

Clark-Mehaffey Mansion 310 West Market Street, Marietta, Pennsylvania



Abstract:

Colonel John W. Clark (1819-1865) built this Italianate style mansion in 1853. Through capital earned from a local farm he co-owned with his brother James Brice Clark (1817-1883), Colonel Clark went into business with his brother-in-law Thomas Zell (1821-1885) operating a lumber and coal company called Clark & Zell. In 1864, Colonel Clark and his wife Elizabeth Zell Clark (1822-1886) sold the mansion to lumber baron George W. Mehaffey (1831-1910). The home is located in the former borough of Irishtown. In 1813, George Mehaffey's father, James Mehaffey along with John Pedan and James Duffy, purchased 161 acres west Marietta and laid out Irishtown. The founders named each north-south street after United States naval heroes: Biddle, Jones, Decatur, Bainbridge, Morris, Hull, and Porter. The east-west streets named for American sea vessels: Essex, United States, Wasp, and Constitution.¹ United States Street would become Market Street when all the towns were incorporated into the borough of Marietta in the 1960s. In 1812 when James Anderson and James Cook procured a charter from the Pennsylvania legislature incorporating the towns of Waterford, New Haven, and Moravian Town (Bungletown) into the Borough of Marietta, they intentionally did not include Irishtown. George Mehaffey and his wife Charlotte Rinehart Mehaffey re-modeled the interior of the home in a Victorian fashion. The mansion remained in the family's ownership through their daughter Gertrude Mehaffey (1871-1963) until her death. In 1964, the home was sold to local architect and historic preservationist John J. DeVitry who renovated and preserved the property until selling it in 2012.

¹ Nicholas Biddle (1750-1778) Captain American Continental Navy (1775-1778); John Paul Jones (1747-1792) Captain American Continental Navy (1776-1787); Stephen Decatur (1779-1820) Commodore U. S. Navy (1798-1820); William Bainbridge (1774-1833) Commodore U. S. Navy 1798-1833); Charles Morris (1784-1856) Commodore U. S. (1799-1856); Andrew Hull Foote (1806-1863) Rear Admiral U. S. Navy (1822-1863); David Porter (1780-1843) Commodore U. S. Navy (1798-1825); USS Essex (1799); USS United States (1797); USS Wasp (1807) (1814); USS Constitution (1794).

Prologue

This is one report in a collection of eight reports about historically significant properties in Marietta, Pennsylvania a National Historic District. These reports focus on five prominent families who contributed to the establishment and building of Marietta in the nineteenth century.

The Clark, Mehaffey, Cassel, Spangler, and Rich families feature in this series of reports. The Clark/Mehaffey property is located in former Irishtown. Four Cassel family properties are located in former Moravian Town. Three Spangler (two Spangler & one Rich) properties are located on Fairview Avenue in former Waterford.

The industries and businesses associated with these families and properties are agriculture, lumber, coal, iron, transportation, and retail/distribution of related products. The Rich family is associated with the insurance industry and all the families in this study were involved with local banking enterprises.

Members of these families, representing these industries, associated with these properties, served in local Marietta Borough public service positions and elected to the state and/or federal legislatures, while others were appointed U. S. Ambassadors. Many held state and national leadership positions in the Whig, Republican, and Prohibition political parties.

In 2014, Arcadia Publishing (Charleston, South Carolina) published a book entitled, Elizabethtown College as part of their *Campus History Series: Images of America*, authored by Jean-Paul Benowitz, who teaches History at Elizabethtown College. In 2015, Arcadia Publishing asked Jean-Paul to write a history of Elizabethtown Borough, published under the title, Elizabethtown: Images of America. In the fall semester of 2016 Elizabethtown College began offering an Honors First Year Seminar, taught by Jean-Paul, called “Landmarks and Legends: Learning Local History.” In the spring semester of 217 Elizabethton College began offering an Honors research methods course, taught by Jean- Paul called, “Elizabethtown History: Campus and Community.” These courses helped Elizabethtown College secure a Mellon Grant, in

2018, called “Confronting Challenges with Confidence: Humanities for Our World Today.” Jean-Paul’s courses were supported by this grant as part of the “Development and Delivery of Global and Regional Heritage Studies Courses/Experiences.” The Mellon Grant and these local history courses led to the creation in 2019 of a Certificate in Public Heritage Studies for History majors at Elizabethtown College. These courses are based, in part, on The National Collegiate Honors Council program called “Partners in the Parks.” This is an outdoor experiential learning program offered through a collaboration between NCHC and the National Park Service. NCHC also offers programming called “Place As Text” where students immerse themselves in the local community exploring the culture and geography of the local neighborhood. Students are challenged to be sensitive and reflect about the human experience in the local built environment.

In the spring of 2016 the course, “Elizabethtown History: Campus and Community,” involved a partnership with the Lancaster Preservation Trust and Elizabethtown Borough. Students conducted archival and field research in an effort to prevent the historically significant Moose Lodge building in Elizabethtown from being razed. This successful historic preservation project attracted the attention of the Architectural Historian for Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Engineering District 8.

In the spring of 2017 the course, “Elizabethtown History: Campus and Community,” involved a partnership with PennDOT. Students engaged in archival and field research to conduct National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Reviews of local historic properties. Student research findings were published through the digital humanities project: ArcGIS story maps. Students’ reports were used by PennDOT, Elizabethtown Borough, and the federal Department of Transportation regarding historic preservation initiatives and public works projects concerning re-building the Market Street Bridge.



Corner of East Market & North New Haven Streets
Marietta, Pennsylvania

In the spring semester 2019, the course, “Elizabethtown History: Campus and Community,” involved a partnership with RiverStewards, Inc. The students conducted NHPA Section 106 Reviews of historically significant properties in the Marietta Historic District(s) and the Chickies Historic District. The students published their findings online through an ArcGIS map. The students presented their findings at Scholarship and Creative Arts Day (SCAD) at Elizabethtown College on Tuesday 16 April 2019 and at Marietta Day on Saturday 11 May 2019 in Marietta. One of the students in the class, Kyle C. Cappucci, expanded the project for a Summer Scholarship, Creative Arts, and Research Project (SCARP) in the summer of 2019. Cappucci broadened the Community Based Learning project to include Marietta Restoration Associates, Inc.; RiverStewards, Inc.; Rivertownes PA USA, Inc.; and Susquehanna Heritage, Inc. Cappucci expanded the scope of the map beyond historical significance to illustrate the contemporary relevance of Marietta.

Cappucci presented his scholarship to the Marietta Borough Council meeting on Tuesday 9 July 2019 and to the general public at the former First National Bank on Wednesday 17 July 2019. His presentations entitled: “Putting Historic Marietta on

The Map: This Place Matters!” illustrated how the scholarship by the Honors students at Elizabethtown College can bring positive attention to the Marietta Historic District, the Chickies Historic District, and the Northwest Lancaster County River Trail. To this end, Cappucci suggested the Marietta Restoration Associates, Inc. take the lead in launching a historic preservation awareness campaign created by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, called “This Place Matters!”

“This Place Matters!” a national campaign, created by the National Historic Preservation Trust, encouraging people to celebrate places meaningful to them and to their communities. Since 2015, participants have shared more than 10,000 photographs of themselves and their favorite places on social media using the hashtag #ThisPlaceMatters.

In the summer of 2020, Kyle Cappucci will work on an Elizabethtown College Summer Scholarship, Creative Art and Research Program Project entitled: “This Place Matters! The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Economic Revitalization in Marietta, Pennsylvania.” Through this SCARP project Elizabethtown College partnering with various stakeholders in Marietta, will be launching a This Place Matters campaign for Marietta. This campaign is not just public awareness through photography and social media. It is about telling the stories of why these places hold historical significance. Through This Place Matters, the National Historic Preservation Trust, encourages and inspires an ongoing dialogue about the importance of place and preservation.

This is one report, in a series of eight reports being used to inform the Marietta This Place Matters campaign.

Jean-Paul Benowitz
Wednesday 20 May 2020

Property Details:

The Clark Mehaffey House is located at 310 W Market Street in Marietta, PA 17547. There is some uncertainty regarding the date in which the house was built. “Verbal or hearsay sources have claimed dates in the c. 1820-1840 period; however, the house does not appear on the map of Marietta in the 1864 Lancaster County Atlas.”² Although the house does appear “in the Marietta map in the 1875 Lancaster County Atlas.”³ The current owners of the Clark Mehaffey House are Marcus and Amanda Snow. The property is a three-story pressed brick façade dwelling with a hipped roof “covered with standing seam metal square building with three-story, three bay rear wing corbelled brick cornice six over six sash with paneled shutters on first floor and slatted shutters on second floor small, third-floor windows with cast-iron grills in the shape of lyres segmental brick arches over windows central entrance elaborate cast-iron portico topped with cast iron balustrade.”⁴ The property includes eight bedrooms, two full bathrooms, one half bathroom, and a total of thirteen rooms. The total square footage of the living area of the property is approximately five thousand sixty-five square feet. There are two different slab porches connected to the dwelling. The total square footage of the first slab porch with a roof is five hundred twenty square feet. The second slab porch without a roof is one hundred fifty-six square feet. The property also includes a detached wood-framed storage shed which was built in 2013. The detached wood-framed storage shed is approximately one hundred twenty square feet. The entire lot of land totals to approximately four-fifths of an acre.⁵

Deed Search:

In 1853, the ownership of the land was transferred from Henry B. Shaffner and Calvin A. Shaffner to Colonel John W. Clarke and his wife, Elizabeth (13 March 1853 – 12 October 1864), George W. Mehaffey (12 October – 11 May 1906)⁶, Gertrude Mehaffey (11 May 1906 – 1 August 1961)⁷, Howard C. Frey and Clara B. Frey (1 August 1961 – 5 July 1964)⁸, Joan M. Devitry and John J. Devitry (5 July 1964 – 17 July 2012)⁹, Amanda A. Snow and Marcus S. Snow (17 July 2012 – Present)¹⁰.

Architectural Style:

In stylistic terms, this exterior of the Clark Mehaffey Mansion represents a synthesis of the Italianate and Adams styles. “The Italianate style was modeled after the medieval farmhouses of the Italian countryside. These farmhouses were irregularly shaped and seemed to fit naturally into their rustic settings, an important objective of the Romantic Movement.”¹¹ “The Italianate and Gothic Revival styles were made popular by the published pattern books of architect Andrew Jackson Downing in the 1840s and 1850s.” This style first developed as the Italianate Villa style, which was seen as early as the 1830s and was intended as a suitable design for substantial homes or country estates.”¹² “As the style evolved from the Italianate Villa to the Italianate form, the square tower and irregular massing were not always present, but other elements of the style continued, notably the decorative

² PHMC Cultural Resources Database. “Mehaffey Mansion” phmc.state.pa.us

<https://www.dot7.state.pa.us/CRGIS/Application/ASPNET/Report/Report.aspx?R=108&T=KEYNO&I=086458> (accessed March 31, 2020).

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Lancaster County Property Tax Inquiry. “310 W MARKET ST” Lancasterpa.devnetwedge.com.

<https://lancasterpa.devnetwedge.com/parcel/view/4202602600000/2020> (accessed April 22, 2020).

⁶ Book Q, Volume 9, Page 206.

⁷ Book D, Volume 18, Page 580.

⁸ Book A, Volume 51, Page 778.

⁹ Book S, Volume 53, Page 700.

¹⁰ Instrument Number 6010617

¹¹ Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. “Italianate Villa/Italianate Style 1840-1885” Phmc.state.pa.us.

<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/italianate.html> (accessed March 31, 2020).

¹² Ibid.

bracketed cornice.”¹³ “Freestanding Italianate buildings display the cornice under widely overhanging eaves, while contiguous Italianate rowhouses or commercial buildings have a bracketed cornice on the front façade.”¹⁴ “The Clark Mehaffey House appears in the Marietta map in the 1875 Lancaster County Atlas Stylistic evidence for this symmetrical Italianate style house.”¹⁵ Many similar “symmetrical Italianate style houses of this general form were erected in Lancaster County from the early 1850's through the early 1880s.”¹⁶ The Adams style, also known as the Federal style, was named “after the Adam brothers, British architects who developed this style in England.”¹⁷ The Adams style is “a refinement of the Georgian style, which was popular in the years preceding the Federal style. Like the Georgian style, the Adams style is designed around a center hall floor plan, or a side hall for narrow row houses.”¹⁸ The details of the Adams style “are more delicate, slender, and finely drawn than their Georgian counterparts and feature swags, garlands, and urns.”¹⁹ There were also “more formal elements introduced in the Adams style, such as the front door fanlight window, sometimes with flanking sidelights, and more elaborate door surrounds and porticos.”²⁰ The Adams style “also is known for dramatic windows, three-part or Palladian windows with curved arches.”²¹ The physical elements of the interior and exterior of the Clark Mehaffey Mansion certainly represent a synthesis between the Italianate and Adams architectural styles.

History of Marietta, Pennsylvania

Editor’s Note: *This section of the property report was authored by Kyle C. Cappucci, Elizabethtown College Class of 2022 as a research paper entitled, “Marietta Pennsylvania Historic District & The Susquehanna National Heritage Area Designation ArcGIS Story Map” presented at the Landmark Conference Thursday 11 July 2019 as part of the college’s Summer Scholarship, Creative Arts, and Research Projects (SCARP) program. It has been inserted here to give the reader context for the reminder of the report.*

As early as 8,000 BC Paleo-Indian settlements, the Susquehannocks flourished along the Susquehanna River with agricultural production and operating complex trade routes expanding throughout the continent. Every river valley and every tributary of the Swatara, Conoy, Chickies, Conestoga, Pequea, and Octorara Creeks has considerable evidence of human habitation in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania prior to European contact.²²

In 1616 Etienne Brule (1592-1633) a French expert in the Algonquin language, who lived among the Susquehanna tribe in western New York, traveled down the Susquehanna River into the Chesapeake Bay. Along the way, Brule explored the tributaries of the Susquehanna River in Lancaster County and encountered the Susquehannock tribes living along the Susquehanna River.²³

In 1629 Etienne Brule partnered with the British fur trader Sir David Kirke (1597-1654) establishing trade relations between the Europeans and Susquehannock tribes. By 1680-1690 no Susquehannock villages existed in Lancaster or York Counties. There was a migration to New York to settle among the Iroquois and Seneca and a movement south to Maryland.²⁴

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ PHMC Cultural Resources Database. “Mehaffey Mansion” phmc.state.pa.us

<https://www.dot7.state.pa.us/CRGIS/Application/ASPNET/Report/Report.aspx?R=108&T=KEYNO&I=086458> (accessed March 31, 2020).

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. “Federal Style 1780-1820” Phmc.state.pa.us.

<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/federal.html> (accessed April 22, 2020).

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Benowitz, Jean-Paul, Elizabethtown Advocate. “American Indians Were Major Part of Development of E-town” etownpa.com <http://etownpa.com/american-indians-major-part-development-e-town/> (accessed May 21, 2019).

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

In 1681 British King Charles, II (1630-1685) granted a land charter to Quaker leader William Penn (1644-1718) to repay a debt the King owed to Admiral William Penn (1621-1670). King Charles named it Pennsylvania, meaning Penn's Woods: Penn and Sylvania from the Latin *silva* which translates forest or woods. There were no Susquehannocks living in this region by the time William Penn acquired the land from King Charles, II (1630-1685).²⁵

In 1701 William Penn (1644-1718) gave a patent of 3,000 acres of land along the Susquehanna River to George Beale (British). By 1703 Consumed by debt, William Penn (1644-1718) charged his land agent James Logan (1674-1751) to send him in London "bear and buck skins for they [the creditors] bear an advance" and "urge the Pennsylvania assembly to establish a propriety monopoly in the Indian trade."²⁶

In 1708 James Logan invited the French Expert Indian language interpreter Peter Bezaillion (1661-1742) to establish a fur trading post where the Conoy Creek meets the Susquehanna River in Bainbridge, Pennsylvania north 7.5 miles north of Marietta. By 1719 Bezaillion invited the Piscataway tribe to move from Maryland to Conoy Town. They assumed the name Canoise or corn shellers and were called the Conoy Indians.²⁷

In 1717 Peter Logan did not only invite French and Indian fur traders to settle between the Conoy and Conewago Creeks along the Susquehanna River, he also sold land to the highest bidders among the Swiss-German (mostly Mennonite) Palatine farmers arriving in Pennsylvania in 1717. Simultaneously there was an influx of Ulster Scots or Scots-Irish settlers. William Penn's sons John (1700-1746), Richard (1706-1771), and Thomas (1702-1775) inherited a great deal of debt when their father died in 1718. The Penn brothers became alienated from Quaker beliefs and did not subscribe to their father's ideals for Pennsylvania.²⁸

In 1717 one year before his death, William Penn reserved 16,000 acres in Lancaster County for various tribes as a reserved hunting ground. This promise by William Penn would not be kept by his sons. According to Mennonite historian the Reverend John L. Ruth, Mennonite settlers in Lancaster County anxiously paid up to four times more than the price the Penn brothers were asking for acres. Meanwhile the Scots-Irish settlers encouraged to move here by James Logan started living on the land without title. The obvious defense of one's claim to property was to construct buildings and begin to improve the land, even before it was legally acquired.²⁹

In 1719 Robert Wilkins, Scotch-Irish (Ulster Scots; Anglo-Irish Presbyterians), Indian Trader, acquired 300 acres along the Susquehanna River north of Chickies Creek. In 1719 George Stewart, Scotch-Irish, was sold a tract of land east of the Robert Wilkins tract. In 1727 Robert Wilkins sold the tract of Penn land to Scotch-Irish, The Reverend James Anderson, clergy at the Donegal Presbyterian Church (1732) in Mount Joy, in East Donegal Township. Son James Anderson operated the ferry and built the Accomac Inn.³⁰

In 1733 George Stewart's son and daughter-in-law, John and Ann Stewart, inherited and sold the James Anderson tract to David Cook. This tract of land was given to his son David Cook whose son, David Cook, laid out the town of New Haven. Additional acres of the Stewart tract were given to David Cook's son James.³¹

Peter Bezaillion built Old Peter's Road, as it is still known in parts of Lancaster County, to facilitate French and Indian fur trading linking Philadelphia to Bainbridge (1719). Bezaillion who, in partnership with the British, challenged France's control over the territory between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River, a struggle which helped precipitate the French and Indian War. The French found the Algonquin tribes their allies, while the Iroquois sided with the British. Raids of British colonists occurred on both sides.³²

By 1743, The Piscataway tribes had moved away from Bainbridge, migrating north along the Susquehanna River settling in Shamokin. British victories in Quebec (1759) and Montreal (1760) led to France surrendering

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Marietta Sesquicentennial Souvenir Booklet (Marietta, PA: August 4, 1962).

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

all of New France to the British. The British took over all French forts on the frontier and became the new authoritarian power for the tribes in these regions during The French and Indian War (1755-1763).³³

Between 1775-1783 Marietta played an important role in the American Revolution manufacturing iron and lumber, producing agricultural goods, distilling whiskey, and ferry transportation between Lancaster and York Counties over the Susquehanna River. The capitol of Continental Congress was in Lancaster City on 22 September 1777. Lancaster City was the capitol of Pennsylvania from 1799-1812. York City was the capitol of the Continental Congress from 1777-1778. The Articles of Confederation were drafted and adopted in York thus the establishing the first constituting and government for the United States of America. In 1789 Quaker leader Samuel Wright renamed Wright's Ferry as Columbia and petitioned the new U. S. Congress to make this the location of the U. S. Capitol.³⁴

In 1804, the third generation of Anderson, grandson James Anderson, laid out the town of Waterford. By 1812, James Anderson and James Cook procured a charter from the Pennsylvania legislature and named their incorporated towns Marietta. The next year, 1813, Anderson's town Waterford and Cook's town New Haven were consolidated including a tract of land owned by John Myers east of Moravian Town and a tract of land owned by Benjamin Long north of Waterford.³⁵

In the same year, 1813 John Pedan, James Mehaffey, and Colonel James Duffy purchased 161 acres west of the Anderson tract and laid out Irishtown. The founders named each north-south street after U. S. naval heroes: Biddle, Jones, Decatur, Bainbridge, Morris, Hull, and Porter. The east-west streets named for American sea vessels: Essex, United States, Wasp, and Constitution. United States Street would become Market Street when all the towns were incorporated into the borough of Marietta.³⁶

The next year, 1814, the Cassels sell the Neff tract to Jacob Grosh who laid out Moravian Town, known locally as Bungletown. By this time the major industry in Marietta was lumber. By 1814 there were nine lumber merchants in Marietta. Planing mills, lumberyards, carpentry shops, and allied businesses were the backbone of the local economy. Marietta was a waypoint for shipping lumber, bundled into rafts, downriver. In 1807 Henry Cassel established a lumber business on the corner of Third and Bank Streets. In 1848 Henry Cassel was joined by his son A. N. Cassel who in 1872 built a planing mill associated with the business. In 1850 B. F. Hiestand & Sons Planing Mill was established on the Susquehanna River below Chickes Rock with the lumber offices located on the corner of Bank and Second Streets. In 1945 the Hiestand lumber properties were deeded to the Paul W. Zimmerman Foundries Company manufacturing brass, bronze, and aluminum castings. In 1954 Zimmerman Foundries Company, was acquired by the Donegal Manufacturing Corporation, later called Donegal Steel Foundry Company which manufactured carbon, low alloy and stainless steel castings primarily for tanks for the U. S. Army during the Korean War (1950-1953).³⁷

During 1812-1814, The Columbia-Wrightsville covered bridge constructed over the Susquehanna River, at the time considered the longest covered bridge in the world. Greatly enhances the economy for Marietta. Between 1812-1815 the War of 1812 between the U. S. and Great Britain began over alleged British violations of American shipping rights, such as impressment, the forcing of American merchant sailors to serve on British ships. American forces unsuccessfully invaded Canada and the British retaliated by burning down Washington, D. C. Within weeks U. S. Forces repulsed sea and land invasions of the British at the Port of Baltimore, particularly Fort McHenry. The war ended with victory for the United States at the Battle of New Orleans. Two companies from Marietta marched to Maryland in defense of Baltimore. One of the companies was called the Marietta Grays commanded by Jacob Grosh.³⁸

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Lloyd, Junie, YorkBlog, "How did they get across the wide Susquehanna when there were no bridges?" <https://yorkblog.com/universal/how-did-they-get-across-the-wide-susquehanna-when-there-were-no-bridges/> (accessed May 23, 2019).

³⁵ Marietta Sesquicentennial Souvenir Booklet (Marietta, PA: August 4, 1962).

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

In 1817 James Anderson built a road over Chickies Mountain, the Old Columbia Pike, linking Columbia, Pennsylvania, formerly Wright's Ferry, (1726) 3.6 miles south of Marietta. Anderson was preparing for the state legislature to build a bridge across the Susquehanna River connecting Marietta to York, Pennsylvania (1741). James Anderson operated a ferry across the Susquehanna River. Two miles north Mennonite Christian Winiker operated a ferry known as Vinegar Ferry.³⁹

The Economic Panic of 1819 was the first major peacetime financial crisis in the U. S. following the collapse of the economy in the transition from a colonial commercial status with Europe toward an independent economy. The downturn was driven by global market adjustments in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars, its severity was compounded by excessive speculation in public lands. The Pennsylvania legislature did not build a bridge between Marietta and York. James Anderson lost most of his money building the Columbia Pike.⁴⁰

Between 1826-1840 construction of the Pennsylvania Canal system to connect Philadelphia (1682) to Pittsburgh (1669) commenced. The Pennsylvania Rail Road (1846) eventually purchased the Pennsylvania Canal from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.⁴¹

In 1855 Eagle Furnace, anthracite iron furnace, opened. The iron industry in Marietta was dominated by Henry Musselman, Henry Miller Watts of Carlisle, and his father-in-law Dr. Peter Shoenberger, of Pittsburgh. The local iron industry was managed by Watts' son Ethelbert Watts (1846–1919) a U. S. diplomat who played important roles in the Spanish American War, Russo Japanese War, & WW I. These iron plants produced pig iron, sold under the brand name Vesta, transported on the Pennsylvania Canal and later by the railroad. In 1917 the iron plants, known as the Susquehanna Iron Company, sold the furnaces to E. J. Lavino who produced ferromanganese, used for high grade steel, during WW I. The manganese ores came from all over the world & the ferromanganese product was shipped to Youngstown, Ohio, Coatesville, and Pittsburgh. The production of iron ceased in the 1920s and the furnace was dismantled between 1928 and 1934.⁴²

Between 1861-1865, during the American Civil War Marietta played a role in the Battle of Gettysburg 1-3 July 1863. Women from Marietta organized to prepare linen bandages and baked two wagonloads of bread dispatched to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (1806) 45 miles west of Marietta. Marietta was protected from an invasion of Confederate troops because on 28 June 1863 Union forces burned the Columbia-Wrightsville covered bridge to prevent an advance of Confederate troops approaching from Wrightsville, York County. The Pennsylvania Rail Road used the bridge piers to support a rail bridge crossing the river from 1868-1896 when it was destroyed by the Cedar Keys Hurricane. In 1810 David Muma built a stone house which David Cassel (1774-1855) turned into a hotel in 1823 called the Perry House Hotel named for War of 1812 Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry (1785-1819). Perry House was a stronghold for Confederate sympathizers of Marietta where Copperheads and Unionists engaged in hostile political debates.⁴³

In the post-Civil War years, by 1876 The Marietta Holloware and Enameling Company was established, by Colonel James Duffy among others, producing hollow castings such as toilet bowls, lavatory basins, cast iron cookware, ink pots for stencils, glue pots, teakettles, and cookware including sauce pans, and skillets.⁴⁴

In 1882 Dr. H. M. Alexander used the methods of British physician and scientist, Edward Jenner (1749-1823) to create a vaccine for smallpox which he manufactured and sold commercially nationwide and globally. The work began in a chicken house adjacent to his office at 299 West Market Street. He purchased the H. McMullen Farm in the Irishtown neighborhood of Marietta located at Wasp and Biddle Streets and established

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Revolvly. "Panic of 1819" revolvly.com <https://www.revolvly.com/page/Panic-of-1819> (accessed May 21, 2019).

⁴¹ Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. "Pennsylvania Canals- 1846" phmc.state.pa.us www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/documents/1776-1865/pennsylvania-canals.html (accessed May 21, 2019).

⁴² Rivertownes. "The Furnaces of Rivertownes" [rivertownes.org http://www.rivertownes.org/Features/Furnaces/Marietta.htm](http://www.rivertownes.org/Features/Furnaces/Marietta.htm) (accessed May 21, 2019).

⁴³ Marietta Sesquicentennial Souvenir Booklet (Marietta, PA: August 4, 1962).

⁴⁴ Ibid.

the first commercial biological laboratory in the United States known as Dr. H. M. Alexander and Company and also as the Lancaster County Vaccine Farm.⁴⁵

By the time of the First World War, in 1916, the heirs of Dr. Alexander sold their shares of the company to the Gilliland Laboratories, Inc. During the Second World War, in 1943 Gilliland Laboratories was acquired by the American Home Products Corporation. The following year, in 1944, The American Home Products Corporation was incorporated into the Wyeth Laboratories, Inc. In 2005 Wyeth Laboratories was acquired by Britain's largest drugs maker, GlaxoSmithKline.

In 1889 Donegal Mutual Insurance Company, formerly Donegal and Conoy Mutual Fire Insurance Company, established on West Market Street in Marietta. During 1960-1961 Donegal built their national headquarters in Colonial Revival style campus on River Road Pennsylvania Route 441 (PA 441).⁴⁶

In 1893 The Columbia and Donegal Electric Railway (C&D), later purchased by The Pennsylvania Traction Company which was acquired by the Conestoga Traction Company (1899) was chartered to build a trolley car line connecting the four miles between Columbia and Marietta and building the Chickies Rock Park. The wooden cars, painted bright blue with yellow trim, were purchased from J. G. Brill Car Company (1868-1954) Philadelphia and the electric lines were installed by Westinghouse Electric Company (1886) Pittsburgh. Trolley tickets were purchased at the Libhart Drug Store.⁴⁷

During 1917-1918 the United States declared war on Germany on 6 April 1917 more than two and a half years after the start of the First World War. Before entering the war, the U. S. remained neutral although it was an important supplier to Great Britain and the Allied Powers. The U. S. made its major contributions supplying raw material for the war effort. The U. S. military established the Marietta Holding and Reconsignment Point along the Susquehanna River. The primary mission was to receive and store Quartermaster, Ordinance, Medical, Engineer, and Signal Corps supplies until east coast ports were in a position to receive and ship materials overseas.⁴⁸

During the Second World War, in 1941 the U. S. military expanded the Marietta Holding and Reconsignment Point to accommodate supplying the Lend Lease Act. In March 1941 Lend Lease was enacted distributing food, oil, warships, warplanes, and weaponry. In December 1941, four days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the United States, the U. S. Congress declared war against the Japanese Empire. Nazi Germany declared war against the U. S. in response to what was claimed to be a series of provocations by the United States when it was still officially neutral during the Second World War. The United States declared war on Germany.⁴⁹

During this time, 1942-1945 there was an expansion of the Marietta Holding and Reconsignment Point which is officially designated as the Marietta Transportation Corps Depot. The depot encompassed over eight million square feet, over 400 acres, and employed more than 800 civilians in addition to military personnel.⁵⁰

In 1947 Machinecraft, Inc. was established manufacturing automatic food shaping machines for mass production of hamburgers and French fries. The hydraulic valves for the first two air craft carriers built during the Second World War were designed and manufactured by Machinecraft. This technology allowed planes to be kept on an even keel during take-off and landing on the decks of the ships.⁵¹

In 1952 Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation built a natural gas compressor two miles west of the Marietta Air Force Station. This compressor station moves natural gas destined for markets in Philadelphia and New York.⁵²

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Landis, John C., *Candlelight Tours of Marietta 1966 to 2015* (Landisville, PA: Yurchak Printing, Inc, 2015).

⁴⁷ Marietta Sesquicentennial Souvenir Booklet, (Marietta, PA: August 4, 1962).

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² American Oil & Gas Historical Society. Big Inch Pipelines of WWII' aoghs.org <https://aoghs.org/petroleum-in-war/oil-pipelines/> (accessed May 23, 2019).

Between 1953-1955 the Transportation Material Command was established at the Marietta Transportation Corps Depot with the mission of supply control, cataloging, procurement, mobilization planning, and standardization and production engineering. In 1955 Marietta Transportation Corps Depot was transferred from the U. S. Army to the U. S. Air Force which created air station with the primary functions of receipt, storage, shipment, and disposal of Air Force material and equipment.⁵³

In 1955 the United States Aluminum Corporation of Pennsylvania USALCO is established. Rectangular twenty-five pound “ingots” smelted from scrap aluminum were produced to make castings for automotive automatic transmissions, pistons, aluminum fry pans, and products for national defense purposes.⁵⁴

In May 1957, New Jersey Shell Casting Corporation was organized and operated until 1961 as a shell molding foundry. The corporation existed under the laws of the State of New Jersey from 1957 to 1979 because Joe Nagy lived in New Jersey at the time of incorporation. In May 1957, the original one room block building on South Decatur Street in Marietta, PA was rented from the U.S. Expansion Bolt Company. On December 9, 1965, New Jersey Shell Casting Corporation purchased the block building from the U.S. Expansion Bolt Company. The original size of the building was 2,700 square feet. Due to the growing needs of the business, the foundry has been expanded over the years and currently houses over 18,000 square feet under roof. In 1962, the business was converted to a non-ferrous brass, bronze and aluminum green sand-molding foundry and remains as such today.⁵⁵

In the 1970s, a large part of the Marietta Transportation Corps Depot became the Armstrong World Industries Ceiling Manufacturing Plant. Currently part of the Marietta Transportation Corps Depot is owned by the General Services Administration (GSA). The GSA portion of the site is used for the storage of a variety of ores including manganese, chrome, beryl, zinc, and lead in the form of ingots. Access to both portions of the site is restricted by perimeter fencing which has either locked gates or is guarded. The current property owners are: AWI (302.4 acres); GSA (67.5 acres); AAAA Enterprises, Inc. (39.9 acres); PADOT (23.27 acres); Richard C. Yunginger (36.40 acres); and Frederick W. Bushong et ux (9.6 acres).⁵⁶

This property is a superfund site which means the federal government, through the Environmental Protection Agency, has identified parties responsible for hazardous substances releases to the environment and has either compelled them to clean up the sites or it may undertake the cleanup on its own using the Superfund (a trust fund) and costs recovered from polluters by referring to the U. S. Department of Justice.⁵⁷ Sites managed under this program are referred to as “Superfund” sites established as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980. The EPA identifies sites such as Marietta Transportation Corps Depot because they pose or had once posed a potential risk to human health and/or the environment due to contamination by one or more hazardous wastes. Marietta Transportation Corps Depot is currently registered as an Active superfund site by the EPA. However, it is not on the NPL (National Priorities List), which means the EPA does not consider it one of the nation's most hazardous waste sites.⁵⁸

Established in 1970, Lawn Equipment Parts Company (LEPCO) is a family-owned and operated wholesale distributor of quality outdoor power equipment, parts, and accessories. Originally, LEPCO operated as an after-market parts distributor to independent lawn equipment dealers. Today, we handle nine major brands of power equipment and continue to supply aftermarket parts to over 1,300 dealers in the northeast region. Over the years, LEPCO has continued to grow, becoming one of the preferred distributors in the industry. Maintaining their reputation for outstanding customer service to its dealers continues to be their everyday focus. LEPCO’s continued goal is to provide quality products and services to groups of independent dealers who, in turn, can

⁵³ Wardlow, Chester, Center of Military History. “The Transportation Corps: Responsibilities, Organization, and Operations” https://history.army.mil/html/books/010/10-19/CMH_Pub_10-19.pdf (accessed May 23, 2019).

⁵⁴ USALCO, “About Us” [usalco.com https://www.usalco.com/company/history/](https://www.usalco.com/company/history/) (accessed May 23, 2019).

⁵⁵ New Jersey Shell Casting Corporation. “Our History” [njshell.com http://njshell.com/history.htm](http://njshell.com/history.htm) (accessed May 29, 2019).

⁵⁶ ProPublica. “Marietta Air Force Station” [projects.propublica.org https://projects.propublica.org/bombs/installation/PA39799F1509009799](https://projects.propublica.org/bombs/installation/PA39799F1509009799) (accessed May 23, 2019).

⁵⁷ Wikipedia. “Superfund” [Wikipedia.org https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superfund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superfund) (accessed May 23, 2019).

⁵⁸ GovInfo. “Hazardous Waste: Information on Potential Superfund Sites” [govinfo.gov https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GAOREPORTS-RCED-99-22/html/GAOREPORTS-RCED-99-22.htm](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GAOREPORTS-RCED-99-22/html/GAOREPORTS-RCED-99-22.htm) (accessed May 23, 2019).

provide a higher level of service and support to the end-users for all the brands represented. They sell exclusively to retail dealers in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania.⁵⁹

In 1981, Rich Kushner opened Swedish Motors at 7 North Decatur Street, advertising that his employees had a unique knowledge of Swedish cars and foreign parts. His niche was more than enough to preoccupy his technicians, some of whom have been with Rich since their service doors opened. Today, Swedish Motors offers the same reliable auto service while also selling and restoring preowned and vintage vehicles.⁶⁰

Jagtrux, Inc, a contract/common carrier for tractor trailer transportation was incorporated in 1982 by Jim Germak. In 1998 Jagtrux, Inc. purchased an abandoned locomotive repair shop in Marietta, originally built in 1942, and completely renovated the building. Eventually Jagtrux acquired surrounding property and expanded into a seventy-five-acre facility with a full-service shop, cross dock facilities, and secure trailer storage lots. Germak established a strong relationship with Armstrong World Industries becoming a Core Carrier for Armstrong's facilities in Marietta.⁶¹

B.N. Excavating is a second-generation family business, specializing in residential, commercial and agricultural excavating services. Bob Nafziger started the company in 1986, after working as an employee for an excavating company in the area for over 15 years. Bob started the company with a single backhoe, dump truck and track loader and steadily built relationships with area contractors to build the business. Today, B.N. Excavating has grown from a small, one-man operation to a trusted leader in the excavating industry throughout Lancaster County and beyond. Headquartered in Marietta, PA, the company is now home to an experienced team of full-time excavators and a diverse line of professional excavation equipment that can meet the excavating needs of small businesses, home owners and agricultural operations.⁶²

R & T Mechanical, Inc. was founded in 1987. R & T Mechanical is a contracting company which provides services including plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, and other similar work. R & T is in the East Donegal Industrial Park along with several other companies and organizations including Hess Auctioneers, LLC, Jaxtrux, Inc, Vanguard Modular Building Systems., LLC, and Hiltz Propane.

Founded by Matt Hiltz, a mechanical engineer who has many years of experience in the propane industry, Hiltz Propane Systems is family-owned and operated and comprised of a dedicated crew of propane installation and repair professionals. Specializing in complete turnkey propane system design and installation services, Matt and his dedicated crew bring extensive experience to the table in the areas of LPG system design, engineering, plant connection, fitting and maintenance services.⁶³

Established in 1998, Vanguard Modular Building Systems, LLC acquired Schiavi Leasing Corp., the predominate modular builder and regional supplier of modular classrooms in Maine since 1986, as a wholly owned subsidiary. Vanguard successfully expanded on Schiavi's already extensive modular construction capabilities to include distinctively engineered and designed multi-story permanent modular buildings, while retaining the requirements for temporary modular space of all sizes and configurations. Vanguard's experienced modular sales and construction management teams are in offices throughout the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, enabling us to effectively serve more than 20 states. They provide construction management services and quality temporary and permanent modular buildings to the education, commercial, construction, healthcare, oil and gas, government, and religious markets.⁶⁴

Hess Auctioneers, LLC began operations in June 2007 when John Hess (Hess Auction Group), Phil and Roger Garber (GFI Transport), and Jim Germak (Jagtrux), recognized a need for public truck, trailer and

⁵⁹ LEPCO. "About Us" lepcoco.com <http://lepcoco.com/about-us/> (accessed June 13, 2019)

⁶⁰ Swedish Motors. "About Us" swedishmotors.com <http://www.swedishmotors.com/about-swedish-motors> (accessed May 29, 2019).

⁶¹ Jagtrux. "Our Story" jagtrux.com <http://jagtrux.com/dotnetnuke/AboutUs/OurStory.aspx> (accessed May 23, 2019).

⁶² B.N. Excavating. "About Us" bnexcavating.com <https://www.bnexcavating.com/about-us.php> (accessed May 29, 2019).

⁶³ Hiltz Propane Systems. "About Us" hiltzpropanesystems.com <https://www.hiltzpropanesystems.com/about-us/> (accessed June 13, 2019)

⁶⁴ Vanguard Modular Building Systems. "Vanguard History" vanguardmodular.com <https://vanguardmodular.com/vanguard-history/> (accessed June 13, 2019).

equipment auction and consignment auction in the Mid-Atlantic region. Since the company is conveniently located close to Harrisburg, Lancaster and York, the current site is convenient, secure and allows consignors to bring their equipment to the site in advance of the auctions, so buyers can preview the inventory.⁶⁵

Lancaster Recumbent opened in December 2014, and today, the shop has over 75 different types of recumbent cycles – and continues to grow. The shop moved to a new location at 103 West Market Street in March 2018 – a larger space (for more cycles) located a block and a half off the Northwest Lancaster County River Trail in Marietta, PA. Lancaster Recumbent offers rides for all of life’s cycles, new and used semi-recumbent and recumbent cycles, offers personal customizations and adaptations to meet your specific needs. Lastly, they offer repairs and maintenance for practically anything with wheels – from recumbent to traditional upright cycles, from strollers to wheelchairs and walkers.⁶⁶

In September 2017, after seven, sometimes controversial, years in the making, Pennsylvania’s first large-scale commercial soybean-processing facility was opened at 1609 River Road in Conoy Township. Perdue Agribusiness’s new \$60 Million soybean-processing plant has been long touted by Perdue as a boon to farmers from Lancaster County and the region, saving them transportation costs. The plant has received strong endorsement from local agriculture and business groups.⁶⁷ The state gave Perdue an \$8.75 million grant to build the plant in Pennsylvania. With processed water coming from the adjacent Lancaster County Waste-To-Energy Facility on the same campus, as well as steam, Perdue AgriBusiness said the plant is the most environmentally friendly soybean plant in the country. Perdue said the facility would have the lowest rate of hexane emissions of any soybean-processing plant in the United States. The plant will process soybeans and turn them into soymeal for livestock and dairy farms. The plant has 35 permanent employees. Perdue said its construction generated 150 jobs and the plant will spawn 500 jobs in crop production and transportation. Gov. Tom Wolf said, “This plant is a game changer for farmers in Pennsylvania, opening new lanes of supply, new markets, and new opportunities in the commonwealth’s agricultural economy.”⁶⁸

Texas Eastern Pipeline (TETCo) is a major natural gas pipeline which brings gas from the Gulf of Mexico coast in Texas and Louisiana up through Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania to deliver gas in the New York City area. It is one of the largest pipeline systems in the United States. It is owned by Enbridge. Enbridge connects people to the energy they need to help fuel their quality of life. In the United States alone, more than two million miles of pipelines deliver petroleum and natural gas products. Every year, Enbridge invests in the latest technology and training to meet the high environmental and safety standards our neighbors expect, and to keep pipelines the safest, most efficient and most reliable way to move energy resources.⁶⁹ Marietta has its own Compressor Station off River Road and has a direct connection to this major national phenomenon.

Genealogical Context & Property Purpose for the Clark and Mehaffey Families

Colonel John W. Clark (1819-1865) was one of the most respected entrepreneurs in the borough of Marietta throughout the mid-nineteenth century. He and his brother-in-law Thomas Zell (1821-1885) operated their own lumber and coal company called Clark and Zell. In addition to the oil and lumber business, Colonel Clark served time on numerous boards of directors as well as political positions from the late 1840s until the mid-1860s. First

⁶⁵ Hess Auctioneers. “About Us” hessauctioneers.com <https://www.hessauctioneers.com/about-us/> (accessed May 29, 2019).

⁶⁶ Lancaster Recumbent. “About Us” lancasterrecumbent.com <https://lancasterrecumbent.com/about-us/> (accessed May 29, 2019).

⁶⁷ Lancaster Online. “After long fight, Perdue to open \$60M soybean-processing plant Monday in Conoy Township” lancasteronline.com https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/after-long-fight-perdue-to-open-m-soybean-processing-plant/article_a709d652-9f98-11e7-88a9-238ddeda959e.html (accessed May 29, 2019).

⁶⁸ Lancaster Online. “10 facts about the new \$60M Perdue soybean plant in Conoy Township opening today” lancasteronline.com https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/facts-about-the-new-m-perdue-soybean-plant-in-conoy/article_a062b1b8-a216-11e7-8cac-d7d57ce2f935.html (accessed May 29, 2019).

⁶⁹ Wikipedia. “Texas Eastern Transmission Pipeline” wikipedia.org https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Eastern_Transmission_Pipeline (accessed June 13, 2019)

and foremost, Colonel Clark played a crucial role as a delegate and council member of the borough and was involved in countless decisions to help shape the economy of Marietta. Clark's delegate positions allowed him to represent the entirety of Lancaster County, where he served terms as County Commissioner, Treasurer and Secretary. Clark seemed as if he was on the Board of Directors for the majority of essential businesses within the borough, including the Marietta Literary Society, the Poor House and Hospital, the Bank of Marietta, the Columbia Bank, the Donegal Bank, the National Bank, the Marietta and Maytown Turnpike road company, and the Marietta and Mount Joy Turnpike road company. In March 1853, Colonel Clark used a portion of his earnings to purchase this parcel of six lots located on the western end of the borough and built the three-story brick Italianate style mansion. According to the current homeowner, Amanda Snow, "The Marietta Times, stated that he spared no expense when building the house ... a lot of our floors are inlaid with exotic wood, there are really thick moldings and trim, and the doors are huge!" In October 1864, Colonel Clark sold the mansion to George W. Mehaffey for a total of \$6000. George Mehaffey was the youngest son of James Mehaffey, "a large lumber merchant in Marietta, in which business he was engaged from 1804 until his decease in 1850."⁷⁰ James was "was one of the progressive and successful businessmen of the city."⁷¹ He "was one of the founders of that part of Marietta called Waterford and was the only businessman to survive the panic of 1812."⁷² "Besides carrying on his large wholesale and retail lumber trade, he was the owner of valuable timber land in the western part of the state, and also had in his possession large real-estate interests in the vicinity of Marietta. In fact, he was one of the leading businessmen of Lancaster County, who was probably better known than any other resident within its bounds."⁷³ George W. Mehaffey "grew to manhood in his native town, and completed his education in the college of Princeton, with the Class of '54."⁷⁴ "After leaving college he engaged in the lumber business on the west branch of the Susquehanna River, which occupation he followed for about four years, when he returned to Marietta and purchased a sawmill which he conducted with good results until 1865."⁷⁵ "Like his father before him, he was one of the prominent businessmen of the county, being at the time stockholder and Director of the Exchange Bank, one of the original stockholders of the First National Bank and thirty years Director in the Columbia National Bank."⁷⁶ George Mehaffey, like Colonel Clark took his prominence within the borough to the county level, serving "as County Commissioner from 1872 to 1875."⁷⁷ He "also has been Burgess and School Director at Marietta." "In religious affairs he [was] a member of St. John's Episcopal Church, in which he [was] a Vestryman, and has been a delegate to every diocesan convention since the formation of the present diocese. Socially, he [was] a prominent Mason."⁷⁸

⁷⁰ "Portrait and Biography Record of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania" Chapman Publishing (New York: 1894).

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

Appendix: Historical Photos:



Appendix: Contemporary Photos:



Clark-Mehaffey Mansion 15 February 2020