tomlinson for 274 pounds in October 1764. The tract is described as “*1,125 Acres Located In A Fork Of Wills Creek On The West Side Of Said Creek About 3 Miles From Fort Cumberland...*” The mileage statement refers to the beginning point of the survey.

Thomas Bladen’s Prince George’s County Unpatented Certificate 383 for a 1745 Wills Town survey ([Figure 0987](#)) was performed by Thomas Cresap. It identifies the location of the field of **the Wills Town Indian village**, stating: “*...all that Tract of Land lying in the said County, called Wills Town, beginning at a bounded Hickory Tree standing in the First Large Fork of Wills Creek, near the Bank of a Run that falls into Wills Creek, below the Town Field about Eight Per³¹³ from the Creek...*”

An article in Volumes 12 to 17 of the 1942 “**Pennsylvania Archaeologist**” provides a quote from an unidentified early document stating that the village was located “*on creek where the old path crosses said creek which leads from Tomlinson’s to the Road from Bedford to the glades adjoining land of William Shaw in Cumberland Township in the county of Bedford.*”

By comparing the 1745 survey to the 1762 survey, and matching the 1762 survey to the curve in Wills Creek below Corriganville, it becomes obvious that the Indian village was located at Corriganville. This comparison is facilitated by reference to the illustrations of Wills Creek and the Wills Town tract on the 1787 Veatch map of lots west of Fort Cumberland ([Figure 0467](#)).

The Wills Town Indian village is circumstantial evidence of paths along Wills Creek and Jennings Run. It would simply be illogical if there were no paths through such natural travel corridors from this town.

Mason and Dixon Surveyed the Wills Creek area in 1766

In regard to Mason and Dixon’s survey activities, Pennsylvania’s 1916 “**Annual Report of the Secretary of Internal Affairs**” indicates that the Wills Creek area was surveyed in 1766, as follows:

The new direction was produced to the westward as far as the valley west of Little Allegheny Mountain, where another latitude station was made, near the present village of Wellersburg, Pennsylvania, and at this station the western extension of the line stopped for the year 1766. The notes read:

"1768 Brought the Sector, &c. From the Warrior Mountain to the foot

June 6-7-8 (on the east side) of Savidge Mountain, the second Ridge of the Allegany Mountains..."

their work. We then proceeded to Mr. Kellams (in the road from Fort Pit to Fort Cumberland) at the Gap in Savage Mountain." The November 21 entry states: "Seven of our hands left us." The November 22 entry states: "Proceeded to Mr. Tumblestone's in Wills Creek Valley. Employed more hands." Tumblestone is a spelling variation of Tomlinson. In order to reach Tomlinson's, Mason and Dixon probably followed the "old Indian war road" portion of the Turkey Foot Trail. Kellams was along Braddock's road.

³¹³ Eight perches is equal to 44 yards.

The location of the Herts Field property has not been found

No property with a shape similar to “*Herts Field*” could be found on the W.P.A. map of early Southampton Township, Pennsylvania surveys ([Figure 0296](#)). If the “*Herts Field*” tract was indeed about three miles up Gladdens Run, it would be in Bedford County, but no W.P.A map of Bedford County surveys was made. If the tract was along Pennsylvania’s Gladdens Run, it would have been along the early path branching off of the Hays Mill Path that Wallace refers to as the “*so-called Cumberland Road*”. That road can be considered the antecedent to the present-day Palo Alto Road. The Palo Alto road is an example of a reversibly named road. At Palo Alto (Latitude 39.763802°, Longitude -78.750043°) the route is called the Kennels Mill Road (State Route 3002), while in the vicinity of Kennels Mill it is called the Palo Alto Road (State Route 2013).³¹⁴

The “*Herts Field*” tract was “*sixty or seventy perches on the West side of the old Indian war road*”, which means that it was about 330 to 385 yards west of the old road.

Even though the location of the Herts “*Field property*” has not been found, the survey clearly references a 1762 route along the west side of Wills Creek that can be considered an antecedent to the Turkey Foot Road.

The Indian war road is mentioned by other early documents

Other early documents also mention the Warrior’s Path. An issue of the 1943 “**Pennsylvania Archaeologist**” quotes from Alexander Grant’s August 1, 1766 warrant application for 300 acres “*on the North Branch of Gladdens Run above the Warriors Road known by the name of Marble Spring.*” The magazine indicates this is a reference to the Gladdens Run at Little Allegheny Mountain. According to Wills De Hass’s 1851 book “**History of the Early Settlement and Indian Wars of Western Virginia**”, the Warrior’s Path was mentioned at the June 1752 Logstown treaty, in a discussion about the treaty of Lancaster. The Indians are quoted as having said “*they had heard of no sale of lands west of the warriors’ road which ran at the foot of the Alleghany ridge.*” A slightly different rendition of the same statement is provided in Taylor’s 1854 book “**History of the State of Ohio**”.

A path continued northward, up the Wills Creek valley. A December 17, 1793 petition regarding the estate of Felix Mellan describes a “*tract of land situate on the west side of Will’s Mtn. adjoining Thomas McGaughey on the northwest of his other land on the southwest in Milligan’s Cove on a path leading from Cumberland to the said Cove in Bedford or Londonderry Twp., Bedford Co. containing 100 acres*”.

A 1766 building at the site of Corriganville

Mason and Dixon’s map of their 1766 boundary line survey ([Figure 0978](#)) shows a building at the mouth of Jennings Run, and another to the northward, on the west side of Wills Creek. These buildings also prove the existence of an early path or road along the west side of Wills Creek.

A 1791 law appoints road commissioners

James Craig’s 1784 letter to General Washington (Chapter 11) makes clear that at that time, some form of route from Turkeyfoot went to Cumberland.

³¹⁴ According to Mr. Dietle’s uncle, local resident Melvin Korn, the Palo Alto Road is also referred to locally as the “*Kennels Mill Road*”. Mr. Korn lives east of Kennels Mill, along Walnut Lane at Latitude 39.76168°, Longitude -78.827242°, so from his general neighborhood, the road goes to both Kennels Mill and Palo Alto.

According to the 1791 book “**Laws of Maryland...**” ([Appendix 0029](#)), a law that year appointed Andrew Bruce, Edward Durbin, John Tomlinson, and Benjamin Tomlinson as commissioners on a “...road from Cumberland-town to the Turkey Foot road on the Pennsylvania line...” which “...shall or may be opened, straightened, marked and bounded, in the same manner as the public roads are to be done...” provided that the road “...shall be opened, straightened, and amended and kept, at the expence of those persons who are interested therein, by subscription or otherwise, and not at the expence of Washington and Allegany counties; and that the commissioners...be subject to, and act solely under, the direction of the persons so interested as aforesaid.”

Men named Andrew Bruce, John Tomlinson, and Benjamin Tomlinson are mentioned in Lowdermilk’s 1878 book “**History of Cumberland**”. Andrew Bruce was one of the commissioners appointed by the general assembly to lay out the town of Cumberland in 1787, and he already had a house there at the time. Benjamin Tomlinson built a house along Wills Creek about five miles from Cumberland in 1789. John Tomlinson was one of the settlers found living west of Fort Cumberland in 1787. As shown by [Figure 0374](#), one of the Tomlinson’s had a mill that was situated near the location of present-day Corriganville.

John Tomlinson was already a millwright in 1771. Page 103 of Frederick County Maryland Deed Book O indicates that Joseph Tomlinson sold a tract to the millwright John Tomlinson for 94 Pounds, 7 Shillings, and 5 Pence. The tract is described as being “*The Second Part Of Wills Boarding ‘Wills Town’ Containing 260 Acres With All Wright Benefits And Profits...*”

The 1794 Griffith map

The 1794 Dennis Griffith map ([Figure 0374](#)) shows both a path and a road on the west side of Wills Creek, north of Cumberland, and shows the location of Tomlinson’s mill. One of them may be the route described in the 1791 law book.

The 1796 Martin map

The 1796 Martin map of Pennsylvania is included as [Figure 0298](#). It is titled “*The State of Pennsylvania. from the latest Surveys.1796.*”, and was published in John Reid’s 1796 book “**The American Atlas**”. Compared to the 1792 Reading Howell map, the Martin map appears to be more schematic in nature. Like other contemporaneous maps, the Martin map locates the Turkey Foot Road on the west side of Wills Creek.

The 1797 Sotzmann map shows only a path north from Cumberland

[Figure 0013](#) is a fragment from the Sotzmann map that was printed in Hamburg in 1797. Many period maps do not distinguish between road and path; this one does. It shows the section from Fort Cumberland to the location of present-day Corriganville as a path, and it shows the rest of the route to Turkeyfoot as a road.

This map suggests that by circa 1797, once again, there may have been only a path between Fort Cumberland and the location of present-day Corriganville. One must bear in mind, however, that even a brand new map of that era would have contained at least some outdated information, due to transportation-related difficulties in collecting and communicating information.

This map suggests that by circa 1797, despite the 1791 intent to build a road, there still may have been only a path between Fort Cumberland and the location of present-day Corriganville. One must

bear in mind that the road approved in 1791 was to be built at the expense of those who wanted it, so it may have taken a while to make, if made at all.

An 1801 petition

Perhaps that particular section of road north out of Cumberland was still a path in 1801. The November 1801 session of the Maryland Legislature ([Appendix 0030](#)) recorded:

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Allegany county, praying an act may pass to establish the road laid out from the town of Cumberland to the Pennsylvania line, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Cresap, Mr. Simkins and Mr. J. Tomlinson to consider and report thereon.

The petition does not say which valley the road was to follow, and it could be referring to a valley east or west of Wills Mountain. Since the 1797 Sotzmann map ([Figure 0013](#)) clearly shows a road³¹⁵ going up the valley east of Wills Mountain (i.e., on the Sotzmann map, the “Cumberland Valley”³¹⁶), the petition is more likely referring to the valley west of the mountain, along Wills Creek. Another factor pointing to the Wills Creek valley is an 1801 petition ([Appendix 0030](#)) relating to the antecedent to Barrelville’s Route 47 that was referred to three of the same individuals for consideration.

These indications of a path along Wills Creek in the 1791 to 1801 time period do not conflict with Clinton having previously cut a 1779 route for Morgan. In those days, cutting a new road often involved little more than tree clearing. If not maintained, recently cleared ground quickly grows into an impenetrable briar patch, and then a thick tangle of brush. If you have ever noticed how the less well maintained edges of a field grow up into wide fencerows, then you might imagine the same process causing the edges of a simple cleared woodland road to grow in, anywhere the roadway would be exposed to sunlight. This process would cause a primitive road to eventually revert to path status. If not traveled heavily or cleared regularly, any primitive road would ultimately be reclaimed by nature.

Additional factors that would have impacted any road or path condition would have been fallen trees and surface degradation. Primitive roads were typically just tracks over soft topsoil. They degraded easily due to traffic, combined with the effects of precipitation (mud and erosion).

Wallace’s 1965 map

The map in Paul A. W. Wallace’s 1965 book “**Indian Paths of Pennsylvania**” ([Appendix 0069](#)) depicts the Turkey Foot Path as following the eastern side of Wills Creek from Corriganville to Cumberland. No other information has been encountered that indicates such a route³¹⁷, and it appears to be a cartographer’s error. On every early map encountered during this study, the route is

³¹⁵ The journal from Mason and Dixon’s survey has a May 29, 1766 journal entry that locates such a road, stating: “At 157 miles 75 chains, crossed the Road Leading from Fort Cumberland to Bedford.” The same journal entry identifies “The summit of Wills’ Creek Mountain” as being “At 159 miles 71 chains”. This puts the road about two miles east of Wills Mountain. The road is also illustrated on Mason and Dixon’s map of the survey ([Figure 0978](#)).

³¹⁶ Now at least part of the valley is commonly referred to as “Bedford Valley”. It is not clear if the “Bedford Valley” name is applied to the entire valley between Wills Mountain and Evitts Mountain, or if it is only applied to the part of the valley that is west of the valley ridge that is known as “Shriver Ridge”.

³¹⁷ When the National Road was rerouted through the Narrows circa 1833, a short portion of the National Road near Cumberland ran along the east side of Wills Creek ([Appendix 0057](#)) at Braddock Run. The Turkey Foot Road would have intersected the National Road north of the bridge. The military road that Spendelow made through the Narrows during Braddock’s campaign was also located on the east side of Wills Creek, crossing over at some point to follow the valley of Braddock Run. [Figure 0413](#) shows where Spendelow’s road crossed over to the east side.

illustrated on the west side of Wills Creek—with the exception of a **proposed** road from Cumberland to the Glade Road via the present-day location of Hyndman on a map attributed to Harmon Husband ([Figure 0699](#)). On the other hand, given the better terrain on the east side of Wills Creek in the Narrows, one would suspect that Spendelow's 1755 military road through the Narrows may have remained in use for some time. (More information on Spendelow's road is provided in Chapter 27). Indeed, a footnote to the article "*Braddock Road*" in Volume 38 of the 1914 "**Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography**" states:

G.G. Townsend of Frostburg, road engineer for Alleghany County, Maryland, has an old blue print, made before the railroads were built, which shows on the left, or eastern, bank a wagon road running through the Narrows and crossing the creek near the mouth of Braddock Run.

Wallace's map of the Warrior's Path through Manns Choice correctly shows the Warrior's Path on the west side of Wills Creek between the Narrows and Corriganville, and shows the Turkey Foot Path as merging with the Warrior's Path at Corriganville, but shows the Turkey Foot Path on the east side of Wills Creek through the Narrows.

Although Wallace's map of the Turkey Foot Path shows the path terminating at Harnedsville, his map of the Fort Hill Path illustrates the Turkey Foot Path as passing through the Ursina area and heading northwest. In other words, his map illustrates the Turkey Foot Road which is the primary subject of this book.