

EASTON BEFORE THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

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Easton, Pennsylvania

IN 1752 Easton was laid out and the sale of lots begun. It had the distinction of being named the county seat of the newly erected county of Northampton. It is hard to conceive of any town starting out under less auspicious circumstances. A ferry across the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers, a healthful climate, and beautiful scenery were, with one exception, the chief and only assets of this new born community. The one exception was the fact that it had been made the county seat. I doubt that without this advantage Easton would have survived.

The growth of the town was slow. In September, 1752, there were but three houses, although during the following winter eleven families comprised the settlement. Notwithstanding the size of the town, its struggle for existence and its poverty, Easton in its first ten years secured a place in the history of our state and nation which it has never since reached. This was due to force of circumstances rather than to any inherent quality in the town or its inhabitants.

By the time settlers first penetrated the northern wilderness of Bucks county, William Penn had died and the Province had passed into the control of his sons, John, Thomas, and Richard. The high ideals which governed William Penn in his dealings with the Indians did not influence the conduct of his sons. To them the acquisition of the Province was a tremendous land transaction and their only interest was, I believe, a monetary one.

On October 25, 1736, the Proprietaries purchased from the Six Nations the northern part of Bucks County, as far north as the Blue Mountains. This of course included the whole of Northampton and Lehigh counties as they now exist. While the Six Nations exercised an overlordship over the Shawnee and Delaware Indians, they had no right or authority to convey their lands. The Proprietaries therefore secured a questionable Indian

title and one which the Delawares refused to acknowledge. These Indians continually complained to the authorities that not only were settlers moving into their land at the Forks of the Delaware, but that the Proprietaries were selling land in this territory. Their complaints were well founded. The Scotch Irish had moved into the Forks as early as 1728 or 1730 and occupied the valleys of the Monocacy and Catasauqua Creeks. The Proprietors had sold to William Allen 10,000 acres of land north of the Delaware Water Gap. The 1,000 acre tract on which the town of Easton was laid out was surveyed to Thomas Penn in 1736. There were many other instances.

The Proprietaries in an attempt to pacify the Indians decided to secure title for this land from the Delawares. They therefore conceived a plan which they hastened to put into operation. The manner in which this was accomplished gave the transaction the derisive name of "The Walking Purchase." It has also been referred to as "the disgrace of the Colonies." This transaction is a long story and can not be given at this time. It will be sufficient to say that the manner in which this walk was carried out, the interpretation which the authorities placed on the agreement, and the vast area which they included within the lines as they laid them down, thoroughly disgusted the Indians and they were greatly incensed. They realized that they had been cheated and positively refused either to leave or to permit settlers to remain in quiet possession of the lands which they occupied at the Forks. The Delaware Indians declared that they would not vacate or surrender possession, even though they should be compelled to go to war to protect their rights.

Having secured title to the land at the Forks as well as to many thousand acres of land north of the Blue Mountains, it became necessary for the Proprietaries to secure possession. The white settlers were entering in ever increasing numbers and the Indians were restless and threatening. It was necessary to have them move out, but this they refused to do.

The Proprietaries having already stooped to questionable means to secure title did not hesitate to continue these same methods to secure possession. Under the guise of giving the Indians of the Six Nations presents for lands west of the Susquehanna River, a conference with these Indians was held in Philadelphia in July, 1742. The Delawares were invited to attend.

At this conference the Iroquois were easily persuaded to remove the Delawares from the Forks. As the conference closed, Canasatego, a Chief of the Six Nations, turned to the Delawares and said: "You ought to be taken by the hair of the head and shaken severely till you recover your senses and become sober You act a dishonest part We charge you to remove instantly. We don't give you liberty to think about it. You are women; take the advise of a wise man and remove immediately We, therefore, assign you two places to go—either to Wyoming or Shamokin Don't deliberate, but remove away and take this belt of wampum." This command of the Six Nations was too peremptory for the Delawares to disobey, so they immediately left the room. Soon after they left the Forks of the Delaware. Some went to Wyoming, some to Shamokin, while others went to the Ohio.

The exodus of the Indians from the Forks must have been rapid and complete. Four months after the Iroquois or Six Nations had delivered their ultimatum to the Delawares a petition was presented to the Provincial Council in Philadelphia. This was signed by Moses Tunda Tatamy, Captain John and sundry other Delaware Indians. The petition stated that as they had embraced the Christian religion and had attained a small degree of knowledge therein, they desired to live under the laws of the English and requested permission to remain in the forbidden land. Tatamy and Captain John were the only Indians present at the time the petition was presented. When questioned by the Governor concerning their knowledge of Christianity, the records state: "It appeared that they had very little if any at all." The result of the petition was that Tatamy and Captain John were given permission to remain, provided they secured the consent of the Chiefs of the Six Nations, but all the other petitioners had to move out. Thus, in 1742, ten years before the founding of Easton, that territory which now comprises Northampton and Lehigh Counties, was cleared of Indians. Locally speaking, the first step in the inevitable advance of civilization had been taken. The local Indians had started their westward march, and as the frontier was slowly pushed toward the setting sun, these Indians were irresistibly carried before it, although their resistance at times was savage and bloodthirsty.

The white settlers could now enter this virgin territory without

the fear of Indian depredations. With the Indian villages deserted and the savage several days' journey distant, the ever increasing immigrant, looking for a home, a haven of rest, a place to bring up his family and an opportunity to share in the prosperity of the new world crossed the Lehigh River with high hopes, and built his rude log dwelling. Now began another conquest: the battle with the wilderness—the taming of the land. Few, if any, of these first settlers had their hopes fulfilled.

As early as 1745 the division of the county of Bucks was discussed. The upper part of the county was almost exclusively peopled by Germans. These people affiliated themselves politically with the Quakers. This enabled the Society of Friends, who were opposed to the Proprietary Party, a controlling majority in the Provincial Assembly. The Proprietaries reasoned that if the support given the Quakers from the upper part of the county could be withdrawn, the control of the Assembly would be in their own hands.

The erection of a new county out of the northern or wilderness portion of Bucks might accomplish this object. The residents of this upper section were heartily in favor of the division. On May 11, 1751, a petition, signed by many, was presented to the Assembly by William Craig, of the Irish settlement. The result of this petition was that on March 11, 1752, the act creating the new county was signed by Governor Hamilton.

In anticipation of the passage of this act, Thomas Penn had a town laid out on the 1,000 acre tract which had been surveyed to him in 1736. John Penn had died and Thomas Penn owned a three-quarter interest in the Province, his brother, Richard, owning the other quarter. On August 22, 1751, Thomas Penn married Lady Julianna Fermor. His bride was the daughter of Lord Pomfret and her home was at Easton-Neston, Northamptonshire, England. Names for counties, towns and streets must be secured in some manner and what was more natural than that the Proprietor who had the largest interest and had but recently returned from his honeymoon should not only select the names but should also choose those associated with his bride. If he consulted his brother Richard in regard to his choice of names, it is more than likely that Richard smilingly approved. Richard who was four years younger than Thomas, had been married for a period of twenty-four years. The county was named Northampton, the

county seat Easton, and the streets were given the names of Juliana, Pomfret, and Fermor.

Some time in the spring of 1750, William Parsons and Nicholas Scull surveyed the site of Easton. It is evident that this attempt did not provide a satisfactory plan, for Thomas Penn requested Nicholas Scull, Surveyor General, and Dr. Graeme, Proprietary Commisisoner, to visit the Forks of the Delaware and to inspect the place and the neighborhood where the town, then in Bucks county, was to be built. They were to make a draft of the town and submit it to Thomas Penn for his information, consideration, and possible approval. It was on July 27, 1751, that these two gentlemen arrived at Bethlehem on their way to the Delaware at the Forks. William Parsons was not with them but John Okely of Bethlehem accompanied them from that place.

The report and recommendations of Scull and Graeme must have been favorably received, for on May 6, 1752, William Parsons and Nicholas Scull left Philadelphia for the Forks to lay out the proposed town. They traveled by way of Durham, crossed the hills south of Easton, and approached the Delaware River several hundred yards below the point where the Lehigh empties into it. As they rounded the base of Mount Ida, they beheld the site of their labors and their future home.¹

Across a beautiful stream of pure mountain water, called by the Indians, *Lecha*, later corrupted into Lehigh, was a plateau of about 100 acres. The plateau was well wooded but in no sense a forest. A ferry consisting of a flat boat was poled across the river. Previous to 1747 the ferry was a canoe or bateau, and therefore horses and cattle were obliged to swim. On February 28, 1747, a freshet in the Lehigh carried away the large flat boat which for nearly four years, had been used as a ferry at Bethlehem.² The ferryman at the Forks caught this boat as it was being carried into the Delaware on the swollen waters of the Lehigh. David Martin, who owned the ferry rights at the Forks, then purchased the boat from the Moravians and at once put it into service. In June of the same year (1747) he placed an order with the boat builders at Bethlehem for another flat boat. It therefore seems probable that as early as the later part of 1747,

¹ Snufftown, formerly called Williamsport, a part of South Easton.

² J. M. Levering, *History of Bethlehem* (Bethlehem, 1903), p. 202.

there was a flat boat ferry across the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers. After ferrying across the Lehigh, Parsons and Scull proceeded up the Lehigh Creek (now called the Bushkill) to the public house kept by John Lefevre, near the present borough of Stockertown. After the survey was completed Nicholas Scull returned to Philadelphia while William Parsons remained in Easton.

When Northampton County was erected, William Parsons was appointed Prothonotary and Clerk of the Court. He stood high in the esteem of the Proprietaries and was sent to Easton to look after their interests.

It had been planned to start the sale of town lots on Monday, May 25, 1752, and William Parsons had everything in readiness. However, on the preceding Saturday, Richard Peters received a letter from Thomas Penn concerning the plan of Easton which upset the entire layout. The Proprietor proposed a square in the center of the town, which Nicholas Scull in his letter of transmittal to William Parsons said was too small for public use. He suggested that Parsons consider whether it might not be better to depart a little from the Proprietary scheme. Thanks to the decision of Parsons "to depart a little" the square is much larger than it would have been if Thomas Penn's plan had been followed.

The first election was held on October 1, 1752. John Burnside was elected member of the Assembly, William Craig, Sheriff, and Robert Gregg, Peter Trexler and Benjamin Showmaker, were chosen Commissioners. There was only one polling place in the county and that was at Easton. Every person who desired to vote was compelled to go to the county seat.

Politics had entered the county when William Parsons crossed the Lehigh with Nicholas Scull to lay out the town of Easton. It is not my intention to give in chronological order all the elections or other political events which took place. I will however cite one election which will show that the game of politics 180 years ago was similar to what it is today. The information in regard to this election is contained in a letter written by William Parsons to Richard Peters on October 2, 1754, immediately following the election at which James Burnside, a Moravian and a resident of Bethlehem, was elected a member of the Assembly. Mr. Burnside was a member of the Quaker political party. Mr. Parsons was very anxious to defeat him, and was quite upset over his election. It appears that he did all he could to stop the land-

slide for Mr. Burnside, who according to Parsons, went "from place to place, beating his breast, saying he would serve the county to the utmost of his powers, if he were chosen". Parsons tried to prevent the inspectors from qualifying, claiming they were not freeholders. He tried to prevent the Moravians from voting, claiming that they would not take an oath but only an affirmation and that, without the certificate required by an act of Parliament. He stated that Mr. Burnside had the assurance to declare that all who had taken the oath of allegiance were thus naturalized and could vote. One township in which there was not a single freeholder turned out en mass and voted.

Parsons appealed to the sheriff, who in turn called upon three freeholders: Mr. Brodhead, Mr. Dupui, and Mr. Jones. Mr. Parsons was overruled. I am not in a position to decide the merits of his claims. Whether he was right or wrong, it is apparent that politics in 1754 were no better than the brand with which we are familiar. Mr. Burnside was elected by a vote of 443 to 99. Mr. Parsons closed his letter with this remark: "If Sodom and Gomorra were spared for the sake of ten righteous persons, surely Northampton may have hopes of being spared for the sake of 99."

The first two years of the life of the infant city were just about what would be expected under the circumstances. The town grew slowly. A jail was built in 1753. Times were bad and work was hard to get. In these first few years the Indians gave no trouble. Moses Tunda Tatamy and his family as well as a few Indians who might have been traveling from place to place, were the only ones ever seen. In the county there were many fine settlers among the Scotch Irish. Also the Moravians were all that could be desired. Many worthless settlers, however, moved into the county. In the first three years, nine persons were convicted of horse stealing by the courts held in Easton.

Twenty thousand pounds had been raised in England and Holland for educational purposes in the colonies. Knowing of this the inhabitants of Easton and vicinity, in 1754, petitioned the trustees of this fund for the means to erect a school building and to pay for the services of a school master. That prolific letter writer, William Parsons, wrote to Richard Peters in connection with this school house. Of the petitioners, he says: "They are so perverse and quarrelsome in all their affairs that I am sometimes

ready to query with myself whether it be man or beast that the generous benefactors are about to civilize." Here you have the opinion of the representative of the Proprietaries as to the character of the inhabitants of Easton in 1754. I quote again from Mr. Parsons' letter: "I will not be negligent in whatever the Trustees may desire, though it seems to me like attempting to wash a Blackamoor white."

Virginia had sent Captain Trent to the Forks of the Ohio to construct a fort. Before this fort was half finished it was surrendered to a French force of 1,000 men, including Indians. The English force of forty men were allowed to return to Virginia. In the meantime, Virginia raised two companies to garrison the fort which they thought Trent was building. These troops were under the command of Colonel George Washington. He marched from Alexandria on April 2, 1754. On May 28th he met and defeated a small force of the French near the place where Uniontown, Pennsylvania, is now located. In this engagement the entire French force was lost. This was the first actual engagement of the French and Indian War. Washington proceeded toward Fort Duquesne, the name the French had given the fort which Captain Trent had surrendered. The French had advanced to meet Washington and found him entrenched in Fort Necessity (Fayette County) with 400 starving men, where on July 3rd, he was compelled to surrender. Washington was permitted to leave the fort with the honors of war.

On July 6, 1754, the Iroquois, at a treaty held at Albany, sold to Pennsylvania a large tract of land west of the Susquehanna. At this same conference the Indians agreed not to sell the Wyoming lands, but the treaty was not completed before the Mohawks sold all the Wyoming lands to Connecticut.

The success of the French in western Pennsylvania and the action of the Six Nations in again selling land occupied by the Delawares and Shawnees had a most disquieting effect upon these Indians. Throughout the English colonies, Washington's defeat caused a feeling of alarm. In Easton this feeling existed, but the Forks of the Ohio were a long distance from the Forks of the Delaware and imminent personal danger was not thought of at this time.

About a year later, July 9, 1755, General Braddock was overwhelmingly defeated by the French and Indian allies. Bad news

travels rapidly and the news of Braddock's defeat with his two royal regiments and troops from South Carolina, Maryland and Virginia, soon reached Easton and filled the hearts of the inhabitants with fear.

The Delaware and Shawnee Indians hesitating no longer, joined the French, threw off the shackles of subserviency to the Six Nations, and descended upon the frontier in all the glory of their war paint. They killed and scalped men, women, and children. The frontier was about to reap the harvest from the seeds of discontent sown by the Proprietaries and the Provincial authorities.

As word of the defeat of Braddock reached Easton, a subscription list was circulated and signed by those interested in the construction of the school. Twenty-four inhabitants subscribed thirty-one pounds and one shilling. William Parsons headed the list with a contribution of five pounds. This must have been a political gesture, for we know his views on the project. The trustees to whom the petition was addressed contributed thirty pounds, making a total of sixty-one pounds and one shilling. Eleven men agreed to work on the building a total of fifty-nine hours, six men pledged themselves to furnish material, and one citizen signed for three days of carting. Thus the first school house in Easton was constructed three years after the town was founded, and just as the French and Indian War broke out. The building was a one story log structure, with one large front room which was used as a school room and two rear rooms which were the living quarters of the schoolmaster. The building was erected just east of the present Third Street Reformed Church and was one of the first, if not the first building to be erected on North Pomfret Street. In the first few years after its construction, divine services were held in the school room, sometimes by the Lutherans, and at other times by the Reformed denomination.

On October 16, 1755, occurred the first violation by the Delaware Indians of the treaty of 1683 between William Penn and Chief Tamenend. On this date, fourteen Delaware Indians descended on Penns Creek, near Selinsgrove. Thirteen men, women and children were horribly murdered and scalped, and about twelve persons carried off into captivity.

Nine days later, John Harris and a party of men, returning from a trip to bury the bodies of the unfortunate settlers, were attacked near the mouth of Penns Creek and three of the party

killed. On October 26th, the Delawares crossed the Susquehanna to the east side and killed many settlers from Thomas McKees' property to Hunters Mill, practically from Sunbury to Harrisburg.

A week later (Oct. 31, 1755) about 100 Delaware and Shawnee Indians from the Ohio Valley descended on the Scotch Irish in the valleys of what are now Fulton and Franklin counties.³ These raids lasted several days and it is impossible to describe the fury of the Indians or the horror of the massacres. In what is known as the Great Cove, forty-seven inhabitants out of a total of ninety-three were either killed or carried away captive. Little children had their brains dashed out against door posts or trees and this in the presence of their shrieking mothers. Women were tied to trees and compelled to watch the torture or burning alive of their husbands or children. One woman had both breasts cut off and a stake driven through her body pinning her to the ground. The torch was applied to dwellings and barns. All crops were destroyed and the cattle which did not perish in the flames were driven off by the infuriated savages. It was not long before the news of these atrocities reached the county seat of Northampton county.

In November of the same year (1755) the Indians descended on the settlements along the Swatara and Tulpehocken Creeks. The depredations were getting closer and closer to Easton and the inhabitants were now thoroughly alarmed. Settlers from the more remote parts of the county were moving into Easton, Bethlehem and Nazareth. Constant appeals were made to the authorities in Philadelphia for assistance in the way of guns, ammunition, provisions and also for troops.

As the Indian raids and massacres spread eastward and north-eastward, the Delaware and Shawnee Indians from Wyoming and Tioga were increasingly taking part. It seemed that each day word of new outbreaks was brought to Easton.

Information as to a possible raid in Northampton county had been received in Bethlehem and Timothy Horsfield requested William Parsons to have Colonel John Anderson, then in New Jersey, come to his assistance. The very bad weather prevented Anderson from marching until noon of Sunday, November 23,

³C. H. Sipe, *Indian Wars of Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg, 1931), p. 217.

1755. In his company there were several Eastonians and fifty to sixty men from New Jersey. He encamped about six miles from Gnadenheutten on the evening of Monday, November 24th, the day that the first blow fell upon the inhabitants of Northampton county. On that day, at the supper hour, a band of twelve Delaware Indians attacked the Moravians at Gnadenheutten which was located on the west side of the Lehigh River, opposite the present town of Weissport, and on the Mahoning Creek. Eleven were killed or burned to death, being trapped in their dwellings, to which the Indians had applied the torch. As soon as William Parsons heard of the massacre he advised the Secretary of the Province, Richard Peters, and in his letter he said: "Pray Sir: Help us, for we are in great distress."

While the frontier was being drenched with blood and the smoke from the burning homes hung like a pall from the sky, what were the authorities doing to stop the carnage? They did what legislative bodies generally do, they wrangled over technicalities and trival matters. While their disputes continued, so did the frontiersman and his family continue to die most horrible deaths at the hands of the naked painted savage whose fury knew no bounds.

The calm and seeming indifference of the Assembly, the non-resistance policy of the Quaker, and the Governor's insistence that the lands of the Proprietaries be not taxed, for purposes of defense, aroused the indignation of the inhabitants. Public meetings were held in nearly all the frontier counties. At these meetings it was resolved to proceed to Philadelphia and demand that laws be passed which would provide proper defense for the country and offense against the enemy. Many of these frontiersmen went to Philadelphia, taking with them the mutilated bodies of those who had been murdered.⁴ These bodies were hauled about the streets of Philadelphia, placarded as victims of the dilatory methods of the authorities. Maddened by the dreadful spectacle, the enraged mob surrounded the Assembly building and placed the disfigured bodies in the doorway. Immediate relief for the settlers on the frontier was demanded.

All this must have had the desired effect, for on November 25,

⁴ John Churchman, *An Account of the Gospel Labors and Christian Experience of a Faithful Minister of Christ, John Churchman* (Philadelphia, 1781), p. 239.

1755, an act was passed providing for a militia. On the following day the Governor signed an act appropriating 55,000 pounds to the use of the king for purposes of defense. In addition to this amount the Proprietaries made a gift of 5,000 pounds on condition that their estates in the province be not taxed.

These two acts were very necessary steps. But apparently the authorities did not a once take the action called for by them. The settlers on the frontier were still unprotected and under the dreadful suspense of having the howling savages descend upon them at any time. On December 10, 1755, the Indians attacked the family of Frederick Hoeth on Big Creek and murdered the family except one son who escaped. The dwelling, barn, and mill were destroyed by fire. The next day about 200 Indians attacked the families of Hartman, Culver and McMichael and killed many. On the same day Brodheads, near Stroudsburg, was attacked. Terror spread in that section of the county and the families on the north side of the Blue Mountains, and many on the south side, fled to Nazareth and Easton for safety. Nazareth had been stockaded by the Moravians. "During all the month (December) the Indians have been burning and destroying all before them in Northampton County, and have already burnt fifty houses there; murdered about one hundred persons and are still continuing their ravages, murders and devastations A large body of Indians under the direction of French Officers, have fixed their headquarters within the borders of that county."⁵

On December 15, 1755, William Parsons wrote to James Hamilton and Benjamin Franklin as follows: "I make bold to trouble you once more, and it is not unlikely that it may be the last time We are now the frontier of this part of the country. . . . Pray do something or give some orders for our speedy relief, or the whole country will be entirely ruined."

The panic which had seized the people of Pennsylvania made it difficult for the authorities to secure definite information or to distinguish the true from the false. Therefore, a Commission consisting of Benjamin Franklin, James Hamilton and Joseph Fox made a trip to Easton in order to get at first hand accurate information and decide upon the proper method of defense.

In the meantime arms, ammunitions, blankets, and a hog'shead

⁵ *Pennsylvania Colonial Records* (Harrisburg, 1851), VI, 767.

of rum were sent to Easton for Captain Trump's Company. The Commissioners arrived in Easton on Saturday, December 23, 1755. On Christmas morning James Hamilton wrote to Governor Morris as follows: "The Commissioners came to this town on Saturday Evening where we found the Country under the greatest consternation, and everything that has been said of the distress of the inhabitants, more than verified upon our own view. The country along the river is absolutely deserted from this place to Brodhead."

On December 29, 1755, James Hamilton, while at Easton, appointed William Parsons to be major of the troops in Northampton county. On New Year's Day, 1756, Teedyuscung started a series of raids on the north side of the Blue Mountains, which eventually extended over the mountains, and overran the county from Lehigh Gap to Nazareth. Pennsylvania then began the construction of forts along the Kittatinny Range from the Delaware Water Gap to the Maryland line. On April 8, 1756, Governor Morris declared war against the Indians and offered a reward of 150 Spanish dollars or pieces of eight for an adult male Indian scalp and a lesser amount for scalps of women and children or for their capture alive.

The declaration of war against the Delawares was very distasteful to the Quaker members of the Assembly, and they with other prominent members of the Society of Friends, persuaded the Governor to make overtures of peace to the Indians. As a result the Indian, Canachquasy, or as he was called by the English, Captain Newcastle, was sent to Wyoming and Tioga to interview the Indians living in the Valley of the Susquehanna. Newcastle returned to Philadelphia early in June and reported that the Indians had agreed to bury the hatchet and to open negotiations for peace. A second trip was made by Newcastle to invite the Indians to a conference to be held at the Forks of the Delaware. On Monday, July 19th, he returned with five Indians and informed the Governor and Council that Teedyuscung, the Delaware king, with other Indians had returned with him as far as Bethlehem. Acting upon the advice of Newcastle, the Governor selected Easton at the Forks as the place of meeting and the date, July 24th (1756).

Governor Morris notified Major Parsons to prepare housing at Easton for the Indians and also to provide provisions for them.

He was also to order an escort to proceed to Bethlehem to bring the Indians to Easton. After these instructions had been carried out, Major Parsons received another communication from the Governor, telling him that it had been found necessary to change the place of meeting from Easton to Bethlehem. Teedyuscung was not so easily moved. Upon being told of the change in plans he calmly remarked, that he had come 400 miles at their invitation to attend a council fire at Easton; that he had come and that there he would stay; and demanded to know what they meant by sending him from place to place like a child. The treaty conference was held at Easton.

Fears that the Indians might prove troublesome were not unfounded. Major Parsons, who kept a diary, later reported to the Governor that Teedyuscung and his wild company were perpetually drunk and at times abusive to the inhabitants, for the Indians all spoke English well enough to be understood. Teedyuscung strutted about the town, bragging about himself and his ability. Major Parsons said that Teedyuscung could drink three quarts to a gallon of rum a day without becoming drunk. He also learned that the Delaware king and some other Indians had visited the French at Fort Niagara where he was made much of and that the French had presented Teedyuscung with a brown cloth coat, laced with gold.

The Governor left Philadelphia on Friday, July 23rd, and arrived in Easton the next day. With the Governor were four members of the Colonial Council. They were escorted by a Company of the Royal American Regiment and a Company of the Provincial Forces together with their officers.

An open shed had been constructed in the rear of Nathaniel Vernon's Tavern at the corner of Front and Ferry Streets. Tables and benches were properly placed under the shed so that the Governor, the members of his party, the principal Indians, the secretaries and the scribes could all be under cover. The principal Indians sat in the front row. In addition to the Governor's party about thirty Quakers attended this conference, arriving in Easton the day after the Governor.

The Governor had his quarters at the Red Lion Inn. This Inn was conducted by Adam Yohe and was located at the northeast corner of Northampton and Hamilton (now 4th) Streets.

There were but fifteen to twenty houses in Easton at the time of this conference.

Each time the Governor went to or returned from the place of meeting the order of march was as follows: First came the Color Bearer, with the flag of England fluttering in the breeze; then the drums and fifes playing the tunes of the day. Next a detachment of the Royal American Regiment, followed by the Governor who was guarded on each side by members of the same regiment. Following the Governor were members of the Council, the Commissioners and the Secretary, with the Provincial troops bringing up the rear. After the Governor and his party had reached the scene of the conference the Indians left their encampment in single file. Practically all of these Indians had taken part in the frontier massacres.

Teedyuscung headed the file of Indians. He wore the brown cloth coat laced with gold which the French had given him, below the coat his bare bronzed legs protruded. He wore moccasins decorated with porcupine quills. On his head was the feathered bonnet indicative of his rank. The other Indians were dressed in similar manner, except that in place of the brown coat they wore more or less elaborate breech cloths. The heads of many of them were shaved, leaving only a tuft down the center like the comb of a chicken, which stood up in pompadour fashion. In this tuft of hair were fastened feathers. After the Indian chiefs and warriors came the women and children. It was noticed at this conference that some of the skirts which the Indian women wore were made from the table cloths taken from the German families that had been murdered. The children wore little or no clothing.

It is most interesting to visualize these treaty conferences which were held at Easton during this early period of the infant town. Easton with one school, a jail, several taverns and between fifteen and twenty dwellings, with poor roads for streets and most of the lots still covered with trees and underbrush, was a far different town than the one we know. In this setting, we find the Governor, the Council and the Secretary of the Province as well as about thirty of the most prominent Quakers from Philadelphia. Two encampments must be included, that of the Indians along the Lehigh and that of the troops, the location of which I do not know. These conferences presented most colorful and picturesque gatherings, full of great contrasts. The Governor and the

foremost citizens of the province dressed in the height of fashion rubbed elbows with the frontiersman and settler in their shabby homespun. The Royal American Regiment was in bright uniform and the Provincial Troops were a rabble in arms. The Indians with their naked copper colored bodies glistening in the sun, carrying themselves with solemn dignity, except when drunk, bellying the fact that practically all of them were murderers, and that the scalps of their victims were not yet dry.

While at Easton the Governor received from New York, by an express, a package containing letters from Mr. Fox, Lord Halifax, and Lord Loudoun. The letter from Lord Halifax informed the Governor of the appointment of Lord Loudoun as Captain General of His Majesty's forces in America. The letter from Lord Loudoun advised the Governor of his appointment and of his arrival in New York. The letter from Mr. Fox, His Majesty's Secretary of State, stated that the king had found it necessary to declare war against the French king and that he was enclosing the declaration which his Majesty had signed, saying: "I am commanded to signify to you the King's pleasure, that you should cause the said Declaration of War to be proclaimed in the Province under your Government." On this Friday morning, July 30, 1756, the Governor marched to the place of meeting in the usual manner. The same audience, as on other mornings, had gathered. The Governor then arose and in a very solemn manner read His Majesty's Declaration of War. At the close of the publication of the declaration the Royal American Regiment fired three volleys.

Thus, in Easton, at the rear of Nathaniel Vernon's Tavern, at the corner of Front and Ferry Streets, Robert H. Morris, Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, first read King George the Second's formal declaration of war, two years and four months after Colonel George Washington fired the first shot in what has become known as The French and Indian War.