



CHURCH-
Founded- 1732
Built-1740

SHARON ST.

MANSE-
Built-1856

LEGEND

----- Suggested route



WILHELM RD.

Burials in the PAXTON CHURCH GRAVEYARD date from the early 1700's. In those days graves were not laid out in neat rows of assigned spaces, but were randomly arranged in the general area of the present cemetery. In 1792 a stone wall was constructed around those graves that were marked. In 1852 the enclosure was expanded to the south about 90 feet, to its present size and shape. It contains the burials of some of this area's earliest settlers and a number of active participants in the Revolution. You are invited to take a walking tour of this historic location. By following the suggested route shown on the map, you will pass the resting places of those persons listed below, persons who helped found our country and make it great.

- 1 **HENRY MCKINNEY 1714-1777** An early settler of this area. He fought in the Revolution when over 60 years old.
- 2 **WILLIAM KELSO 1737-1788** His father established Kelso's Ferry, now Wormleysburg.
- 3 **REV. JOHN ELDER 1706-1792** Famous "fighting parson" and organizer of the Paxton Boys. Born and educated in Scotland, was a pastor of Paxton Church from 1738-1791. A staunch supporter of the Revolution, he recruited for the army.
- 4 **ROBERT ELDER 1742-1818** Eldest son of Rev. John Elder, fought in French and Indian War and the Revolution. A ruling elder of Paxton Church.
- 5 **JOSHUA ELDER 1744-1820** Second son of Parson Elder. Involved in the military during frontier troubles and Revolution.
- 6 **ROBERT MCCLURE 1763-1839** Although young, fought in Revolution. A Ruling Elder of Paxton Church.
- 7 **JOHN HARRIS, JR. 1726-1791** Founder of Harrisburg and son of man who made the original settlement there. J. H. Sr. established a ferry across river 1753, is buried near John Harris Mansion.
- 8 **WILLIAM MACLAY 1737-1804** Fought in French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars. A lawyer, elected the 1st U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania. Married a daughter of John Harris II.
- 9 **JOHN GILCHRIST 1761-1835** Joined the Revolution at age 15. Was captured.

- 10 **JAMES CROUCH 1764-1794** Served in the Revolution. Was captured in Quebec.
- 11 **EDWARD CROUCH 1764-1827** Fought in the Revolution. Member of 13th Congress.
- 12 **JAMES COWDEN 1737-1810** Born in Paxtang. Fought in the Revolution. In 1809 was a Presidential Elector for Madison.
- 13 **CAPTAIN JOHN RUTHERFORD 1737-1804** Fought in the Revolution, commanding a company from Middletown.
- 14 **THOMAS RUTHERFORD 1707-1777** Came from Ireland in 1729. He and his wife, Jean Murdoch, are the ancestors of Rutherfords of this area.
- 15 **SAMUEL RUTHERFORD 1749-1785** Served as a lieutenant in the Revolution.
- 16 **JOHN GRAY 1698-1785** one of the earliest settlers here. Came from Ireland in 1730. Was captain of a rifle company in John Elder's batallion during French and Indian War.
- 17 **ROBERT GRAY 1757-1848** Served in the Revolution, wintering at Valley Forge with George Washington.
- 18 **MICHAEL SIMPSON 1740-1813** Fought in Indian forays and Revolution, becoming a Brigadier General. His brother, William Simpson, was among the first killed in the war.
- 19 **JACOB AWL 1727-1793** Born in North Ireland, he came here to be a tanner. Settled near his relative, John Harris. Was a commissioner in laying out the county of Dauphin. Served in the Frontier wars and Revolution.
- 20 **JOHN BRISBAN 1730-1822** A native of Ireland, he came here about the beginning of the French and Indian War. Served as a Captain in the Revolution.
- 21 **THOMAS FORSTER 1696-1772** Born in Ireland of Scotch parents, was among the first to settle in Paxtang. Fought during Indian troubles. Helped establish Paxton Church and donated 20 acres where it now stands.

- 22 **MOSES GILLMOR 1749-1825** Born in Ulster, Ireland. Came to Hanover in 1766. Went back to Ireland before the Revolution, returning in 1783. A merchant active in political affairs, he helped establish Market Square Presbyterian Church.
- 23 **GENERAL JOHN KEAN 1728-1801** One of the first settlers of Harrisburg. Held several government positions including Judge and State Senator. Fought in Revolution. In 1800 was a Presidential Elector for Jefferson.
- 24 **JAMES ELDER 1895-1918** Killed in France during World War I.
- 25 **DR. M. LOUISE RUTHERFORD 1892-1976** Served as a Deputy Attorney General of Pennsylvania.
- 26 **LT. DONALD I. RUTHERFORD, JR. 1924-1945** Only member of Paxton Church killed in World War II.
- 27 **DARWIN F. PICKARD 1875-1950** Served as pastor of Paxton Church 1901-1905.
- 28 **RICHARD FULTON 1706-1774** One of the earliest settlers of this area, arriving in 1722. Kin of the steamboat inventor.
- 29 **WILLIAM BROWN 1720-1787** Born at sea of Scotch parents. An organizer of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. A member of the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1776. Proposed the emancipation of slaves in the Commonwealth.
- 30 **LUCY LORRETT 1747-1847** Lived 100 years. A faithful slave of the Crouch family.
- 31 **GEORGE LORRETT 1773-1862** Born on a farm in Lower Swatara Township, where his mother was a slave. One of the first blacks to own property in Dauphin County. Called "King George", he died the last slave in the county.
- 32 **DINAH 1788-1878** Faithful "Mammy" to several generations of Cowdens.
- 33 **GEORGE WASHINGTON** A slave who came north in 1865 with the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry.

The Graveyard

of

Paxton

Presbyterian Church

Historical Notes
and
Guide

Graves of:

Rev. John Elder - the "fighting parson"
John Harris - the founder of Harrisburg
William Maclay - Penna. first Senator
Several Revolutionary War soldiers and other
historical figures.

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Michael Knight
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