



A section of the 1768 Mason-Dixon Line survey shows the West Conococheague Settlement near mile marker 110.

CONOCOCHÉAGUE INSTITUTE

Colonial Frontier Forts Project

Conococheague Institute is undertaking a major new initiative to promote the local history of Franklin County, PA and Washington County, MD. In 2004, the institute began commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War (1754 – 1763) as a participating site in affiliation with Col. Washington’s Frontier Forts Association. The association represents a network of sites and educational programs dedicated to the interpretation of the French and Indian War in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. As part of this network, the institute developed an extensive exhibit on the colonial frontier forts of Franklin and Washington Counties, which opened to the public in April 2004.

The exhibit includes artwork, maps, text, photographs, scale models and original artifacts of the French and Indian War period. The major part of the exhibit is set up on the institute’s property as a series of permanent, outdoor displays, available for visitation on a daily basis. The scale models and original artifacts are on display in the institute’s library and available for visitation during the library’s regular hours and by special arrangement.

Martin-Negley House

The Martin-Negley house, pictured on the front panel, dates to 1810 and is shown as it appears today after restoration by institute volunteers. The log building is an excellent example of the Pennsylvania German three-room plan with double entryways. It was built by the Negleys for use by the elders of the family as a “Grandparents House.” The restoration of the Martin-Negley house, dedicated in 2002, is one of the major achievements of the institute.

Directions to Conococheague Institute

- From **I-81** – take Greencastle exit 5 to PA Rt. 16 going west. Travel through Greencastle and the village of Upton to PA Rt. 995 (just past the “Whitetail” sign). Turn left (south) on 995* to Welsh Run (3 miles) and continue on 995 across PA Rt. 416 and past the Robert Kennedy Church for 1.4 miles. Turn left on Bain Road shortly past the Welsh Run Brethren Church and continue 1 mile to Rock Hill Farm. Conococheague Institute is on the right just past the “Welcome” sign.
- From **I-76** – take Breezewood exit 161 to PA Rt. 30 going east to McConellsburg. From McConellsburg take PA Rt. 16 going east through Mercersburg. Continue east on 16 to PA Rt. 995. Turn right on 995 going south. *Continue with directions from above.



Martin-Negley House, circa 1810

FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY

12995 Bain Road • Mercersburg, PA 17236
(717)328-3467 • pioneerhistory@innernet.net
• www.conococheague.org



Conococheague Institute is located on historic Rock Hill farm, first settled in 1736, near the village of Welsh Run in southwest Franklin County, PA. The institute, a non profit 501(c)3 corporation, was formed in 1994 to serve as a steward of the cultural and natural history of the West Conococheague and Welsh Run region. Since its founding, the institute has conducted archaeological and historical research on the property's Welsh, English/Scotch-Irish and Pennsylvania German settlements (1736-1850), established a genealogy and research library, preserved and restored an early 1800s PA German log house (dedicated in 2002), recreated an historic PA German 4-square (kitchen) garden, developed an interpretive nature trail adjacent to Welsh Run, and reconstructed a corner post log building for use as a visitor center.

Conococheague Institute serves as a regional center for the purpose of developing and fostering an awareness, understanding and stewardship of the cultural and natural history of the West Conococheague region. The institute carries out its purpose through:

EDUCATION

- by promoting the stewardship of our cultural and natural heritage
- by developing and teaching curricula of study on the local history and environment
- by recruiting and training volunteers
- by developing a research and genealogical library

INTERPRETATION

- by developing public exhibits on the frontier life of the Conococheague region
- by creating walking trails and wayside exhibits on the local ecology

RESEARCH

- by furthering our understanding of the westward movement of settlers in Pennsylvania and Maryland during the 1700s
- by identifying the contributions made by the Welsh, Scots-Irish, English and German settlers

PRESERVATION

- by preserving and restoring the Rock Hill farm site developed by the Davis (Davies), Chambers and Negley families from the 1730s to the 1850s
- by developing a collection of historic objects of the Conococheague region, dating from the 1700s
- by serving as a center for rural preservation and cultural and environmental studies.

To help achieve its purpose, Conococheague Institute actively seeks and builds affiliations with local and national historical organizations and genealogy groups.

Davis-Chambers House

The Davis-Chambers house, built 1752 and altered in 1794, is the primary residence at Rock Hill farm. The original section was built by the Welsh Davis family as a two story log home. It replaced an earlier one story log structure built by John Davis at the time the Rock Hill farm was first settled in 1736. The house retains its hand hewn chestnut log walls and pit sawn board walls and puncheon flooring. In 1794, Robert Chambers altered the building by raising the roofline, adding a double porch, enlarging the windows and doors, and applying a stucco coating over the exterior surface of the log walls.



INVITATION TO JOIN AND VOLUNTEER

If you are interested in local history, historic preservation, genealogy and local ecology, consider becoming an annual member of Conococheague Institute. Membership support provides funding for a variety of ongoing programs and special events. If you are interested in becoming more actively involved, the institute has many opportunities for volunteer service. For more information contact the institute at (717)328-3467 or by e-mail at pioneerhistory@innernet.net.
