

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

30. Salisbury to Negro Mountain

Background information on our trip with Harry Ringler

On April 22, 2010, we drove from Salisbury to Confluence with Salisbury Mayor Harry Ringler, Senior. We went to see the locations that are held by local tradition to be the Turkey Foot Road, and to document them with GPS coordinates and photographs. We were introduced to Mr. Ringler by Barrelville resident Francis Bridges. They are both active members of the Western Maryland Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Maryland.

Mr. Ringler knows Somerset County and its rural residents well, due to his interest in history and archeology, and his former role as the Supervisor of Land Management of Somerset County for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. His knowledge of Turkey Foot Road traditions comes from discussions over the years with various older individuals who lived along the route. He was on parts of the route several years ago with Robert “Bob” Bantz, a retired engineer⁶⁰⁹ who mapped the Braddock Road using GPS coordinates. Photos and coordinates from our trip with Mr. Ringler are used in several chapters of this book, including this one.

Mr. Ringler showed us two different routes. One was a northern route that passed south of the former swampy area that is now High Point Lake. The other was a southern fork that branched off on Negro Mountain, and followed Whites Creek to Listonburg (Chapter 32). Mr. Ringler was very explicit in calling the southern route the “*trail*”, and calling the northern route the “*road*”.

The A. P. Beachy Farm

[Figure 0207](#) shows the old A. P. Beachy farm, as seen from the east side of the river. The figure includes the area that was traversed by the Turkey Foot Road. Cabinetmaker Jerry Beachy presently owns the farm. According to Jerry, the former site of Tissue’s trading post was at the end of the green field that can be seen in [Figure 0207](#). Jerry said that the Turkey Foot Trail ran back through that field, and then swung to the left (south) and angled up over the hill. His statement is harmonious with the Christian C. Livengood description of the path that preceded the road, quoted hereinafter.

Figures [0212](#) and [0213](#) show the stone house (dated 1809), which is located at Latitude 39.751015°, Longitude -79.094927° on the old A. P. Beachy farm. [Figure 0327](#) shows the date stone.⁶¹⁰ According to Jerry Beachy, there used to be an old log house about 20 to 30 feet west of the stone house, but it was moved to Pittsburgh. He described it as being a two-story house, about 32 feet square that was made from two-foot-wide by eight-inch-thick log planks⁶¹¹. The article “*Stone*

⁶⁰⁹ During Mr. Bantz’s career in the rubber industry, he performed research directed at preventing rubber tires from hydroplaning. Mr. Dietle’s career in the rubber industry involves coming up with ways to allow rubber shaft seals to hydroplane more effectively. Mr. Bridges’ career was also in the rubber industry.

⁶¹⁰ According to the article “*The Beachy Stone House*” in Volume III of the “**Casselman Chronicle**”, 1963 number 3, the Beachy stone house was built by the stonemason I. J. Fuller, and his initials are carved into the date stone. The article also indicates that the original deed and land grant, and some of the iron utensils and furniture that were used by the first owners of the house, were possessed by the Beachy who owned the property in 1963.

⁶¹¹ To see a surviving example of such log house construction, visit Cades Cove, Tennessee, in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

House on Beachy Hill” in Volume XVI of the “**Casselman Chronicle**”, 1976 number 1, indicates that the log house was built circa 1820 by Abraham Beachy for his father Peter. According to the article, an 1824 issue of the “*Somerset Whig*” was found in the house when it was torn down.

A plat map on pages 28 and 29 of the 1992 “**Casselman Chronicle**” (Volume XXXI, Numbers 1 and 2) indicates that Jacob Markley warranted the property in 1790, and it was Abraham Beachy’s property by 1794. The name of the property is given as “*Mt. Vernon*” on the plat map. The 1976 “**Casselman Chronicle**” (Volume XVI, Number 1) has articles about the farm, Beachy genealogy, and the farm cemetery.⁶¹²

Abraham P. Beachy

Page 548 of the 1884 book “**History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties...**” describes Abraham P. Beachy as follows:

Abraham Beachy was a native of Switzerland. He came with his parents to Maryland when young, and in 1780 settled on a farm three-fourths of a mile west of Salisbury, where he resided until his death.

Volume II, page 652 of the 1906 book “**History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**” states: “*Peter Beachey, the ancestor of the well known Beachey family, was found dead on the road near where William C. Livengood now lives. This was about 1805.*”⁶¹³

Abraham P. Beachy ([Figure 0632](#)) is described on page 550-B of the 1884 book as follows:

Abraham P. Beachy, who bears the name of his grandfather, who was the first one of the family to locate in the county, is a son of Peter A. and Ann (Livingood) Beachy. He was born January 23, 1828, and reared on the old homestead, which is now in his possession, and he resides in the old stone house around which cling so many tender associations and recollections, which was built by his grandfather in 1809. But few farms in the county have remained intact in the possession of a member of the family for three generations, as has this home-farm.

Now, 126 years later in 2010, the farm is still owned by a Beachy. There seems to be a date discrepancy between the articles in the “**Casselman Chronicle**” and the 1884 book. This discrepancy is left to Beachy genealogists to resolve.

Tissue’s trading post

Tissue’s trading post is described on page 548 of the 1884 book as follows:

Captain Tissue owned the Sullivan and A. P. Beachy farms. He lived in the hollow above Beachy’s present sugar-camp, and was in good circumstances for those days. He kept a sort of public-house, which was a stopping-place for travelers and packhorse-men. Tradition says that on one occasion a train of thirty packhorses, in charge of a man and his four sons, stopped at Tissue’s. The landlord also having four sons, a wrestling match was proposed, and resulted in the vanquishing of the Tissues. The result was a free fight, in which Tissue’s sons were again beaten. Tissue took part in the revolutionary war, and during his absence his wife was murdered.

⁶¹² The Beachy cemetery is located at Latitude 39.749296°, Longitude -79.097842°.

⁶¹³ A sketch of the Beachy family is also included on pages 267-269 of Volume III of the 1906 book “**History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**”

More on the murder of Tissue's wife

Page 558 of the 1884 book “**History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties...**” provides more information on the murder of Tissue's wife, but incorrectly connects the story with the Confluence area:

A man named Tissue, who probably came from New Jersey, and was the first settler on the land where Confluence now is, paid a convict's passage from Baltimore, having employed him to work on his farm. One day, when Tissue was away from home, the man took advantage of his absence, shut Tissue's two little boys up in a stable, murdered their mother, and robbed the house of a watch and other valuables. Then piling flax on the body of the murdered woman, he set fire to it and fled. He was followed by armed men, overtaken and shot. The shot took effect on his foot, partially cutting off his toes. The murderer then set his uninjured foot upon the wounded toes and wrenched them off. He tried to escape, but was captured and died in prison. Tissue afterward married Hulda Rush, daughter of William Rush.

Two things about this story seem incorrect. As shown by [Figure 0293](#), William and Huldah owned adjacent properties near the present-day location of Salisbury. If he married Huldah after his first wife was murdered, then his first wife was probably murdered before he moved to the location of present-day Confluence. Tissue did not purchase the property at the site of present-day Confluence until 1798, and was not the first settler on that property. According to the 1906 book “**History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**”:

James Spencer, whose first cabin is marked on the Abrahams draft,⁶¹⁴ located on the land between the junction of the Castleman's river and the Laurel Hill creek. While he must have been here as early as Abrahams was, as in 1772 he had twenty-one acres of cleared land, which was above the average, he did not have his land surveyed or patented until 1786. It contained about two hundred and fifty acres, and is called “Good Fane” in the patent. In 1798 he sold the land to Captain William Tissue, who up to that time had been living in Elk Lick township.

Page 72 of the 1906 book “**History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**” describes the murder of Tissue's wife:

An atrocious murder was perpetuated on the Tissue farm by a German indentured servant, the victims being the first wife and an infant daughter of William Tissue. This murder, which seems to have taken place during the period of the Revolutionary War, will be referred to elsewhere.

Chapter XXIX of the same book states:

The scene of the other murder of this period was in Elk Lick township. While there is some difference in details, all accounts we have of this tragedy agree thus far. Captain William Tissue was one of the pioneer settlers of Elk Lick township, and for those times he was a man in fairly good circumstances. He had a wife and at least three children, and lived on what is still known as “the Sullivan place,” part of which farm lies in full view of Salisbury. It is, or was, a farm of five hundred acres, and at that time the buildings on it seem to have been in the hollow on the northwest corner, and back of the sugar camp on the present day Lloyd Beachey farm⁶¹⁵.

⁶¹⁴ For a copy of one of Abrahams' surveys, see [Figure 0365](#).

⁶¹⁵ According to Volume 3, page 268 of the 1906 book “**History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**”, Loyd L. Beachey was the youngest son of Abraham P. Beachey, and “was born on the old homestead in Elk Lick township,

On one of his eastern trips, Captain Tissue had purchased a German Redemptioner, or indentured servant, who was sold for the payment of his passage money from the Fatherland, as was the custom in those days. This man he brought home with him. After this German servant had lived at the Tissue home for some time, taking advantage of the absence of Captain Tissue, he murdered Mrs. Tissue and an infant daughter, and, to conceal the crime, set on fire the house, which was destroyed. The two sons of Captain Tissue, who were small boys, he had taken from the house and shut up in the stable or barn. Some accounts are that he had in some way mutilated their tongues, so that they would not be able to tell what had taken place, but of this there is no certainty. Both these boys, whose names were John and James, lived to be tolerably old men, and it is admitted by those who have information derived from persons who knew them, that they were not entirely possessed of all their faculties. It is not supposed that this German murderer meant to kill the innocent babe. His own account after his arrest, we believe, was that the child was asleep in its cradle at the time that he fired the house, and that when he did think of it he tried to rescue it, but that it was then too late, the fire having made so much headway that he could no longer enter the house, but that through a window he had seen that the child had got out of its cradle and was crawling under the bed. If the murderer himself gave any reason after his arrest for the perpetration of this dreadful crime, such reason has not come down to our time, and the motive that prompted it must remain a matter of surmise. All accounts agree that Captain Tissue was away from home at the time, but they do not agree as to the cause of his absence. One account is that he was absent on military service, which certainly must have been with some ranging company on the frontier, that word of the tragedy was sent him, and that he returned home and assisted in running down and arresting the murderer, who, in the pursuit, was fired on and wounded in the foot. Some say that Captain Tissue himself took the murderer to Bedford and placed him in jail, and also that he maltreated him. While there was certainly great provocation for such a thing, it is not very probable that he did anything like that. It is quite certain, however, that the murderer had in some way been wounded, and this most likely happened in effecting his capture, as already stated. He was never brought to trial, but died in Bedford jail. There is nothing improbable in the statement that Captain Tissue was absent from his home on military duty when this murder occurred, and what has thus far been said is as well supported as tradition well can be.

There is, however, another version derived from a person born about 1790 and reared on a farm within one mile of where this event took place, and who heard it talked of in the family of her parents when young, which in substance is that Captain Tissue was assisting in some farm work on what we in our time know as the "John Keim" farm, in Elk Lick township, and remained there for the night. The distance from his own home was less than two miles. During the night he woke up and noticing a great light in the direction of his house, he at once went to see what the matter was, and found his house destroyed and his wife and child dead. This has been so circumstantially related that it is entitled to about as much credence as the other account that his absence was on account of military service.

The time when this murder occurred is also involved in obscurity. It is known that Captain Tissue married a second wife, whose maiden name was Hulda Rush, but how long after the murder of the first wife this second marriage took place is not known, but certainly there must have been at least

January 1, 1864. He was reared on the farm and educated in the public schools. He has always lived on the farm, to which he succeeded and which he has brought to a high state of cultivation."

some interval of time. His name was placed on the assessment list in the fall of 1801, and for him to have then been of the age of twenty-one years he could not have been born later than some time in the year 1780. But for several years previous to 1802, when the name of the elder Tissue appears on the list, it is followed three times by the word “ditto,” to indicate as many different tracts of land owned by him, and then follows the name of William Tissue, written out in full, but without the “Jr.” attached, once or twice, with land and a horse and cow, and once or twice with the live stock only. It should be noted that live stock is also assessed on the line where the name is first written, and also more of it. If we are to conclude from this that the assessment stands for two William Tissues, as it certainly does for the year 1802, then the year of the birth of the younger William Tissue might easily have been as early as 1777. The elder William Tissue, in his will, names all of his children, and if this is in the order of their age, then his daughter Elizabeth was the eldest child of the second wife, instead of William. The time of the murder could not well have been later than 1779, and it may easily have happened as early as 1774 or 1775, or at any time between the years 1774 and 1780. That such crime was perpetrated in Elk Lick township about the period named, there can be no doubt.

According to the November 1963 “**Laurel Messenger**”, the 1779 will of Andrew Hendrickson names “daughter MARY and son in law WILLIAM TISSUE. Thus proving that Mary HENDRICKSON was the first wife of Captain Tissue.”

Tissue’s property straddled the Turkey Foot Road

In addition to the statement in the 1906 history book (above), the February 1962 issue of the “**Laurel Messenger**” includes an article about Salisbury’s centennial that mentions the Turkey Foot Road going through Tissue’s property. It states:

In 1760 Joseph⁶¹⁶ Markley acquired the first land taken up at this location. He had 10 acres cleared when the first assessment was made in 1772.

In 1772 William Tissue⁶¹⁷, whose tract joined Markley to the west, had 12 acres cleared; described as being on “both sides of the Turkeyfoot Road.” Tissue, one of the Jersey group of families, stopped short of their ultimate destination, the Turkeyfoot settlement; he later continued the trek and became a permanent settler at Confluence. The reference in [the] deed record establishes proof of the existence of an early Indian Trail which the settlers later called the Turkeyfoot Road; in 1803 an important Packers Trail “which passed Tissue’s cabin.”

This “**Laurel Messenger**” article inadvertently overlooks the fact that the main route of the Turkey Foot Road no longer ran past Tissue’s cabin in 1803. As proven below, the route had already changed by the date of the 1785 survey that the article quotes. The newer route seems to be the result of Morgan’s 1779 road building activity. The route past Tissue’s cabin seems to be an earlier path.

As noted above, according to the 1906 history book, Tissue sold the property to Patrick Sullivan in 1798, and bought James Spencer’s “*Good Fane*” property at Turkeyfoot. In other words, both the

⁶¹⁶ According to the article “*The Markley History*” in the “**Casselman Chronicle**” (Volume XXXI Numbers 1 and 2), and various other articles, John Markley was the first settler in the area, and his first claim was a large tract called “*John’s Fancy*”. For a history of the family, see the 1962 “**Salisbury Centennial Souvenir Book**”.

⁶¹⁷ In the 1772 assessment for 1773 Bedford County, Brothersvalley Township taxes, William Tyshoe is listed with 300 acres, of which 12 acres were cleared, confirming the information in the “**Laurel Messenger**” article. Tissue was in the area long before George Morgan had the 1779 road cut to Fort Pitt. In 1772, the township covered the area west of the Allegheny Mountain that is included in present-day Somerset County.

route and Tissue had moved by 1803. In reference to Confluence, Volume 2, page 624 of that book states:

That part of the townsite between the North Fork and the Castleman's river was the survey of James Spencer, one of the earliest settlers in the Turkeyfoot, who sold it to William Tissue about 1798.

Route 669 follows the 1785 route across Tissue's property

The 1939 W.P.A. map of early Elk Lick Township surveys shows the referenced Jacob Markley tract, and shows an unnamed road crossing into the property near its southwest corner ([Figure 0302](#)). The official 1905 copy of the 1790 Markley survey shows no such road ([Figure 0303](#)); however, the 1898 copy of the adjacent 1785 William Tissue survey does ([Figure 0304](#)), and states that Tissue's property was "*Situated...on both sides of the Turkeyfoot Road...*".

The present-day Route 669 (Springs Road) follows the 1785 route of the Turkey Foot Road closely across at least part of the Markley property, and across the Tissue property. This is best determined by comparing a present-day Elk Lick Township property map ([Figure 0305](#)) to the Tissue survey ([Figure 0304](#)). We do not mean to imply that the 1785 and 2010 routes were on precisely the same ground everywhere. The 2010 road is, however, quite obviously the present alignment of the 1785 road, and follows the same basic route. There seems to be evidence of a primitive route of some kind in the area south of the A. P. Beachy farmstead, as shown by the 1939 aerial photo of [Figure 0337](#). Whether this is a farmer's road to the field, or evidence of an earlier route, is unknown. The 1939 aerial photo shows that the present route had been recently improved, as shown by the evidence of recent, extensive hillside digging. The extent of the roadway excavation is made evident in [Figure 0858](#). This lends significant support to the idea that an earlier route may have followed the edge of the field that is situated north of, and above the present-day road.

One other thing that can be seen on the 1939 aerial photo of [Figure 0337](#) is the Beachy cemetery ([Figure 0859](#)). It shows up as a dark rectangle in a lighter colored field, and sits at the top of a pronounced hill at Latitude 39.749302°, Longitude -79.09784°. Some of the burials there are Barbara Beachy, who died in 1840 at an age of 83 years ([Figure 0861](#)), Peter A. Beachy who died in 1854 at an age of 57 years ([Figure 0860](#)), and Abraham P. Beachy, who died in 1896 at an age of 57 years ([Figure 0862](#)).

Sullivan

Chapter 5 of the 1906 book "**History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**" states:

William Tissue (whose name is also spelled Tyshu, Tyshoe, Tyse, and Tice in old papers that we have seen) was located on a large tract of land that for the last hundred years has been known as the "Sullivan" farm. Tissue's warrant called for four hundred acres of land, while a second warrant for one hundred acres adjoining stood in the name of Huldah Tissue, his wife. The buildings on this farm, as they have been within the writer's own recollection of the place, which goes back to 1847, are a little over two miles from the present town of Salisbury, and may be seen from some parts of the town. At the time when the first assessment of Brothers Valley township was made, Tissue had twelve acres of cleared land. This indicates a presence here of at least several years prior to 1772. Like many other settlers of that period, he must first have held his lands under

an improvement right, for the warrant and survey are dated in 1784⁶¹⁸, and the draft of the survey shows the land lies on both sides of the Turkeyfoot road. According to this, that road must already have been laid out at the time, which would make it one of the earliest roads in the county. The late Christian C. Livengood⁶¹⁹ once told the writer that Tissue's first buildings were on the northwest part of the tract, in the hollow beyond the sugar camp on the Abraham P. Beachy farm, and that before the road was made a packer's trail passed through this hollow and passed Tissue's house. There is also some tradition that he at times entertained persons who passed over this trail. Tissue himself never took out the patents for this land. That was done by Patrick Sullivan, to whom Tissue sold it in 1798. The present buildings on this place are on the east side of the Turkeyfoot road. In 1847 the dwelling was a log house, the largest log house the writer has ever seen anywhere in Somerset county. At that time it was in rather a dilapidated condition, and was torn down in 1851. Whether it was built by Tissue or Sullivan the writer cannot say. It is known that Tissue's first house was burned down, and he then may have rebuilt it on another part of the farm.

No conflict with the 1785 road

Note that the above quote distinguishes the location of the Turkey Foot Road from the packer's trail, stating:

Tissue's first buildings were on the northwest part of the tract, in the hollow beyond the sugar camp on the Abraham P. Beachy farm, and that before the road was made a packer's trail passed through this hollow and passed Tissue's house.

This distinction means that the quote does not conflict with the 1785 Tissue survey, which only shows the road, not the earlier packer's trail. The information from Christian C. Livengood provides an indication of a route west of present-day Salisbury that was earlier than the road that shows up on early property surveys, and south of the more northern route that Compton and Wallace describe (Chapter 4), and the Fry and Jefferson map may illustrate.

Christian C. Livengood was born in 1803, long after the Turkey Foot Road came into existence. Christian's grandfather was the circa 1775 Salisbury area pioneer Peter Livengood. Christian's father was born in 1761, and was certainly old enough in 1779 to remember the cutting of Morgan's road, which is described in Chapter 9.

In Welfley's telling of Livengood's story, it appears that Morgan's 1779 road is the new road that was the successor to the packer's trail. The packhorse route Livengood described differs from the proven 1785 route of the Turkey Foot Road. In 1785, the "Turkeyfoot Road" just west of the Casselman River was documented on William Tissue's property survey, and corresponds roughly to the location of the present-day Springs Road. Although many postwar surveys identify the route of the Turkey Foot Road, no prewar surveys have been found that do so. The absence of prewar references to the Turkey Foot Road provides significant support to the belief that Morgan's 1779 road became known as the Turkey Foot Road.

⁶¹⁸ The date for the survey is actually 1785.

⁶¹⁹ Christian C. Livengood's tombstone at the Salisbury Union Cemetery indicates that he was born in 1803 and died in 1889. According to the "Genealogy of the Relatives of William J. Miller", "Christian C., born in Elk Lick, Dec. 23, 1803; married in Elk Lick to Sally Wagner. They live in Salisbury and have several children. Address: Elk Lick, Somerset Co." According to the same book, the father of Christian C. was the Christian Livengood who married Elizabeth Forney. The book states: "Christian Livengood was born Sept. 14, 1761, married in Elk Lick, Pa. to Elizabeth Forney, and died in Elk Lick, Pa., June 27, 1837. His wife, Elizabeth Forney, daughter of Peter Forney, was born Mar. 29, 1769."

Sullivan's place

Sullivan's place is identified on the 1818 Melish-Whiteside map ([Figure 0083](#)), east of Folk's place. The plat map on pages 28 and 29 of the Casselman Chronicle (Volume XXXI, Numbers 1 and 2) shows William Tissue's land as being located southwest of Abraham Beachy, and indicates that it was warranted in 1795 and patented in 1804 to Patrick Sullivan. The map indicates that the name of the property was "*Ireland*". This is the same property that appears on the 1785 William Tissue survey ([Figure 0304](#)).

The Folks residence on the 1818 Melish-Whiteside map

Although the 1818 Melish-Whiteside map of Somerset County⁶²⁰ is not to perfect scale, it is the earliest map of the area that attempts to accurately represent routes and residences. [Figure 0083](#) shows a portion of the map. The road labeled "*Turkey Foot Road*" is north of the route labeled "*National Turnpike*"⁶²¹, and extends from Turkeyfoot to Salisbury. A "*Folks*" residence appears near the Turkey Foot Road and a small tributary of Flag Run. A Folk residence ([Figure 0084](#)) still shows up on the 1876 "**County Atlas of Somerset Pennsylvania**" map of Elk Lick Township along Springs Road near the same small tributary. If both maps show the same dwelling place, then the Turkey Foot Road was at least in the general vicinity of the present-day Springs Road.

George Folk

The earliest of the Folk family in the area are believed to be George Folk and his father Hans George Folk. Page three, Volume IX, Numbers 3 and 4 of the 1969 issue of the "**Casselman Chronicle**" describes them as follows:

*The names of both George Folk and his father, Hans George, appear on the Census lists for Elk Lick Township in Bedford County in 1790. At that time George was listed as a single freeman. Later, however, he married Catherine Seiler (Saylor), and they owned much of what is now Springs. George lived until 1826, and he was survived by his wife Catherine, as well as Jacob, Samuel, Magdalena, Lydia and John. John, the youngest, was three at the time of his father's death on December 25, 1826.*⁶²²

Samuel Folk

A comparison of the 1876 "**County Atlas of Somerset Pennsylvania**" map of Elk Lick Township ([Figure 0084](#)) with the present-day tax map of [Figure 0305](#) and the 1939 W.P.A. map of early township surveys shows that the Samuel Folk residence that appears on the 1876 map is on the Christian Hochstetler survey, rather than farther west on the George Folk survey. [Figure 0338](#) is a

⁶²⁰ Swetnam and Smith's 1976 book "**A guidebook to historic western Pennsylvania**" uses present-day place names to describe the route of the Turkey Foot Path, and describes it in a way that agrees with the 1818 Melish-Whiteside map. The description may be based on Wallace's book. The book indicates that the path came into Somerset County near the present site of Pocahontas, then ran past the eventual site of Engles Mill near Salisbury, then followed a course that ran south of Mount Davis (the summit of Negro Mountain, and the highest point in Pennsylvania), then ran north of the present site of Listonburg to the present sites of Dumas and Harnedsville. Page 138 of Jaclyn Laplaca's 2003 book "**Somerset County: Pride Beyond the Mountains**" copies Swetnam and Smith's language nearly verbatim.

⁶²¹ According to pages 33 and 34 of Volume 10 of the 1904 book set "**Historic Highways of America**" ([Appendix 0061](#)), in a circa 1806 report, the Commissioners for the National Road reported that they had considered, but abandoned, the idea of running the National Road along Wills Creek and Jennings Run; in other words, along the general route of the Turkey Foot Road in Maryland. As related in Chapter 26, the National Road was re-directed through the Cumberland Narrows in 1833. Between the stone bridge and Braddock Run, it was an improvement of the Turkey Foot Road. Motorists on U.S. Route 40 and Maryland Route 36 travel the current version every day.

⁶²² The 1976 "**Casselman Chronicle**" (Volume XVI, Number 1) has another article about George Folk.

copy of the 1939 W.P.A. map that has been marked up to identify the George Folk property and the approximate location of the Samuel Folk residence that appears on the 1876 Beers map. The Folk residence on the 1818 map was at, or very near, the Folk residence along Springs Road on the 1876 map. This also helps to show that the Turkey Foot Road in that area was at least in the general vicinity of the present-day Springs Road. The two-story brick farmhouse ([Figure 0900](#)) is located at Latitude 39.740904°, Longitude -79.126993°. The house and barn are visible on the 1939 aerial photo of [Figure 0273](#).

Page 57 of the 1912 book “**Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler**” indicates that Christian Hochstetler sold this property in 1795 and moved to Kentucky. The book indicates that the property “...was later known as the Samuel Folk farm, located 2 ½ miles west of Salisbury, Pennsylvania.” More information on Christian Hochstetler is included below.

The Turkey Foot Road is described in a 1906 history book

Page 196 of the 1906 book “**History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**” ([Appendix 0032](#)) has an article titled “*The Turkey Foot Road through Elk Lick*” that references the 1792 map. In regard to the route from Salisbury to Winding Ridge, the book states:

The road, which to this day is still known as the Turkeyfoot road, crosses the Castleman’s river at West Salisbury, and near the mouth of Tub Mill run, following the run (the road is now changed) for some distance, crossed the run a short distance west of the sugar camp on the A. P. Beachy farm. The survey of William Tissue’s lands was made in 1784, and the Turkeyfoot road is marked on this survey as passing through these lands. This fact goes to show that this so-called Turkeyfoot road was already opened as early as 1784, but how much earlier we are not able to say, for we have no information as to the precise time of its having been laid out. Tradition has it that the road was preceded by a packer’s trail. The road crosses the Negro mountain.

The above quoted passage infers that William Tissue’s survey shows the route past the A. P. Beachy sugar camp; it does not. William Tissue’s 1785 survey ([Figure 0304](#)) shows the antecedent to the present-day Route 669 between the red dots on [Figure 0305](#). The 1906 book inadvertently conflates the trail and the road.

The location of A. P. Beachy’s sugar camp

Since the 1884 and 1906 history books both mention the A. P. Beachy sugar camp, in 2010 we asked the owner, Jerry Beachy, where the sugar camp was located. He pointed between the barn and the cabinet shop ([Figure 0214](#)), and said that the sugar camp was located about 200 feet past the end of the field.

Wallace’s description of the Salisbury-to-Winding Ridge route

Page 165 of Wallace’s 1965 book describes the Salisbury-to-Winding Ridge section of the Turkey Foot Road as follows, starting at the Casselman River:

For about eight miles thereafter the course of the path was in general that of the modern hard-top (PA. 669, S.R. 2002, and 2004) headed for Listonburg, which several times intersects the old Turkeyfoot Road during its ascent of Negro Mountain. The path crossed this mountain ridge about a mile and a half south of a hump known as Mount Davis, 3213 feet above sea level, the highest point in Pennsylvania.

The corresponding “*For the Motorist*” section on page 167 of Wallace’s book states:

From Salisbury the road crosses the Casselman River about 200 yards north of the old ford. Turning south on the river bank, it follows the stream for ¼ mile (the Turkeyfoot Road at this point taking a short cut over the hill to the right), and then swings southwest, west, and northwest, following (but only in a general way) the course of the Turkeyfoot Road and Indian Path⁶²³ up Negro Mountain and down it again to the cemetery and the foot of Winding Ridge.

Wallace was both right and wrong. As proven above, by 1785 the Turkey Foot Road followed the general path of Route 669 that Wallace advises his readers to follow, but an earlier route did take what Wallace described as a “*short cut over the hill to the right*”.

Pyle’s 1976 article describes the Salisbury-to-Winding Ridge route

In the article titled “*The Turkeyfoot Path*” in the 1976 Volume XVI, Number One issue of the “**The Casselman Chronicle**”, Jack Pyle and his daughter Judith wrote that the Turkey Foot Road:

...crossed the Casselman River between Tub Mill and Meadow Run, and after a short distance crossed west of the sugar camp on the Abraham Beachy farm (now the home of Jerry Beachy); from the Beachy farm it ran in a south-westerly direction approximately to where “Otto Brick and Tile” now stands. From there to present-day High Point Lake, legislative route 55010 follows the path of the old road.

[Figure 0274](#) shows the location of Otto Brick and Tile⁶²⁴. Present-day tax maps show that State Route 2002 and Legislative Route 55010 are one and the same; i.e., the “*Savage Road*”. As described in more detail below, early land plats prove that certain portions of State Route 2002 are indeed the present alignment of the old Turkey Foot Road.

As shown by the [Figure 0324](#) map, there was once a place along the Savage Road that was known as “*Savage*”. The article “*The Savage Post Office*” in Volume XXV of the “**Casselman Chronicle**”, 1985 numbers 3 and 4, indicates that the Savage post office was established in 1880, was set up in a log building that was a country store, and was closed in 1911.

A study of the trail past the A. P. Beachy sugar camp

Based on all the information above, it seems that the **trail** once ran past the location of the A. P. Beachy sugar camp; but by 1785, the **road** generally followed present-day Route 669 west of Salisbury. What follows are photos of the trail area.

⁶²³ Knowledge of the actual location of the “*Indian Path*” is unlikely. If Wallace actually had access to information pertaining to the route of the Indian path (as opposed to the later road that Pyle was familiar with), we suspect that he would have shared the source of that rather spectacular historical information. After all, he carefully informs the reader about the source of minor facts obtained from Cassaday’s book. This is not intended to take any credit away from Doctor Wallace; we merely offer up a miniscule correction on a minor point in a remarkable book.

⁶²⁴ Julia (Knecht) Prokop’s 1993 first draft of “**The Descendants of Lawrence Knecht**” tells of the founding of Otto Brick and Tile. John and Joe Knecht purchased used brick machinery from Meyersdale, but were unsuccessful at making brick due to the lack of proper clay. Various people, including John and Joe Knecht, encouraged Mr. Otto to go into the brick making business. Mr. Otto found that he had good clay on his farm, purchased the Knecht’s machinery, and erected a small brick making factory on his farm by 1903. Julia Prokop was raised in West Salisbury, and is a Deitle descendant. According to the white paper titled “*Historical Profile of Somerset County*”, which is published by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the first kiln at Otto’s Brick Works was constructed in 1902. The history of Otto Brick and Tile is also provided in Volumes V and XXX of the “**Casselman Chronicle**”, numbers 1 and 2.

The information that Dorothy (Wagner) Jeffrey told Harry Ringler

Figures [0215](#) and [0217](#) show two areas due west of the old A. P. Beachy farm. Dorothy (Wagner) Jeffrey⁶²⁵ told Harry Ringler that the Turkey Foot Road ran through those areas. [Figure 0270](#) is a 1939 aerial photo that shows a plurality of east-west roadbeds in the area that Dorothy described. Whether they have any fidelity to the old route is unknown. [Figure 0216](#) was taken west of Salisbury, looking back into town, from the same location as [Figure 0217](#); Ord Street can be seen running into town from the east.

The information that Johnny Stangarone told Harry Ringler

[Figure 0218](#) was taken along Springs Road (Route 669) from Latitude 39.742683°, Longitude -79.116300° looking northward, and shows the general area where Johnny Stangarone reported (to Harry Ringler) that the Turkey Foot Road ran.

[Figure 0219](#) was taken along Springs Road from Latitude 39.742400°, Longitude -79.122117° looking northeast. It shows a field that Johnny Stangarone said the Turkey Foot Road crossed to join the present-day route of Springs Road.

[Figure 0271](#) is a 1939 aerial photo that identifies where Figures 0218 and 0219 were taken, relative to where Figure 0215 was taken. The red, orange, and blue dots show the respective locations where 0215, 0218, and 0219 were taken. According to Harry Ringler, Johnny Stangarone reported that the Turkey Foot Road ran through the area north of the orange dot and joined the present-day route of Springs Road at the blue dot. If Dorothy (Wagner) Jeffrey and Johnny Stangarone are both correct, then the route made a sharp turn to the south just west of the location that Dorothy (Wagner) Jeffrey described. The [Figure 0270](#) and [0271](#) aerial photos show traces of such a turn.

The farm near the red dot in [Figure 0271](#) was the Peter Wilhelm farm circa 1876. The Beers 1876 map of Elk Lick Township ([Figure 0288](#)) shows that a railroad track ran south of the Peter Wilhelm farm. This needs to be taken into consideration when interpreting the landscape scars on [Figures 0270](#) and [0271](#). The scars from the rail line are close to the highway, and do not interfere with the road site that Dorothy described. The rail line was the southern end of the branch railroad that came to Salisbury from Salisbury Junction near Meyersdale. The reason for the maze of roadbeds in [Figure 0271](#) that run generally north-south is unknown, but they appear to have been in use at the time of the photo.

The John Hershberger tract

As shown in [Figure 0293](#), the Turkey Foot Road crossed the John Hershberger tract, which was located just west of the William Tissue tract. The 1796 survey (Book C-97, Page 60, [Figure 0633](#)) illustrates the route as the “*Turkeyfoot Road to Cumberland*”, and describes it as “*Situate in Ellick Township Somerset County laying on both sides of the Turkey foot Road and on the Waters of flag Run.*” [Figure 0782](#) is a comparison of the Hershberger survey and a 1939 aerial photo that shows that the 1796 route across the Hershberger tract is a good match to Route 669.

⁶²⁵ According to a March 10, 2010 article by Sandra Lepley in the “**Somerset Magazine**”, Dorothy (Wagner) Jeffrey was then 91, and would be 92 in April. She lives on the Wagner family farm, and is known for her maple sugar business. She advised Mr. Dietle’s first cousin Warren Korn on the subject of making a maple sugar trough from a cucumber log for the 2008 season ([Figure 0096](#)). To make maple sugar, one cooks regular maple syrup down to a thick syrup. This thicker syrup is placed in the trough and stirred for a long time with a wooden paddle. During this process it swells up. Continued stirring causes the material to turn into crumb.

The Christian Houghstadler plat

The 1785 survey of Christian Houghstadler ([Figure 0306](#)) shows where the Turkey Foot Road crossed it. [Figure 0273](#) is a 1939 USDA aerial photo that shows the southern part of the 1785 Christian Houghstadler (Hochstetler/Hostetler) property. The purple line shows approximately where the survey indicates that the Turkey Foot Road crossed, exiting the west side of the Houghstadler property roughly at Latitude 39.743379°, Longitude -79.130112°.

The blue dot is where Johnny Stangarone reported that the Turkey Foot Road joined the present-day route of Springs Road. Obviously, Mr. Stangarone's information is different from that on the plat. This discrepancy does not necessarily prove either information source wrong, because the location of any given early road varied over time. The routes on old surveys are schematic to a degree, and the Houghstadler survey might even be showing the location of the present-day route. In any case, the path of Route 669 east of the blue dot corresponds to the 1796 route of the Turkey Foot Road, and an earlier route (such as the one described by Christian C. Livengood) may have joined the present-day route at the blue dot.

The Hochstetler massacre

The oft-told tale of Jacob and Christian Hochstetler's 1757 massacre survival in Berks County, and subsequent captivity by Indians, is detailed in Harvey Hostetler's 1912 book "**Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler**"⁶²⁶. Updates to the family information are provided by the excellent publications of the Jacob Hochstetler Family Association, Inc. The 1976 "**Casselman Chronicle**" (Volume XVI, Number One) also has an article about the massacre.

Descriptions in contemporaneous newspapers

The October 6, 1757 issue of the "**Pennsylvania Journal**" states: *"From Reading we have advice that last Wednesday the enemy burnt the house of one Hochsteller and killed Hochstetle's wife and a young man, and himself and three children are missing."* The October 15, 1757 issue of Philadelphia's "**Journal**" states: *"In the same week the Indians came to Hoffstettler's place; the man called on his neighbors for help; meanwhile the Indians killed his wife and carried away his children, and burned the house and barn. One son escaped."* Captain Jacob Orndt's report states: *"Highstealer's wife and one child killed and scalped; and three of his children taken captives in September, 1757, in Bern Township."*

A petition to the Lieutenant Governor for the return of the children

The August 13, 1762 petition to the Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania by Christian's father Jacob Hochstetler is in the 1853 edition of the "**Pennsylvania Archives**", Volume IV, page 99. With various abbreviations changed to the non-abbreviated form, it reads:

To the Honorable James Hamilton, Esq., Lieutenant Governour of Pennsylvania,

The Humble Petition of Jacob Hockstetler of Berks County,

Humbly Sheweth:

⁶²⁶ Mr. Dietle is a descendant of Christian's father Jacob, who also survived the massacre and Indian captivity. Volume 3, page 460 of the 1906 book "**History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**" mistakenly implies that the massacre occurred near present-day Meyersdale.

That about five Years ago your Petitioner with 2 Children were taken Prisoners, & his wife & 2 other Children were killed by the Indians, that one of the said Children who is still Prisoner is named Joseph, is about 18 Years old, and Christian is about 16 Years & a half old. That his House & Improvements were totally ruined & destroyed.

That your Petitioner understands that neither of his Children are brought down, but the Embassadour of King Kastateeloca, who has one of his Children is now here.

That your Petitioner most humbly prays your Honour to interpose in this Matter, that his Children may be restored to him, or that he may be put into such a Method as may be effectual for that Purpose. And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c

In the Brothersvalley Assessment list for 1784, Christian Hostaler is listed with six people in his household.

Miscellaneous surveys between the Houghstadler and Riley Lee tracts

The 1795 survey of George Fulk (Book C-47, Page 272) and the adjacent 1844 survey of Phineas Compton (Book C-33, Page 204) do not show or mention the Turkey Foot Road. The Charles and William Biddle surveys⁶²⁷ and the Enos Moore survey could not be found.

The Gundy surveys shown on [Figure 0293](#) could not be located.⁶²⁸ (For more about the Gundys, see Chapter 13.) The survey of John Keim ([Figure 0672](#)) indicates that John Stevanus owned both Gundy properties by 1842. In 1845, Stevanus re-warranted and re-surveyed (Book C-221, Page 181) the westernmost 10-acre portion of the property Joseph Gundy had previously warranted on June 25, 1793. Stevanus did not receive a patent for this 10-acre tract until May 26, 1870.

Walker's 1860 map of Somerset County ([Figure 0603](#)) and the 1876 Beers map of Elk Lick Township ([Figure 0022](#)) show a "J. Stephanus" residence just east of where present-day Davis Road comes out on Savage Road (State Route 2002). This farmstead is shown in the 1939 aerial photo of [Figure 0673](#).

Ralph E. Stevanus' article "*Grandpa's Underground Railroad*" in Volume II of the "**Casselman Chronicle**", 1962 Numbers 2 and 3 describes his grandfather John Stevanus, who lived on a farm that was located on the Turkey Foot Road about a mile west of Springs. John Stevanus hid escaped slaves in the daytime, and gave them provisions to help them on their continuing journey. Ralph heard the story from his father Gabriel, who was born in 1862. Gabriel heard the story from his father John.

According to the 1906 book "**History of Bedford and Somerset Counties...**", John Stevanus was born in Elk Lick Township in 1810, and remained there as a farmer. His first wife was Anna Hershberger, a resident of the township.

⁶²⁷ The Charles and William Biddle surveys are listed on page 25 of the Bedford County warrant register, but the surveys are not identified.

⁶²⁸ Joseph Gundy's Warrant Number 179 for 150 acres in Elk Lick is listed on page 89 of the Bedford County warrant book, and his Warrant Number 5 for 262 acres in Elk Lick is listed on page 225. In both cases, the survey information is omitted. According to Volume LII Number One (2012) of the "**Casselman Chronicle**", a Joseph Gundy served as a minister of the Springs Mennonite Church, but went on to become a member of the Brethren Church. A Gundy is described as a Somerset County Mennonite preacher in Bishop Christian Newcomer's October 27, 1799 journal entry. Newcomer's March 9, 1807 journal entry indicates that Gundy "*had removed to the western country*". The 1884 book "**The History of Tuscarawas County, Ohio**" indicates that Joseph Gundy was one of the earliest ministers of the United Brethren society at Strasburg.

A shortcut route from an unknown time period

During our April 2010 trip with Harry Ringler, we were shown a number of traditional Turkey Foot Road sites east of Winding Ridge. 1939 aerial imagery shows a dense maze of crisscrossing primitive through roads passing through the traditional sites, all heading in the same direction. The maze appears to be a shortcut to the principal route proven by early surveys. The shortcut route does not appear on the 1876 Beers map of Elk Lick Township ([Figure 0351](#)). We do not know which route came first—the principal route proven by land survey, or the shortcut. The shortcut could, for example, possibly be an older route that Clinton only very generally followed in 1779, or a shorter route developed later by drovers.

The Ray Maust place

[Figure 0220](#) was taken along the Savage Road from Latitude 39.745200°, Longitude -79.145750° looking northwest 290°⁶²⁹. According to the “**Casselman Chronicle**”, the Turkey Foot Road ran through the vicinity of the one-story house. The residents encountered stone from the roadbed while digging. The ranch house is owned by the sister of Mr. Ringler’s Tressler brother-in-law.

The two-story house is the Ray Maust place, which has a plaque that dates it to 1842. Elwood “Piney” Tressler told Mr. Ringler that the Turkey Foot Road went above his place, which is just west of the white two-story house. [Figure 0272](#) is a 1939 aerial photo that has been marked up to identify where the ranch house of [Figure 0220](#) is located. It also shows where the Turkey Foot Road was said by Mr. Ringler to have followed the general route of the modern day Springs and Savage Roads.

A sunken road crossing the Davis Road

[Figure 0221](#) was taken along the dirt Davis Road from Latitude 39.748783°, Longitude -79.159050° looking 138 degrees southeast, just below Ronnie Paul’s brick ranch house. It shows a sunken roadbed, which Mr. Ringler indicated was the Turkey Foot Road, crossing the present-day Davis Road. [Figure 0222](#) was taken along the sunken roadbed, from Latitude 39.748650°, Longitude -79.158833° looking 345 degrees west-northwest toward the Davis Road. [Figure 0340](#) is a 1939 USDA aerial photo that has been marked up to show where [Figures 0220](#) and [0221](#) were taken. A maze of primitive through roads is visible, all heading in the same direction. This suggests heavy use over a prolonged period of time, or possible use of the route for cattle drives. One can see that although the road at [Figures 0221](#) and [0222](#) is part of the maze of roads, it is also part of a significantly more distinctive trace that follows the edge of a number of fields, more or less paralleling Davis Road. This shows that the road on [Figures 0221](#) and [0222](#) was part of two different routes. The road that follows the edge of the fields in the 1939 aerial photo ([Figure 0340](#)) was an earlier version of the Davis Road, as shown by Walker’s 1860 county map ([Figure 0603](#)) and the 1876 Beers map of Elk Lick Township ([Figure 0022](#)).

Information from Glenn Shumaker and Roy Wisserman

Some of the information that Mr. Ringler passed on was from Glenn Shumaker, who lives about 4.25 miles due west of Salisbury, and 2.25 miles due south of Mount Davis, as the crow flies. We visited with Glenn during our trip with Mr. Ringler. Glenn is interested enough in the subject of the

⁶²⁹ The compass readings that are expressed in degrees were taken with a magnetic compass. For true readings, these magnetic readings would need to be adjusted by the GN angle that is provided on area topographic maps. To better understand compass directions, see [Figure 0653](#).

Turkey Foot Road to have walked a lot of the traditional route. He notes that over the years, the old-timers he knew told him various conflicting stories about the Turkey Foot Road. Such conflicts are not particularly surprising, considering we are dealing with tradition, and considering the evidence overwhelmingly shows that the location of a primitive road was a transitory thing. To add to the confusion, Glenn lives where the traditional route crossed the route that is documented on surveys, and where a route to Listonburg was located that is also known as the Turkey Foot Road.

[Figure 0223](#) was taken from Latitude 39.749950°, Longitude -79.164683° looking 115 degrees east-southeast from the fork in the Sand Flat School Road. Glenn Shumaker and Roy Wisserman both told Mr. Ringler that the Turkey Foot Road came across the field there, to the location where the Sand Flat School Road forks. Mr. Ringler reported that there are caves near here where some men hid to avoid Civil War service.⁶³⁰

[Figure 0224](#) was taken from Savage Road at Latitude 39.753550°, Longitude -79.177167° looking 115 degrees east-southeast across Glenn Shumaker's yard. According to Glenn, this is where the Turkey Foot Road came out and joined the route of the present-day Savage Road and ran generally north. He still uses the old roadbed through the woods. Because the area on top of Negro Mountain⁶³¹ is so level here, the roadbed is not severely washed out. [Figure 0339](#) is a 1939 USDA aerial photo that has been marked up to show where the photos of Figures 0221, 0223 and 0224 were taken. These views show where a primitive through road passed. If you look closely at Figure 0339, you will also notice trails from the dashed line route that connect with the eastern end of Ringer Road, which is part of a direct route to Listonburg.

While this shortcut route does come out on a portion of the Turkey Foot Road that is now known as Savage Road, it also clearly crosses over Savage Road and forks. Verbally, and later using a sketch, Harry Ringler described the route as forking northwest of Glenn Shumaker's residence, with one road heading toward High Point Lake, and the other heading to Whites Creek. [Figure 0341](#) is a 1939 aerial photo that is marked up to show the route. Green is used to show the northern fork heading toward the present-day High Point Lake area. Red is used to show the route that led to Whites Creek. The red line route is described in more detail in Chapter 32. Both the red and green routes consist of a maze of primitive roadbeds—a characteristic signature of early routes.

⁶³⁰ The article "*The Story of Jakie's Cave*" in Volume I of the "**Casselman Chronicle**", 1961 Number 3 indicates that it was Jacob T. Livengood who hid in the cave.

⁶³¹ The 1934 "**Pennsylvania Archaeologist**", Volumes 4 to 8 mentions something about the passage of the Turkey Foot Trail over Negro Mountain, but a copy could not be located during the course of this research.

