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Collaborative Genealogy Services

7778 Grindstone Hill Road Chambersburg, PA 17202 (717) 597-1345 pam@andersoncogen.com

Elliott's Hotel of Franklin County, Pennsylvania

TO: Terry Zerwick, Alexandria, VA
FROM: Pam Anderson, Certified Genealogist®
DATE: 10 August 2018

RESTRICTIONS AND/OR LIMITATIONS:

Research and report to be conducted in 10 hours / by 31 August 2018
Limitations on records and repositories: Research in Franklin County

RESEARCH QUESTION:

What was the location of Elliott's Hotel in 1863, south of Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, likely in Welsh Run?

CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION:

- Ten (10) hours research, analysis and report, authorized by contract received 6 August 2018.

Genealogy Research Itemization		
DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY & REPOSITORY
13 & 14 Jul 2018	1:00	Review of information provided by client; formulation of research work plan
18 & 31 Jul 2018	1:15	Research at websites: Ancestry, Newspapers, Accessible Archives, Google
2 Aug 2018	1:15	Research at Franklin County Courthouse & Archives, Chambersburg, PA
17 Jul 2018	0:45	Research at Franklin County Historical Society, Chambersburg, PA
1 Aug 2018	1:15	Research at Conococheague Institute, Mercersburg, PA
1 Aug 2018	0:45	Research at Fendrick Library, Mercersburg, PA
3, 6, 8 Aug 2018	5:00	Written citations, analysis and correlation of research findings
Actual Time	11:15	Additional 1:15 to meet contract obligations

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION RELATED TO RESEARCH FOCUS

Provided by Client Prior to Research

Dr. Lafayette Butler (1824-1873) served in the Civil War from 1863-1864. According to a letter written to his son, Dr. Butler traveled from his home in East Freedom, Blair County, Pennsylvania to join the 13th Pennsylvania Reserve Regiment in Virginia. The letter stated, “I went to McConnellstown [McConnellsburg] for dinner and staid [*sic*] over night at Elliotts Hotel about 12 miles from Hagerstown [Maryland].” It is believed that Elliott’s Hotel was just south of Mercersburg, Franklin County, probably in or near Welsh Run.

Analysis of Provided Information

The above information has been reviewed and presumed reliable. Welsh Run is located on Route 416 in Montgomery Township between McConnellsburg and Hagerstown. According to Google Maps, Welsh Run is approximately 11.5 miles north of Hagerstown.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Elliott’s Hotel, also known as the Green Tree or Elliott’s Hotel/Inn/Tavern, was located approximately five miles south of Mercersburg on the north east side of what is currently Route 416, formerly known as the Mercersburg-Hagerstown Road, at the intersection of Garnes Road. In 1863, the hotel was owned by Jacob Elliott, who purchased the property from his father in 1848. The hotel was a prominent landmark and used for many local functions in the mid to late 1800s. The building that housed the hotel burnt c. 2010, and no photographs have been located.

ITEMIZED RESEARCH FINDINGS

The following records were scanned and/or copied and analyzed. Citations were placed on each accompanying image with a cross reference to their appropriate exhibit (Ex) and footnote (Fn). All analytical comments about the records are in *italic*. Digital images of designated exhibits will be emailed for easier examination by the client.

Census Records

The federal government conducted a census every ten years, beginning in 1790. The Pennsylvania Septennial Census was conducted every seven years from 1779-1863. Census records provide information about individuals, families and communities. They can help find a family's residence and trace its migration. People enumerated next to each other or in the same general area may be relatives, families who moved together, or families that intermarried. Other types of census records include agricultural, industry and manufacturing, mortality, etc.

- 1860 U.S. Federal Census: The 1860 census lists Jacob Elliot in Welsh Run, Montgomery Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania as an “inn keeper.” He is living with Nancy, his presumed wife, and three presumed children, Susan, Mary, Frank. His real estate is valued at \$3,000.¹
- 1870 U.S. Federal Census: The 1870 census lists “Jacob Elliott” still in Montgomery Township, as “keeping hotel.” He is living with Nancy, his presumed wife, and Franklin T, his presumed son. His real estate is now valued at \$7,000.²

PANOTES: Jacob Elliott was clearly the owner of an inn/ hotel by 1860. Its value increased from \$3,000 in 1860 to \$7,000 in 1870. Frank/Franklin T. was likely his youngest son.

Land Records

Land records exist for periods of time for which other records are not available. Deeds can place families in a particular location and time. They can also provide information on a person's current and/or former residence and occupation, spouse, and other relationships. Family members may be listed as witnesses, neighbors, etc. Land records can also help differentiate same-named people.

¹ 1860 U.S. census, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Montgomery Township, Welsh Run Post Office, p. 648 (stamped), 276 (penned), dwelling 1927, family 1987, Jacob Elliot; digital image 46 of 82, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 July 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1112.

² 1870 U.S. census, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Montgomery Township, p. 436(stamped), 57 (penned), dwelling 373, family 411, Jacob Elliott; digital image 57 of 91, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 July 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1346.

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- 1848 Articles of Agreement: On 25 April 1848, John Elliott sold eight acres and 74 perches in Montgomery Township in the form of a quit claim deed to his son, Jacob Elliott, for \$1,692.50. The property was on the north east side of the Hagerstown Road. The document states, “Jacob Elliott, accepts as his full share of the Real Personal Estate of the said John Elliott his father and forever discharge the Estate of the said John. . . .” This property included “buildings and improvements.”³
- 1848 Deed: Immediately following the articles of agreement is the deed for the same property, from John Elliott to Jacob Elliott. It states that the land is “in Montgomery Township . . . (known as Elliotts Tavern Stand).”⁴

*PA Notes: Jacob Elliott purchased property and buildings in 1848 from his father, John Elliott. As the property had improvements, John may have owned and run Elliott’s Tavern prior to selling the property to Jacob. The value of this property increased from \$1,700 in 1848 to \$3,000 in 1860, and \$7,000 in 1870, clearly indicating that this deed describes the same property as in the 1860 and 1870 census records. A “stand” is defined as “the forerunner of today’s motel or tourist court.”*⁵

Newspaper Articles

Newspaper articles can give information on vital events such as births, marriages and deaths. They can also provide additional insight into a person’s education, career, political and community activities, and life in general. Other articles may include local news, real estate transactions, business advertisements, probate court and legal notices, or biographical sketches.

- Petitions for Licenses: On 21 March 1860, a published notice stated that Jacob Elliot filed a petition for a license for his “hotel” in Welsh Run.⁶
- General Elections: On 10 September 1862, a published notice stated that the “House of Jacob Elliott” was designated as a polling place for the “Welsh Run District, being part of Montgomery township”.⁷
- Notice to The Tax Payers: On 8 April 1863, a published notice stated that “the house of Jacob Elliott in Welsh Run” was one of the locations in Franklin County to pay taxes.⁸

³ Franklin County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book 21:251, John Elliott to Jacob Elliott, articles of agreement to quit claim, 25 April 1848, recorded 15 August 1848; Register and Recorder’s Office, Chambersburg.

⁴ Franklin County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book 21:251-252, John Elliott to Jacob Elliott, deed, 25 April 1848, recorded 15 August 1848; Register and Recorder’s Office, Chambersburg.

⁵ Barbara Jean Evans, *A to Zax: A comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists & Historians* (Midlothian, Virginia: Hearthside Press, 1995), 249.

⁶ “Notice,” *The Valley Spirit (Chambersburg, Pennsylvania)* 21 March 1860, p. 5, col. 6; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 31 July 2018).

⁷ “Proclamation. General Election,” notice, *The Valley Spirit (Chambersburg, Pennsylvania)* 10 September 1862, p. 5, col. 4; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 31 July 2018).

⁸ “Notice to the Tax Payers of Franklin County,” *The Valley Spirit (Chambersburg, Pennsylvania)* 8 April 1863, p. 3, col. 3; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 31 July 2018).

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- Notice to The Tax Payers: On 20 April 1870, a published notice stated that “Elliott’s Hotel” was one of the locations to pay taxes for “part of Montgomery Township.”⁹
- Obituary: On 28 June 1898, the obituary of Jacob Elliott stated that he was “born at Welsh Run where he conducted the Green Tree Hotel for a number of years.”¹⁰

PA NOTES: Jacob Elliott’s hotel was prominent in the Welsh Run area in the late 1800s. The hotel was used as a government meeting place for both voting and paying taxes from at least 1860-1870. Jacob’s obituary states that his son was Frank T, as listed in census records, and that Jacob owned the Green Tree Hotel for several years. This confirms the assertion that the hotel went by two names, both Green Tree and Elliott’s, named after the owner.

Other Sources

It is helpful to survey other documents that may not be original. It is important to understand that any of these findings must be evaluated further, but they can offer clues on which direction to take the research. In addition, county histories can provide an insight to the development of the county and migration patterns.

- Maps
 - 1868 Beers Atlas of Montgomery Township: This 1868 map lists property owners and important places. “J. Elliott Green Tree Hotel” and “Township” are located at what is currently the intersection of Garnes Road and Route 416.¹¹
 - Tour Map: This driving and biking map of southwestern Franklin County gives the following information: “The white house with double porches on Route 416 at the intersection with Garnes Road was the former Green Tree Tavern, a stagecoach stop after the road was constructed in the 1790s.”¹²
- Communications:
 - A phone call to Welsh Run Boarding and Grooming, located at the corner of Garnes Road and Route 416, revealed that the Green Tree Inn “was across the road from where our kennel’s at. But the original house burnt down about 8, 9 years ago. And at one time of day it was an Inn.”¹³

⁹ “Notice to the Tax Payers of Franklin County,” *The Valley Spirit (Chambersburg, Pennsylvania)* 8 April 1863, p. 3, col. 3; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 8 August 2018).

¹⁰ “Death’s Doings,” obituary, Jacob Elliott, *The Daily Mail (Hagerstown, Maryland)* 28 June 1898, 3C; digital image, *Washington County Library* (washcolibrary.org : received 1 August 2018).

¹¹ Pomeroy & Beers, “Montgomery,” *Atlas of Franklin County Pennsylvania: From Actual Surveys Under the Direction of D.G. Beers*, (1868; reprint, Knightstown, Indiana: The Bookmark, 1974), 36.

¹² Conococheague Institute, “Biking and Driving Tour of French and Indian War Sites in Southwest Franklin County, Pennsylvania,” 2005, *Franklin County Visitor’s Bureau* (<https://www.explorefranklincountypa.com> : accessed 31 July 2018).

¹³ Rick Hade, Welsh Run Boarding and Grooming, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, telephone message transcription by Pam Anderson, 1 August 2018, “Green Tree Inn,” privately held by Pam, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

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- An email from the executive director of the Conococheague Institute stated that, “The Green Tree Inn/Tavern was built in Welsh Run PA in 1803. . . . The building burnt in 2004 or 2005. The stage coach ran until 1915 from Mercersburg to Hagerstown.”¹⁴
- Palmer Papers: This collection by John G. Palmer has an entire section of notes on the Green Tree Inn as well as a general description of early inns and taverns.¹⁵

PA NOTES: The above sources provide additional evidence on the location, owner, and name of the hotel/inn that was in existence in the 1860s in the Welsh Run area, and more specifically at the intersection of the current Garnes Road and Route 416. Based on the dates provided by two people and the copyright on the tour brochure, the hotel burnt some time between 2005 and 2010. Unfortunately, no photographs have been found. It is not known what “Township” designates near “Green Tree Hotel” on the Beers Atlas.

SEARCHES WITH NO RESULTS

At the Franklin County Historical Society, Conococheague Institute, and Fendrick Library, searches for Elliott’s/Green Tree Hotel/Inn/Tavern:

- Fendrick Papers
- Mercersburg Journal Abstracts
- Kittochtinny Papers
- First Families of Cumberland County
- Elliott Family vertical file
- “The Descendants of Robert Elliott of Welsh Run”

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Elliott’s Hotel was located at the intersection of Garnes Road and Route 416, formerly the Hagerstown or Mercersburg-Hagerstown Road in the Welsh Run area of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. At this time, all research has been completed on this project, and there are no further recommendations.

¹⁴ Clifford Smith, Conococheague Institute, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania to Pam Anderson, e-mail, 8 August 2018, “Green Tree Inn,” privately held by Pam, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

¹⁵ “Green Tree Inn, Welsh Run, Pennsylvania,” undated; typed and hand-written notes, 17, 3067-3077; Palmer Papers (Papers of John G. Palmer), 1867-1956; Fendrick Library, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. Transcriptions and notes are not cited, but give additional context to Inns of the 1800s.

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EXHIBITS:

NO.	EXHIBIT	REPOSITORY
1	1860 Federal Census for Jacob Elliott	<i>Ancestry.com</i>
2	1870 Federal Census for Jacob Elliott	<i>Ancestry.com</i>
3	* 1848 Articles of Agreement for Elliott Property	Franklin County Courthouse
4	* 1848 Deed for Elliott Property	Franklin County Courthouse
5	1860 Petition for Hotel License	<i>Newspapers.com</i>
6	1862 Notice of General Election	<i>Newspapers.com</i>
7	1863 Notice to Tax Payers	<i>Newspapers.com</i>
8	1870 Notice to Tax Payers	<i>Newspapers.com</i>
9	1898 Obituary for Jacob Elliott	<i>Newspapers.com</i>
10	1868 Beers Atlas for Montgomery Township	Franklin County Historical Society, Chambersburg
11	Biking and Driving Tour	Franklin County Visitors Bureau, Chambersburg
12	Palmer Papers, p. 17, 3067-3077	Fendrick Library, Mercersburg
* Records that will also be sent digitally		

END OF REPORT