

PHMC

HISTORICAL REPORT

FORT NECESSITY, JUMONVILLE'S GRAVE, BRADDOCK TRAIL

D-30

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Bronxville, N. Y.
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ON MICROFILM

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HISTORICAL REPORT ON FORT NECESSITY, BRADDOCK'S
GRAVE, JUNONVILLE'S GRAVE, AND BRADDOCK'S TRAIL, PA.,

S.F. 12.

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE.

a. Historical Data. At Fort Necessity, July 3, 1754, was fought an engagement in the Allegheny wilderness which opened a general conflict between the French and the English for the control of a continent. Braddock's advance to the forks of the Ohio in 1755 was a direct result of the French success at Great Meadows the year before. Soon the widespread seven years war developed on a broad front, embroiling in its disorders three continents.

On May 24th, 1754, Washington descended the hills to the east of Great Meadows. He had received warning to be on the watch for a French force which was supposed to be somewhere in the neighborhood. The open glade in the dark forest, with its running brook, insuring a water supply, seemed an ideal place to stop for the day. It was discovered that there were natural trenches in the meadow. These were the old channels of the changing stream bed. Despite the fact that the open land in the meadow was nearly all marsh a stop was made here and the site was considered to have military advantages.

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Jumonville's Flight - Jumonville's Grave.

In the evening of the 27th a runner from Tanacharison, the Half King, Chief of the Senecas and bitter foe of the French, arrived at Washington's camp at Great Meadows with the news that the hiding place of a body of French had been discovered on Laurel Hill. The Half King had followed the trail of two men to the secretive glen in the forest.

Immediately Washington made ready to march to Half King's camp and then on to surprise the French. The "accurate Sparks and nearly all historians since him have said that Washington took only 40 men with him. As a matter of fact it is not known how many men he took, but it is likely that he left 40 men or less to guard the camp and took the remainder of his small army in the surprise attack on Jumonville. Jumonville was outnumbered probably about 3 or 4 to one. The men filed out of Great Meadows some time between 8:00 and 11:00 in darkness, and after stumbling through the dense woods all night, reached the Half King's camp at dawn. This had been a march of only five miles, but it had all been uphill, making the ascent of Laurel Hill, the west spur of the Allegheny Mountains. After a short consultation the united band of Virginians and Indians started for the Jumonville camp, about 2 miles north, and a short distance to the east, off the Indian trail that led along the ridge to Gist's plantation 15 miles away. Jumonville was taken by surprise, and in the

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brisk fire that was poured down into the little glen from the surrounding ledge, 10 men were killed, and one wounded. Twenty-one survivors were made prisoners. Only one man escaped to carry the news to the French at the Forks of the Ohio. Among the French dead was Jumonville. In Washington's command one man was killed, and was buried on the spot.

There are few contemporary accounts of this engagement. Of the few fragments that exist much is utterly valueless. An example of this is the account of Adam Stephen printed in the Pennsylvania Gazette, number 1343. Stephen claimed to be with Washington during the night march and the dawn attack. He said they started from Great Meadows at 11:00 and were near Jumonville's camp at 4:00 in the morning. He said further that there were forty men in the expedition, that seven men were lost during the night march, and as a climax to the thrilling night's adventure he has Washington and the Virginians charge Jumonville's camp with the bayonet. Of course, this is utterly absurd, for no man could have got to Jumonville's camp in a bayonet charge from the direction of Washington's approach, the west, without breaking his neck. A cliff or ledge of rock at least 20 feet high, with a sheer drop, intercepted a close approach from this direction. Even today one must get down into the glen by means of a wooden ladder or steps.

In the meantime the Half King's Indians had got around to the east of the secluded camp, cutting off escape in this

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direction, and the French who were left, boxed up with no hope of escape, were led away, sent to Virginia and eventually to England, when Governor Dinwiddie refused to carry out Washington's terms of capitulation at the time of the surrender of Fort Mifflin. The dead Frenchmen were scalped by the Indians and some of the scalps sent to the Ohio River villages to rouse the savages to war against the French. Tanacharison, who seems to have been disgusted by Washington's subsequent behavior, took no part in the later engagement at Fort Mifflin. After Fort Mifflin he went east to Harris' Ferry, the site of the present Harrisburg, where he complained to Conrad Weiser about the poor tactics of the English. He was taken seriously ill at the house of John Harris where he died, this same year, on October 4, 1754. (1)

The site of the wild scene that was enacted in the primitive forest on that 23rd of May, 1754, is almost as lonely and secluded today as it was nearly two centuries ago. The spot is high along the east slope of Laurel Hill, a few hundred feet from the top. A bold ledge of rocks, between twenty and thirty feet high, guards it on the west, a small stream winds its way across the gloomy vale and dark forest surrounds the little bowl on all sides. The only signs of civilization even to this day are a poorly constructed wood

1. Godchaux, History of Pennsylvania, Vol. 3, (Military)
p. 51-52.

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stairs leading down to the plain, a marker at the supposed site of Jumonville's grave, a romantic mound of earth and stones heaped up by some juvenile spirit, marked as the grave of the solitary Virginian who was killed here that morning long ago, and a rough road that leads to the ledge that overlooks the historic little arena below. No one familiar with the history of the spot can visit there without being moved by emotions which envisage the fast moving spectacle that was enacted here at the dawn of white civilization west of the mountains.

Fort Necessity.

About the last of May, after the Jumonville fight, Washington began the erection of a fort at the Great Meadows. This seems to have been in the form of a palisades, although on this score I am not certain. The work done at this time was slight indeed, for the fortifications were completed in two days, May 30 and June 1. In his journal of June 25th, Washington speaks of "Fort Necessity." The last entry in Washington's Journal was on June 27, 1754, six days before the engagement at Fort Necessity. This Journal fell into the hands of the French and was published in Paris two years later in 1756. It seems that the original has been lost.

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On the 26th of June reinforcements arrived from Virginia, and on the 10th, Captain Mackay and his company from South Carolina reached Fort Necessity. It seems there was some friction between Washington and Mackaye, -- at least they did not work well together. Mackaye was a regular King's officer, while Washington was only a militia leader from Virginia. During the whole of the month of June Washington and his men frittered their time and labors away in constructing a road from Fort Necessity to Gist's plantation and a short distance beyond. Here, on the 28th, Washington decided to build a fort, to withstand the French about whom alarming reports were now reaching him. Suddenly, two days later, it was decided to retreat hastily to Fort Necessity. The exhausted and disorganized army reached Great Meadows on July 1st. During a whole month nothing had been done to improve the meagre fortifications that had been made at the end of May. There was less than a third of an acre within the walls of the fort to shelter about three hundred men, their baggage, and their cattle and horses. It is difficult to account for such lack of foresight and management and the less said about it the better. July 2nd was spent in strengthening Fort Necessity. On the 3rd a force of 600 French and 100 Indians appeared before the fort and began the attack from the northwest, soon shifting to the southeast, where the approach of the forest came closest to the

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to the fort. The horses and cattle were soon all captured and slaughtered by the attacking force and the sole source of food provisions for the colonial force was gone.

The firing had begun about 11:00 in the morning and the fighting lasted sporadically until about 8:00 at night. The South Carolinians had been in the trenches outside the fort, while Washington and the Virginians had been inside. A rainy day soon flooded the marshy ground and made it miserable for everyone at the little stockade. As if it were not wet enough on the external parts of their bodies, the men drenched themselves inside with rum, of which there seems to have been a plentiful supply, and by night half of them were intoxicated and incapable of any kind of resistance to a determined enemy. Had the French commander made a determined attack on Fort Mifflin the little band of luckless men there must have been wiped out. There is every indication that there was little or no control over the men at Fort Mifflin at the time of the engagement. The wasted efforts of their commanders, the indecision at Gist's plantation, and the hurried march back to Fort Mifflin, with the lack of any organized means of securing provision, and an inadequately prepared defense for just such an emergency, no doubt reacted on the soldiery to break their morale. It is safe to assume that Washington had little or no control over his men at Fort Mifflin.

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After considerable negotiation following a proposal of Villiers, the French commander, that Washington capitulate, extending from about 8:00 in the evening until near midnight, the terms were finally reduced to writing and accepted by Washington and Mackaye. The colonials were to give up the fort to the French, were to leave their swivels, and were to march back to Virginia and not to take part in any military service against France for one year. One is amazed at the moderation of the French terms. Considering the desperate plight of the sorely stricken group as they began their trying retreat to Cumberland, 55 miles away, it is a wonder that they escaped from Indian bushwacking which might have been expected. The evacuation of Fort Necessity by Washington took place on July 4th, and it was burned to the ground by the French the same day.

Washington's men had suffered rather severely, about 75 were killed or wounded, many were left behind on the road during the march to Cumberland, many were missing, and only about half the force was fit for duty when Mill's Creek at Cumberland was reached. The losses among the ninety South Carolinians is not known, but they must have been rather heavy as the Carolinians were in the outside trenches. The French had two or three killed and several wounded, the number varying in different accounts from seventeen to seventy.

Stobo, the engineer who built the little fort, and

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Van Braam the interpreter, were kept as hostages by the French, and taken to Canada where they were held for a long time, finally being sent to England. Van Braam came in for a torrent of abuse in Virginia as he was accused of misinterpreting the terms of the capitulation paper in translating it from French to English, so that Washington signed a paper acknowledging the "assassination" of Jumonville. Van Braam was absent and had no chance to defend himself, so he was a convenient scapegoat and after some hesitation the Virginia assembly exonerated Washington. However, Governor Dinwiddie devoted Washington to Captain, and Walpole in England voiced a certain section of opinion there when he termed Washington an "excellent fanfare." There is certainly little to Washington's credit if one examines critically the events surrounding the Fort Necessity chapter of our early history.

b. History of Development Project. Fort Necessity Military Reservation site was acquired by the National Government in 1931. Congress, by Act of March 4, 1931, authorized the Secretary of War to acquire not less than one acre, including the site of the fort, free of cost to the United States. This act was passed as a result of Mr. Lewis Fazenbaker's offer to donate the site to the government. This he did in 1931. The area given to the government was two acres and comprises

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the extent of federal ownership at Fort Necessity at the present time. In 1933, by Executive order of the President of the United States, the Fort Necessity site was transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service.

The state of Pennsylvania owns 348 acres surrounding Fort Necessity. The development of the site has never been undertaken by the state. The problem of properly undertaking the work necessary to create a park having historic significance of any unity and meaning is difficult at the present time. Areas other than those owned by the National Government and the State of Pennsylvania should be included in the park. Washington's Road, Braddock Trail, Braddock's grave, and Jumonville's glen and grave are all intimately connected with the actual incidents that occurred at Fort Necessity.

The Sons of the American Revolution, Fort Necessity chapter of Uniontown, Pa., own about 33 acres of land surrounding the site of Jumonville's grave. This land was obtained between 1929-1933 in three separate tracts. This acreage includes the road which enters to the spot from the state highway nearby. Around Braddock's grave the Sons of the American Revolution own 23 acres of land. (1) Part of

1. The figures given are approximate, and were obtained from Mr. Sailey of Uniontown, Pa., President of the S.A.R., and from Mr. Whaley, Sect. Treas. of the S.A.R.

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this acreage, including Braddock Park, was turned over to the S.A.R. as a gift about 1930.

Then in addition, there are 75 acres of land immediately west of Fort Necessity and practically touching the present museum, which is privately owned by a Mr. Burleigh. The S.A.R. has an option on this land to purchase it at a cost of \$200 an acre. The option expires February 12, 1936. I have been informed that the S.A.R. will drop the option on that date if it is not acted on by either the State or National government. The option was taken only to protect the property. I have learned that the owner of this land, which was once part of the tract owned by George Washington, has been offered in excess of \$200 an acre for the tract by private parties from Johnstown, Pa., but can not act until the option expires in February. This land should be acquired to prevent commercialization, and it is also absolutely necessary that this acreage be publicly owned in order to restore the immediate surroundings of the Fort to their original appearance.

Thus it is evident that the situation at Fort Necessity is in a chaotic condition. Territory necessary to the proper development is scattered among four different owners:- the National government, the State government, the S.A.R., and Mr. Burleigh. There can be no development of the area until this situation is corrected. The land should be all owned by

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either the state or the national government. For various reasons it is best that the National government own this site, with its environments.

The state of Pennsylvania has not undertaken to provide for the proper marking or development of the area. It has not even provided a custodian for the Museum. Mrs. Martin, the custodian stays on of her own free will, without compensation of any sort, dependent entirely for remuneration for her services upon the souvenirs and pictures she can sell at the Museum. The S. A. R., have no funds with which to do anything at Braddock's grave and Jumonville's grave. Mr. Durlough, the owner of the land adjoining the Fort Necessity site, is evidently interested only in selling out to the highest bidder. It should be added here that the Fort Necessity Memorial Association, organized at Uniontown for the celebration of the Washington bi-centennial, thought they had acquired an option in 1931 on all the land once owned by Washington at this place. It was only by accident that it was learned recently that their lawyer had clumsily failed to include the 75 acres of Mr. Durlough. Since that time the price of the land has gone up greatly. The error was discovered only within the past year. An option for one year was immediately taken on the area by the local S. A. R. It has been mentioned above this protection

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will expire in February 1936. (1)

Practically all the present development at Fort Necessity dates from the activity of the Fort Necessity Memorial Association in 1932. At this time grandiose plans were projected by the society in connection with the National celebration of the Washington Bi-Centennial. A wood log palisade was erected on the site of the old fort, a museum

1. The earlier history of the site, aside from the historic events which occurred here may be mentioned here. In 1767 Washington got a pre-emption title to 334 acres including the Fort Necessity site. This pre-emption was obtained from Virginia. Later he filed a claim with Pennsylvania to the same area. Virginia and Pennsylvania long disputed the ownership of southwestern Pennsylvania. Finally, in 1788 Pennsylvania conveyed title to the land to Washington, who paid less than \$100 for it. After Washington's death his executors sold the site to Andrew Parks of Baltimore, whose wife was a relative and legatee of Washington. She sold it to General Thomas Meason, who in turn sold it to Joseph Huston. Huston sold it in 1824 to Colonel Samuel Evans for taxes. For some reason it reverted back to Huston, and was again sold at sheriff's sale, this time to Nathaniel Bwing. Bwing sold the property to James Sumpsey, April 6, 1856, whose executors sold the land to Godfrey Fasnaker, December 29, 1856, for \$4,000. The Fasnaker family has had continuous possession of the Fort Necessity site from that date until it was given to the War Department in 1931.

An Act of the State Assembly, April 6, 1850, incorporated a Fort Necessity Washington Monument Association. In 1854 a cornerstone was placed near the center of the site, marking the enclosure of the old stockade. In January, 1899, a bill was introduced in the lower house of the legislature seeking to acquire the property for the state, and to appropriate \$10,000 for its development. The bill failed. July 4, 1904, on the 150th anniversary a celebration was held at the fort, sponsored by the I.O.O.F. lodge. The site was first marked July 4, 1908, when a simple tablet was erected. See James Hadden, Washington & Braddock Expedition, pp. 55-69.

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was opened, and some improvements were undertaken around the fort, including a road to the fort from U.S. highway, Route 40, which passes the spot only a few hundred yards to the north. The celebration of the Bi-Centennial at Fort Necessity was a success, large numbers of people attending the services, but since then nothing has been done. The Memorial Association today has a debt of \$5,000 on its hands and has practically washed its hands of the whole matter. The development of the Fort Necessity site had reached a point of stagnation, when a CCC camp was established at the site this summer and further development by F.C.W. labor contemplated.

At the present time a CCC camp is located on the state owned land at Fort Necessity, and it is planned, according to the statement of Superintendent Hughes, to go ahead with the architectural plans drawn up by the Fort Necessity Memorial Association in 1932. These plans were only partially carried into effect during that year. They embody an extensive formal development around the fort. This development is entirely out of place at Fort Necessity and that part already completed should be eliminated and that contemplated should be stopped.

2. HISTORICAL RECORDS.

2. Records Available at Park. There are no historical records available at the park, except a few documents and

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notes that have been accumulated during the past few weeks by Mr. Loy, Ranger - Historian, stationed at the fort for the summer. Mr. Loy has been making a study of the site and its history. This material is of doubtful value for the most part. The most interesting item has at the present time is the manuscript of Reverend Hindman of Uniontown. This is a 100 page paper on Fort Necessity, titled, "The Young Colonel from Virginia." This manuscript contains a roster of the troops engaged at Fort Necessity, and a bibliography, which it is claimed contains much new material. The new material is largely made up of items taken from South Carolina newspapers of 1754. Reverend Hindman may have shown considerable zeal in running down sources of information, but he has been very uncritical in his use of them. This manuscript must be used with care.

b. Value of Local Records and Research. Local records are apt to prove barren of any material relating to Fort Necessity. Reverend Hindman of Uniontown, Pa., has made a detailed study of the Fort Necessity incident and has written a manuscript embodying the results of his research. Thus far he has failed to get a publisher for it. His collection of excerpts from the South Carolina papers is the most important source material to be had in the locality. The Western Pennsylvania Historical Society seems to have no

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source material on the subject.

c. Location of Research Material. The most valuable collection of source material on the subject is most likely to be found in the Pennsylvania Historical Society in Philadelphia, and in the Library of Congress. It is possible that the Draper Collection in the University of Wisconsin might have some material relating to Fort Necessity, Jumonville, and Braddock.

d. Extent and Value of Local Research to Date. The Hindman manuscript with its bibliography is the only thing that has been done locally to date. This manuscript is entitled "The Young Colonel from Virginia." Along with this manuscript is another paper setting forth the reasons why the plan used in the restoration of Fort Necessity were adopted over any other that might have been used. This manuscript contains a detailed account of excavations undertaken and objects found preparatory to erecting the fort. The Hindman Plan was used in the restoration of Fort Necessity. This manuscript would be very valuable if any critical study were ever undertaken to determine the value of the present restoration.

Mr. Solon J. Duck of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society, of Pittsburgh, has under preparation a

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manuscript which it is expected will be published this fall, under the title, "How Civilization Came to Western Pennsylvania." A bibliography has been completed for this work. The Bibliography for the chapter "The Struggle for the Forks of the Ohio" is fairly good. A copy of it is attached to this report.

There is only a small amount of material which is authentic to the old Fort Necessity site. It is kept in one small glass case in the museum. Nearly all of it was unearthed in 1931, while excavating to establish the site of the fort. This material consists of several pieces of wood, parts of logs found about three feet under ground. These logs measured from 6 inches to $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches in cases where the logs had been split. Six iron balls, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter were found. These, no doubt belonged to the 9 small swivel guns which Washington had with him at Fort Necessity. One large cannon ball, 3 inches in diameter was found. In addition, there were discovered more than two dozen musket balls, and about 200 lead shot, 1 flint for flint lock musket, and a piece of wood, either an arrow shaft or a rifle ramrod.

e. Recommendation on Research. There are no records to preserve, so far as my knowledge goes, aside from those al-

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ready printed in the various state, archives, colonial records, etc.

Considerable research can be done on the project and this should be done, as it has never been undertaken in a detailed fashion by a person schooled in the historical method. Such an undertaking might take considerable time because of the slight and fragmentary source material which is commonly known to exist about the whole subject. I doubt whether the French sources have ever been thoroughly searched, and perhaps much could be obtained in England at the British Museum and elsewhere. I think a re-examination of the materials available in the United States might be made with profit.

3. HISTORICAL REMAINS.

a. Extent of Historical Remains. There are no remains at the site of Fort Necessity at the present date, as the erection of the restored fort in 1932 obliterated what remains there were at that time. Of course, the modern fort and the museum are on the grounds, the latter on state owned land. It is alleged by rumor that the burial ground of five Indians, killed during the Fort Necessity fight, is located a short distance south of the fort, on land owned by the state. This spot is called Indian Springs.

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If one includes the subject of Braddock's grave, Jumonville's grave and the Braddock Trail, then more remains to be said.

In many places in the vicinity of Fort Necessity the line of Braddock's Trail can still be clearly traced. It cuts a shallow trench through the hillsides and through the woods. In the lowlands and across fields it has been entirely obliterated for the most part. The trail, where it passes through the woods, has grown up with shrubbery and underbrush pretty badly, except in a few places where it was cut out a few years ago. The Braddock Trail passes Fort Necessity on the south, about 150 yards distant, then swings to the north across the modern highway, U.S. Route 40, a short distance away at the site of Braddock's grave, and continues northwestwardly past the old campsites, number 9 and 10, on Braddock's march from Cumberland, until achieving the ascent of Laurel Hill it creeps through the forest close to Jumonville's grave and reaches Dunbar's camp a half mile beyond. There are three markers at the site of Braddock's grave, one showing the historic spot, deep in a ravine, where the body of the English commander was buried in the blackness of night and over which the whole army marched in the mad scramble away from scene of carnage, another near the road, giving a brief legend of the historical event. The third marker, a monument, to Braddock, not far away and imme-

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diately adjacent to the highway, Route 40, erected by the British Memorial Association, covers his present burial ground. Braddock's body was removed to higher ground from its original burial place in 1804.

At the scene of Jumonville's grave there is a marker, showing the legendary spot where he was buried, and a wholly romantic mound of stones and earth raised to represent a grave where the one Virginia killed in the brief fight was buried. The scene at Jumonville's grave is wild and romantic. Forest surrounds the little glen on all sides, with a rocky cliff of 20 or more feet sheer drop guarding it on the west.

b. Work Done in Preserving Remains. The work done by the Fort Necessity Memorial Association in restoring the old fort has been mentioned. The historical accuracy of this restoration is to be questioned. Formal development of the surrounding area has been started, with the construction of a water fountain, flower and shrubbery beds, a bridge across Meadow Run, and tree planting in spots along the hillsides. A road has been cut in the side of the hill southeast of the fort. Most of these developments are extremely undesirable and should be removed. The brush has been cleared from most of the wooded area on the hill back of the fort. One section has been left un-

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touched as a game refuge and reserve. A few lean-tos, foot-paths, and creek crossings have been made in the woods. Some roads are now under construction by E.C.W. labor.

g. Recommendations on Research. A thorough study of the accuracy of the present fort as representing the fort destroyed by the French in 1754 needs to be made. Some of the markers inside the fort are sentimental and out of place. Markers could be erected much more suitable than many now in place. For instance, there is no marker of any sort which mentions Tanacharison, the Half King, chief of the Senecas, who played such an important role in the story of Fort Necessity. Following is a list of suggestions concerning the future development of the general area and the fort:

1. Study historical accuracy of Fort Necessity and modify it if necessary.
2. Grade the inside of the fort and plant to good grass. The area is now rough, unsodded in spots, and grown up with a mixture of weeds and grass.
3. Reconsider the propriety of the several tablets on the inside wall of Fort Necessity.
4. Since it seems impossible to remove the road cut in the hillside it could be hidden by necessary tree planting. There does not seem to be any practical route for a road to the back part of the land owned by the state where it is planned to create a picnic ground, other than the road already built. The presence of this road detracts from the possibility of making the landscape resemble that of 1754.

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5. In place of it institute a plan to restore the site of the fort and its immediate surroundings to a condition as natural to that of 1754 as it is possible to devise. This would include the planting of trees to reforest the bare hillsides surrounding the fort on all sides. The survey and notes made by Freeman in 1816 should be used as one means of approximately fixing the distance of forest from the fort. The forest approached the fort at one place at a distance of 66 yards and at the farthest point at 275 yards. All this region was dense forest in the days when Washington, the Half-King, and the French enacted their drama at this historic spot, and it is entirely practical to restore the area to this primitive appearance. To do so would not only be in strict accordance with historical accuracy, but would also beautify the site enormously. The meadow land that reached to the forest edge could be planted to good grass and kept in a presentable condition. If reforestation of the area were undertaken, the road now so distracting to the gaze that tries to reconstruct the image of 1754, would in time be hidden from the view and the obnoxious scar in the hillside would be partially eliminated.
6. Erect a memorial or marker to Tanacharison, the Half-King, who was the friend of the English and the Americans at that time, and without whom Washington could have done little or nothing. Especially is this so in connection with the Jumonville episode.
7. Erect markers showing places where Braddock Road crosses park area, and plan for an entirely new set or system of markers designed to locate historic and legendary spots and tell the story to the visitor. These markers should be devoid of excess patriotic and sentimental emotionalism. This can only be done when and if the property concerned comes under one ownership so that a unified plan of development can be carried out.
8. Many exhibits of large graphic maps could be arranged to aid the visitor in grasping the story of what occurred at Fort Necessity and the surrounding country in 1754-1755.

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9. The serious consideration of connecting Fort Necessity with Braddock's grave and Jumonville's grave, and possibly with Dunbar's camp by a foot trail. (The latter place is privately owned, I believe).
10. Advertising or marking the site better along the highway in order to arrest and get the attention of the tourists who pass in great numbers along Route 40, the old National Road.

d. Extent of Historical Collection for Museum. The opportunity for a museum to be built up around material authentic to the early history of Fort Necessity is small indeed, unless excavation in the future discloses more remains than have so far been accumulated. One small glass case in the present museum contains all that is authentic Fort Necessity material. A search through Virginia and South Carolina might unearth some old relics of men who fought at Fort Necessity. However, there would seem to be small hope for success in this.

At the present time there is a considerable amount of heterogeneous material at the Fort Necessity Museum, displayed on the walls and in the various cases in several rooms, as well as two or three rooms of furniture displayed on the second floor of the building. The museum collection ranges from a small amount of material taken from the ruins of Fort Necessity to a collection of china, a mid-Victorian bed, and a moral sermon on the wall in the Dr. Pabkhurst fashion. Several cases of material are of civil war origin. The museum

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at the present time is without rhyme or reason. It is simply made up of items which various people have contributed because they might have some interest to the curious. Following is a partial list of things in the museum which would seem to have no place there, and should be removed if the museum is to have any specific value:

- Collection of glass and china.
- Collection of hand-made quilts.
- Much furniture, some of it as late as Mid-Victorian.
- Several items relating to Mr. Seawright, author of *The Old Pike*.
- Pictures of old pike days.
- Albert Gallatin chair.
- Painting of old Washington Hill.
- Many guns of the civil war type.
- Map of the siege of Yorktown.
- Pictorial sermon.

There is the usual large number of Washington prints of all sizes and kinds. Upstairs whole rooms have been fitted out with middle nineteenth century furniture and obviously can have no connection to Fort Necessity in 1754, when there was hardly a roof in the whole region west of the Alleghenies.

Over half the material in the museum is there on loan. Various D.D.R. chapters, five in number, have loaned sundry items. Mr. Whaley, of Uniontown has loaned practically all the pictures in the museum. The guns and sundry equipment, which is nearly all of civil war origin, was loaned by the Greene County Historical Society. Mrs. Baldrige, of Pittsburgh, has loaned most of the glass, china, collections of furniture, and quilts. The Daughters of the War of 1812

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have equipped one room with furniture. Most of this material could be returned to their owners and the museum would be improved by it. In the present state of things, however, these items may offer some slight diversion to the visitor, who in most cases, will not raise the question as to what purpose a museum should serve.

There is no provision for the maintenance of the museum. Mrs. Martin is the custodian and has been so from 1932 when the museum was opened as part of the Washington Bicentennial celebration at Fort Mifflin. The building used as a museum is not without interest itself, as it was built in 1816 and was a tavern on the old pike, or National Road. Mrs. Martin receives no compensation for her services, and is wholly dependent upon the amount she earns from selling mementoes, souvenirs, post cards and things of that nature. She has little time to devote to the care of the museum, and can hardly be expected to give strenuous services free of charge. During the winter when there is small return from the sale of museum notions, she nevertheless has kept the museum open. It is urgently required that someone be appointed custodian of the museum, with an allowance so that full time can be given to the proper care and building up of the collection that might be made. Mrs. Martin herself has strongly advised that the sale of cards and other small notions should be abolished in the museum, but this she can not do until some means of support is provided for the custodian. The cleaning

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around the museum is done by a girl who comes occasionally in return for old clothes given her by Mrs. Martin. During the three years she has been in charge of the museum, Mrs. Martin has kept a record of the sales she has made and the money she has earned, but not a single person has asked to see this account. The Memorial Association still owes \$900 on glass display cases in the Museum. These could be removed tomorrow, but it is unlikely the creditors will ever do this.

There has never been an inventory made of the items in the museum. It was not until this spring that there were any materials with which to make an inventory. At the present time an inventory has been made of possibly one-fourth of the material in the museum, according to Mrs. Martin.

A good example of the lack of method and care required in the maintenance of a museum came to my attention while I was visiting the museum a few days ago. I noticed a heavy clumsy wooden axle leaning in a corner near the door that comes in from the highway. Evidently it had just been brought in by some one. I asked Mrs. Martin what it was. She replied that some man had brought it in just that day, with the statement that it was part of a wagon that Braddock had used in his expedition against the French at Fort Duquesne in 1755. I inquired who the man was, where he got the axle, and further questions which would shed some light on its history. But Mrs. Martin could answer none of these. No one had got the data on the axle. Mrs. Martin could hardly

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do this as she was busy selling small notions to visitors, showing them around the museum, or doing some other small job. Mrs. Martin said she knew who the man was and would get further information about the old axle. It seems he had come from some distance away. No doubt many things are brought in to the museum in this way and left, with little or nothing said about them. Of course, this slipshod method of receiving things at a museum should be corrected. Bare courtesy requires that more attention be given the person who makes the gift, and it is absolutely necessary if the required information about the objects brought to the museum is to be obtained. A systematic search through southwestern Pennsylvania would, no doubt, uncover many interesting things which would be appropriate for the museum.

The question naturally follows as to what sort of material should be collected for the Fort Necessity Museum. This depends upon the scope of its interest. If the museum is confined to authentic Fort Necessity objects and displays there is no chance for an extended museum development. The one case of Fort Necessity material might well be removed to the actual site of the fort itself, and placed in the cabin within the stockade. If the museum development is broadened to include the story of the old Braddock Trail, and the early days of the old pike, it could be made interesting indeed, and could be expanded indefinitely.

It seems to me that this might be given serious thought.

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It is true that this would not be about Fort Necessity, but then there is no chance for an interesting development if the museum confined to Fort Necessity alone. The Braddock Trail is closely connected with the old fort, and the famous Cumberland Road, or the National Road as it was known, -- perhaps the most important thoroughfare of western migration in the development of the United States, might well have a museum devoted to its early history. The museum stands directly on this ancient highway and would be a fitting place for such a development. The museum building itself was for many years a tavern on this route to the forks of the Ohio and the west. I do not believe there exists at the present time, anywhere in the United States, a museum devoted to portraying the fascinating story of this early western migration and flow of pioneer commerce.

The present museum building will be removed in the fall of this year possibly 50 feet to the southeast of its present foundations, to make way for a cut of ten feet and a widening of the road that passes at its door. The museum will undoubtedly be closed for a time if this is done. State surveyors were making the surveys for this change and improvement in the road during my recent visit to Fort Necessity.

Three rooms on the second floor of the museum, now unoccupied, badly need repair, as the plaster is falling from the walls and the ceilings are beginning to crack. The building obviously needs some attention. One large room of the

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museum should be fitted up as a lecture room in which talks could be given to groups about to begin a trail trip. While I was at Fort Necessity three groups of boy scouts and girl scouts took trips of this kind guided by Mr. Loy or Mr. Graham, going to Braddock's grave and in two instances, I believe, to Jumonville's grave. Large maps and charts, properly demonstrated and explained before these hikes began, would illuminate the story and help to create a vivid impression of the trail experience. The story of Jumonville, the Half-King, the Virginia frontiersmen, the aspiring French, the primitive wilderness, and Braddock's Road is a fascinating one. It offers great opportunity for talks and map demonstration, along with trail hikes to the important scenes of action, which fortunately are all close at hand. Mr. Loy has stated that the lecture room idea has worked well at Antietam where he tried it out before coming to Fort Necessity.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS.

a. Nature and Extent of Archaeological Remains. The old mounds, marking portions of the works and outline of old Fort Necessity, were destroyed or covered over when the present restoration of the fort was undertaken. It is undoubtedly true that extensive excavation around the site of the old fort would yield some objects of interest. Just how profitable such work would prove must remain a matter of speculation.

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Objects uncovered by Mr. Hindman during some excavation in 1931 disclosed that the ruins have been covered to a depth of between two and three feet. It was at this distance below the surface that he found numerous musket balls, bits of logs and other objects belonging to the old fort site, destroyed by the French in 1754.

b. Amount of Work Done. No work has been done by E.C.W. labor of an archaeological nature. Mr. Hindman, in 1931, undertook considerable excavation about the site of the old remains in order to help determine the outline of the old fort. His excavations were by no means complete, however, being merely trenches along a portion of the likely area where the old palisades stood. Various objects were found by Mr. Hindman during this work. He had ordered the workmen to crumble every bit of soil dug up so that nothing would be overlooked. It has been stated elsewhere in this report that he found parts of several old logs, several swivel balls, one cannon ball, musket balls, lead shot, a flint, and a probable arrow shaft.

c. Recommendations. There are no archaeological remains to be preserved above ground. What there is below can be only surmised. There would appear to be no chance for the development of (rail-side museums, devoted to archaeological purposes. Trails could be constructed past the legendary burial place of

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the five Indians, Braddock's grave, Jumonville's grave, and appropriate markers placed where they are needed. Braddock's grave and Jumonville's grave are already marked.

d. Extent of Present Archaeological Collection - Recommendations.

The only archaeological display now in the museum is the small group of objects taken from the site of Fort Necessity during the excavations made by Mr. Hindman in 1931. Investigation might be made to determine if the legendary Indian burial grounds contain any remains. I have been told that individuals with some kind of magnetic instrument have been able to locate many pieces of iron at the site of Dunbar's Camp. Whether this method of locating archaeological artifacts is generally successful and would be of any value at Fort Necessity, I do not know.

5. LEGEND AND TRADITION.

a. Character and Extent of Folk-Lore. The opportunity for legend and tradition to thrive around and about Fort Necessity is ideal. Many stirring events occurred here a long time ago and meagre documentary accounts were left. Those that have come down to posterity are fragmentary and contradictory. Tradition may fill in the gaps, and no doubt there is always a fragment of truth some place in a tradition of long standing.

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It would be highly desirable if a systematic attempt were made to collect all the tradition in the neighborhood of Fort Necessity, Jumonville's grave and Dunbar's camp.

I will mention here only two of the traditions that cling to this historic country. It is generally believed in the neighborhood of Fort Necessity, that five Indians were buried after the fight at Fort Necessity on the hillside a few hundred yards to the south of the fort. This spot has always locally been known as Indian Springs, and is spoken of as the burial place of the five Indians. There seems to be a large degree of certainty in the tones of the old timers of the vicinity as they relate this story.

Another legend that came to my notice, after I had left Fort Necessity and chanced to call on the Fazenbaker family at Addison, Pa., and consequently had no chance to investigate further, was the interesting account which relates that a few years ago a Mr. Hall, of Smithfield, found an old jar during some excavation work he was doing. This old jar contained an old note and a map, the note relating that a barrel of gold coin had been buried at the site of Fort Necessity when fear developed that it would fall into the hands of the French or the Indians. The story, as I heard it, could not give any particulars as to when this was supposed to have taken place, but it is likely that the story is connected with the Braddock expedition. The coin may have been to pay the troops, and the money may have been

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buried after the calamitous defeat of Braddock by a conveyance which had just heard of the terrible slaughter by an advance fugitive. In the disorder, confusion, and fear that followed it may have been left where it was buried. The map purported to locate the spot where the gold was buried. I was told that Mr. Smith employed a steam shovel to excavate for the barrel of gold coin, but without success. It would be interesting to interview Mr. Hall to determine if this note and map still exist, and to find out precisely the content of the note. The story sounds highly improbable.

b. Sources for Securing Folk-Lore. The older families in the neighborhood, those whose fathers and grandfathers before them lived on the same farms, would be the most likely people from whom to extract folklore and tradition. Newer families moving in are often not interested in the old stories if told, and generally in the present age come into contact and pass time with their older neighbors less than in an earlier age, when they might have been expected to quickly learn the folklore of the region.

c. Recommendations For Collecting Folk-Lore. Much can be learned by simply going around and talking to the older men and women in the community. I found this method very interesting and fruitful on several occasions while I was at Fort Necessity.

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6. RELATION OF HISTORICAL FEATURES TO PROJECT PLANS.

It seems imperative for the value of the historical remains and setting of Fort Necessity, that the plans for the development of the site, as proposed in the architectural and landscape drawings of the Bi-Centennial Memorial Association, be dropped. I was told by Superintendent Hughes that it is the intention to complete the projects called for in this plan, so far as E.C.W., labor can do it. Such a development would be altogether out of keeping with the primitive wilderness which enveloped this place when the events of nearly two hundred years ago made the little valley and the surrounding hills historic.

The building of the proposed lake and the opening of picnic grounds on parts of the land owned by the state would not seem to injure the historical interest of the park. Both the lake and the picnic grounds will be distant from the historical remains. However, in my opinion, the purely recreational offerings of the park are very limited, and entirely subordinate to the historic interest of the area.

7. RELATION OF HISTORICAL SITE TO OTHERS IN VICINITY.

Fort Necessity is intimately bound by strong ties to other historic sites in western Pennsylvania. It was the

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fight at Jumonville's camp, about six miles away that brought down the French force from Fort Duquesne at the Forks of the Ohio, thirsting for revenge for the killing of Jumonville. The engagement at Fort Necessity, the capitulation of Washington, the burning of Fort Necessity, the disaffection of the Indian tribes, the Braddock tragedy of the next year, all go back to the early morning in May, 1754, when Washington and his Indian allies and colonial troops opened a murderous fire on the French entrapped in the secretive glen amid the forest on Laurel Hill. This event, combined with the Fort Necessity engagement which was a sequel, was, as much as anything ever can be said to be the cause of a great historic unfolding, the signal for the opening of the French and Indian wars in America, the struggle for the Mississippi Valley, and the final expulsion of the French from America. The state has no developed park in this area, nor has the National Government, and it would seem fitting that one be created at Fort Necessity and its nearby associated areas.

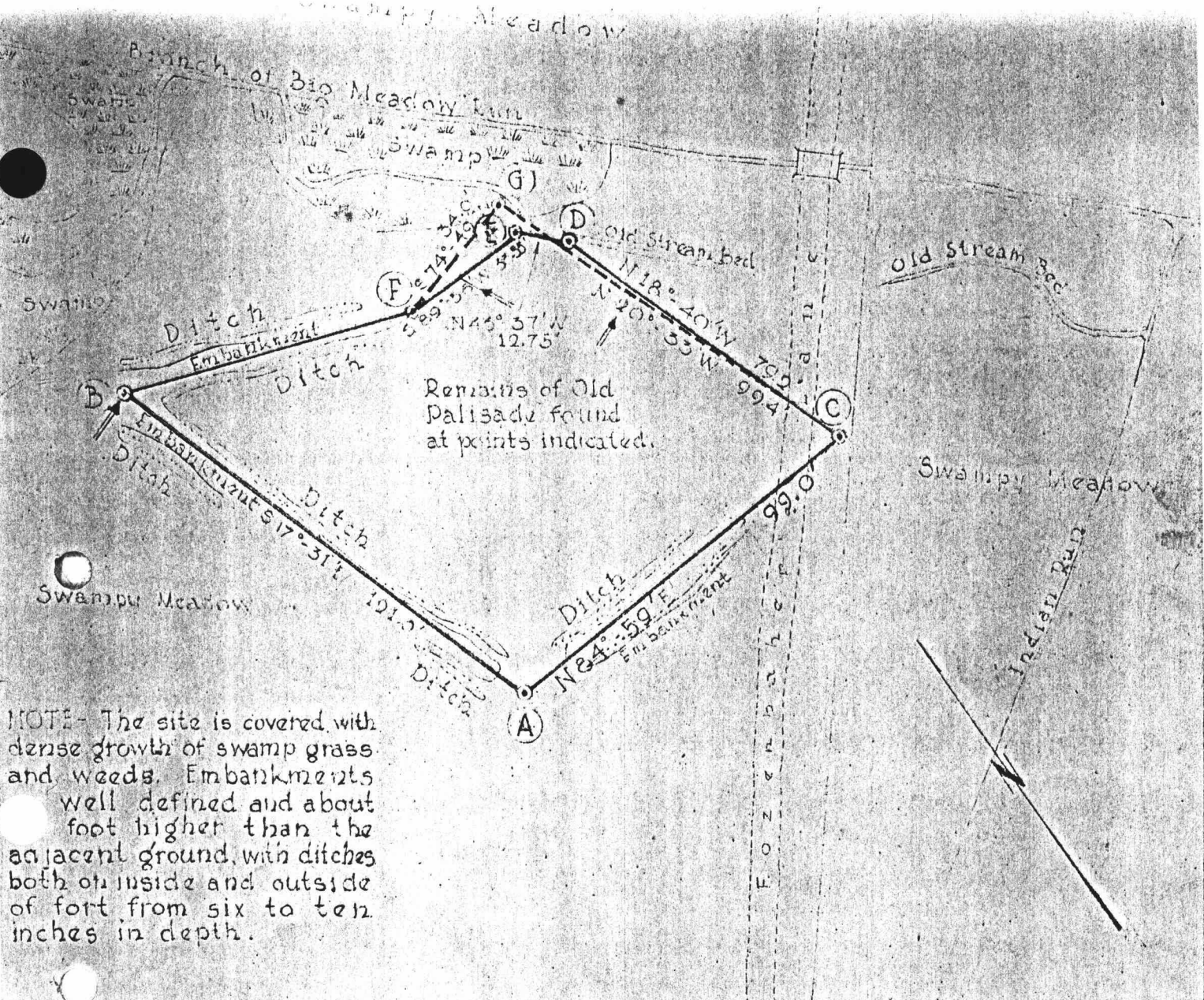
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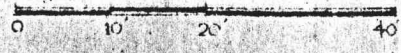
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NOTE- The site is covered with dense growth of swamp grass and weeds. Embankments well defined and about foot higher than the adjacent ground, with ditches both on inside and outside of fort from six to ten inches in depth.

SURVEY OF FORT NECESSITY

August 4, 1931.



Wharton Township
Fayette Co.
H. R. Blackford
Reg. Eng. No 1907

Penna.
P.S.B.

Revised Dec 5, 1931
to show changes due
to finding remains
of old Palisade on
lines CDEFB at points
shown by arrow.

Plan prepared under the direction of Mr. Hindman
of Uniontown, Pennsylvania and used in the res-
toration of Fort Necessity in 1932.

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30.

Note on Restoration of Fort Necessity.

It seems desirable to offer a few suggestions calling in question the historical accuracy of the present restoration of Fort Necessity pending a more complete study of the problem.

The present restoration of Fort Necessity was undertaken in connection with the celebration of the Washington Bi-Centennial in 1932. Reverend Hindman of Uniontown did the research and study that provided the data for the restoration. The restoration can be called the Hindman Plan.

It would appear that Mr. Hindman too readily followed the argument and suggestions of Archer Butler Hulbert, in volume 3 of his Historic Highways. This he supplemented with some slight excavation and archaeological work of his own, which convinced him that Hulbert was right, or nearly so. Hindman ignores the oldest extant survey of the ruins of Fort Necessity, made in 1816 by Lewis Freeman, a certified surveyor. Hulbert had the site surveyed in 1901, and Hindman had it surveyed in 1931. Both of these surveys were more than a hundred years ^{more recent} older than the Freeman survey which had much the better opportunity to correctly fix the lines of the old stockade. In weighing this matter it must be borne in mind that this meadow was farmed before the Fazenbaker family came into possession of it in 1856.

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and that the plow may have aided in altering or obliterating the original embankments and ruins, and also that the disputed area in the various surveys is that portion right along the stream, which in the course of over a hundred years might easily have changed its channel, cut into the old ruins, piled up new embankments or mounds, and destroyed or greatly changed the original appearance of the ruins. It will be remembered that one reason Washington chose the Great Meadows for a camping site was because it had natural trenches, formed by the shifting bed of the little stream, a branch of Meadow Run. The stream in question, is fully capable of working considerable change in the land along its banks. It is by no means a rivulet.

There are three surveys of Fort Necessity to my knowledge. The first was made by K^L. Freeman in 1816, the second by Hulbert in 1901, and the third and last before the ruins were forever destroyed, by Reverend Hindman in 1931. The Freeman survey was first published in Lowdermilk's Cumberland, although it had been in Veech's manuscript before. The Freeman survey is found in Veech's Monongahela of Old, and was reproduced as authentic by the state of Pennsylvania in the Report of the Commission to Locate the Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania. Sparks, the historian, had made a sketch of the ruins of Fort Necessity when he visited the area in 1830. A full des-

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cription of the site is given in his Washington. (1)

The reason that the Freeman survey is discarded by Hulbert and Hindman is largely because the plan allows for an enclosure of less than a third of an acre, which it said was inside the stockade. The Freeman plan they say puts only half the little island or plateau in the marshy meadow within the stockade. This seems entirely logical to me, for it is known that the trenches occupied by the South Carolinians were outside the stockade. It is hardly likely that they were dug in the marsh. Furthermore, the whole management and building of Fort Necessity was not marked by any particular care for detail. The statement about a third of an acre may have been a general statement, an approximation, or a mistake in printing. Hulbert and Hindman seize on this single statement of Freeman concerning a third of an acre to prove their own plans which enclose about one third of an acre, yet they ignore the more detailed work, the fundamental part of the Freeman survey, which gives lines, angles, and distances for the

1. For the various maps and sketches of Fort Necessity see James Veech, Monongahela of Old, p. 50; Lowdermilk's History of Cumberland, p. 76; Spark's Life of Washington, vol. 1, pp. 54-55, 52-53, vol. 2, p. 457; Hulbert, Historic Highways, Vol. 3; Survey of Frontier Ports of Pennsylvania, Vol. 2, p. 32

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survey. Furthermore, the little fort was built before the reinforcements of Virginia troops and the South Carolinians arrived at Fort Necessity, making it desirable to have a larger fort. It seems to me that the slight evidence of remains found in 1901 and 1931 by Hulbert and Hindman, cannot replace and outweigh the Freeman Survey made in 1816.

Long before Hulbert and Hindman came on the scene there ^{was} is contradictory evidence as to the outline of the ruins and their value in determining the exact location of the fort.

Sargent in his Braddock, p. 50, and quoted in Pennsylvania Archives, Series I, Vol. 12, p. 420, says the "fort was a log-breastwork 100 feet square." This statement would seem to indicate that it was not a palisade of logs placed on end. There is no authority given for the Sargent statement. Freeman made the fort an irregular triangle, Sparks, Hulbert, and Hindman make it an irregular square, and Burd in his Journal of the Expedition to the Redstone Country in 1759 made the fort round.

Ward's description of the ruins as he saw them in 1854, printed in the North American, and quoted in Pennsylvania Archives, Ser. I, Vol. 12, p. 423, says, "A faint outline of the breastworks, and a trace of the ditch are yet visible, and now will remain so, for the rude hand

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which held the plow that aided during many years to level them was stayed at the intercession of a lover of the memories of these old places." It will be noticed that Ward says the area had been plowed over. This is what should be expected since it occupied the richest ground on the farm.

Writing in 1881, Everts, the historian of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, says of the site of the old fort, "The base is scarcely visible, with all trace gone of line across the run." The Pennsylvania Archives, Ser. I, Vol. 12, p. 422, has another early comment about the old fort. It reads, "Some few traces of the fort are visible, but the most of them have been destroyed by plowing."

The stream bed was straightened and changed by the Fazenbaker family, and the present restoration does not have any portion of the fort touch the little creek which ran through an angle of the walls which was thrown across the channel to insure water for those inside. The present restoration has not included any outside trenches, nor has it included an inside ditch, which may have run around the edge of the fort if it was a palisade, made by digging up dirt to throw against the logs. However, for drainage purposes such a restoration might not be practical. There is a painting of the Fort Necessity site made in 1854 by Paul Weber which now hangs on the walls of the Historical Society of Philadelphia.

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Geoffrey Fazenbaker found five logs under ground along a lane which ran near or through the fort site, depending upon which survey one accepts as being the correct one. It should be borne in mind that when the French destroyed the fort they very likely pulled down the logs, and piled them in heaps to be burnt. The fort could not very well be burnt with the logs in place as a stockade. Therefore the discovery of bits of old logs and of charcoals should not be taken necessarily to mark the precise spot where the stockade stood. Log remains may be found several yards from the actual foundations of the fort. It is quite likely that the logs were not any too securely fastened together or in the earth, and if the latter the rain soaked ground would have given them up rather easily when the French destroyed the fort in 1754.

Hulbert and Hindman seem to assume that the creek bed had not changed from 1816 to the dates of their own investigations. Too much importance is given to a few fragments of logs which were uncovered. These may have been yards away from the site of the fort. In summary, it seems to me, that there was insufficient evidence to warrant the restoration of the fort on lines which radically differed from those of the earliest survey made of the ruins, namely the Freeman Survey of 1816. A detailed study of this matter should be made if a precise and accurate restoration

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of the Fort Necessity site is desired.

Some attention should also be given to the question as to whether the fort was a palisade, with the logs placed on end, or whether it was a stockade or breastwork in fashion, with the logs placed on top of each other, with occasional logs planted in the ground to serve as posts for the wall. It would seem that this point is in some doubt, although the weight of evidence, so far as my knowledge goes, supports the belief that Fort Necessity was a palisade. It is represented as such in the restoration.

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Note on Braddock's Trail.

Braddock's Trail or Road was the route followed by that ill-fated British general in 1755, from Cumberland, Maryland, (at that time known as Will's Creek) to near the Forks of the Ohio, where his column was nearly exterminated by the French and Indian attack. The route was in ancient times an Indian trail of some kind. In 1748 Colonel Thomas Cresap, of Old Town, Maryland, was employed by the Ohio Company to mark a road to the Ohio. Cresap hired a Delaware Indian, named Nemaolin, to chart the best route to the Ohio. Nemaolin marked and cleared the path in 1850 ⁽¹⁾. In 1755 Washington used this trail in his approach to Fort Duquesne at the Forks of the Ohio, and it was over this trail that he reached Great Meadows, where he built Fort Necessity. The narrow trail that Nemaolin had marked was improved a little as succeeding expeditions travelled it. It was in 1755, with the march of Braddock's army from Will's Creek, that the first improvement came which gave to the trail the dignity of a road. Three hundred axemen were sent ahead of the army to clear the trail for the passage of guns, provisions, and the baggage wagons. Braddock's Road was used by

1. Veech, L. The Monongahela of Old, pp. 26-27.

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western travelling settlers and traders until the National Road was built in the first quarter of the 19th century. The National Road is always close to Braddock's Trail but does not actually follow its course. (1)

The greatest student of the Braddock Trail was a certain Mr. Laycock of Boston, now dead, who for several years, during the summer spent his vacation in going over and re-locating the old trail throughout its entire distance. It would be very important, I should think, to try to locate his papers on the Braddock Trail, which must be in the possession of his family somewhere. It is said that Mr. Laycock has a brother living in Washington, Pa. Mr. Laycock was a teacher in Harvard College or some other Boston school. None of my informants could give me definite information on this point.

Mr. William Hansel, living a half mile east of Fort Necessity on the National Road, and a native of the region

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1. A very good map of Braddock's Trail in Sargent's Braddock, p.198. A very large map of the Braddock Trail is in the Fort Necessity Museum. This map, it is said, was prepared at the instigation of a certain Mr. Laycock, who for many years had studied the old Braddock Trail and had in the years around 1930 retraced the old road from Cumberland to Braddock, Pa. It is very likely that another copy of this very large map is in Harrisburg somewhere, as it was compiled from original surveys in file with Department of Internal Affairs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The map was traced in 1932 by Wm. F. Rhoads.

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helped Mr. Laycock find and trace the road from Seven Springs to Dunbar's camp. This was a distance of about 12 miles and included the most historic section of the Trail. A few miles west from Seven Springs the trail passes Fort Necessity, then on by Braddock's grave, reaching the top of Laurel Hill at Half King's Rock. Two miles farther the trail skirts the hillside a short distance from Jumouville's Glen and a half mile distant reaches Dunbar's Camp. It was here that the rabble of Braddock's defeated army poured back into the rear guard in a panic stricken, disorganized mass. From Dunbar's Camp the whole army began its retreat of terror.

Between Fort Necessity and Jumouville's Grave there are two camp sites of the Braddock expedition. Camp Number 9 from Cumberland was about one mile west of Fort Necessity, at a point since known as Old Orchard Camp. It was almost the precise spot where Braddock was buried in the middle of the road a few days later as the straggling army hastened back toward Virginia. The second camp, or camp Number 10, was four miles beyond, at Half King's Rock or Washington's Spring. This is said to be the shortest march of the expedition, as well as the hardest part of the trail going west. The intervening distance between Old Orchard Camp and Washington's Spring makes the ascent of Laurel Hill. It was at Half King's Rock the year before that Washington had joined

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the Seneca chief for the destructive attack on Jumonville.

Mr. William Hansel says the trail is in most places 16-20 feet wide, that it is still well marked on the hills and in the woods but difficult to follow elsewhere. The trail has badly grown up with brush since his boyhood. Mr. Hansel says he believes he could re-locate the trail over the twelve miles he traced out for Mr. Laycock.

Braddock's Trail follows along to the south of the present highway, Route 40, all the way from Little Meadows to the site of Braddock's Grave, where it crosses to the north and thereafter bends farther and farther to the north and away from the modern highway. Between Little Meadows and Great Meadows and Braddock's grave the old Braddock Trail is scarcely a mile south of the road at any point.

Mr. Hansel says that at a place in the woods on his property where the trail crosses, and only a short distance from Fort Necessity was the only place going west that the Expedition had to use block and tackle to let their wagons down the trail. This was over a rocky decline. A second road, probably cut later, got around this spot going east.

The Laycock interest in the Braddock Trail was of long duration. Mr. Hansel stated that twenty some years ago two gentlemen drove up to his house and asked if a lunch could be prepared for them. The two men were Professor

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Temple and Mr. Laycock. While they were eating they began talking about the old Braddock Trail. After finishing their meal Mr. Laycock asked Mr. Hansel if he could show him where the trail went. This was done by Mr. Hansel and the idea developed in Mr. Laycock's mind to trace the whole trail from Cumberland, Maryland. This he did, using many natives living along the line of the trail to assist him. Mr. Hansel says that in 1932, at the time of the dedication of Fort Necessity, in connection with the celebration of the Washington Bi-Centennial, Professor Albert Bushnell Hart, Dean of the History Department of Harvard, and a great student of Washington, asked to be taken over the trail from Seven Springs to Fort Necessity. It was late in the evening when they started. The companion with Professor Hart had a map he was following and, contrary to the advice of Hansel, they followed a ravine off the trail and got lost in the darkness. Mr. Hansel says he would not undertake to follow the trail at night.

A young student from Gettysburg College, Mr. Graham, who is spending the summer at S.P.12, Fort Necessity, has been working on following the trail from Fort Necessity to Jumonville's Grave. He is getting a list of the property owners along the trail. Mr. Graham is collecting this information for the park and when he completes his work he should have considerable information about the trail between the two historic points.

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I visited the trail at various points and followed along its course for some distance. It must be said that the trail is utterly lost to the eye over a large part of the region I visited. In a few places it is very clearly defined. Where it crosses cultivated fields its course can only be conjectured. In the woods it is often impossible to tell it from old logging roads. Yet, with the aid of maps, of natives to the locality, and the location of the parts still plainly marked, it is possible to remark the trail with a considerable degree of accuracy. Unfortunately, at several points the trail passes immediately by a house, a barn or some other improvement.

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