

## *Then and Now... a tradition of public service by the Hendricks*

Most of the following information comes from HSCH member Bob Rowland whose scholarly article "Tobias Hendricks: A Family Tradition of Service" was published in the *Cumberland County's Journal* in 2003. Bob's following paragraph is a wonderful place to begin:

*"The Hendricks family had been extensively involved in public service in support of their new and developing country. Tobias's father, Albertus Hendricks, a Dutch indentured servant arrived in the colonies in February 1662, and settled along the Delaware River in Chester County. The Chester County records make frequent reference to Albertus serving as a juror, witness, constable and in special appointments. In 1673 he served as a constable and is reported as the first person in Pennsylvania to have held that office. In 1684 he served on a jury involving witchcraft, and in 1685 he is listed as Supervisor of Highways. His early immigration to this new developing country and his involvement as a public servant obviously were significant in the raising of his frontier sons."*

Albertus Hendricks

Tobias Hendricks, Sr. (c. 1680 – 1739)

Tobias Hendricks, Jr. (1714 – 1779)

1673 Albertus Hendricks, Sr. became the first person to be named a Constable in PA a mere eleven years after arriving here, and after having worked out his indenture contract.

c. 1680 Albertus, received a Patent from Gov. Lovelace of the Dutch government for 500 acres near Chester, PA. He married Catherine Boyer of New Castle County, Delaware. His son, Tobias Hendricks was born c. 1680 near the Delaware River in Chester County.

Before 1718, Tobias and his brothers James and John were the first "English Quakers" who became Indian traders [others were French]. The Hendricks were neither English nor Quaker, but they seem to have married women who were.

Tobias Hendricks, Jr. was born in 1714 on the Delaware in Chester County, PA. He became an Indian Trader and fighter, as well as a tavern keeper and militia officer.

Between 1718 and 1737, Tobias, Sr. lived in Pequa [south of Lancaster and west of Chester on land that his father had surveyed. He made his living in husbandry and as a cooper (wooden barrels). Although a long-time associate of Quaker John Wright, he baptized his first three children at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on the Delaware at Chester, PA.

He moved his family to Conestoga in 1724. From there he held many positions for the Penn Proprietaries including being on the Commission of Peace for the erection of Lancaster County in 1729, when it was separated from Chester County. He served as a Quarter Sessions Justice from 1726 until his death in 1739, attending Quarter Sessions in Philadelphia. Of Albertus' sons, Tobias was the only known literate. (Of Tobias' sons, who were all in the Indian Trading business, Tobias Hendrick's, Jr. was the only known literate!)

6 May 1736 Thomas Penn authorized Tobias Hendricks, Sr. to serve as a magistrate in Lowther Manor. The Hendricks then moved to what is now Lower Allen Township on the land along Cedar Run located at the foot of today's Township offices as discussed in our last issue.

Shortly thereafter, Tobias Hendricks, Jr. established his presence in Camp Hill on the other major trail to the western frontier. His was the first Tavern in what became Cumberland County. Records suggest it was fully operational by 1740.

29 March 1748 Tobias, Jr. was appointed as an officer in the militia in preparation for what became the French & Indian War. He supervised much livestock, which was turned loose to graze toward the western border of Lowther Manor.

1749, Tax Collector for East Pennsboro Township. (His own taxes were 23 pounds, 16 shillings, and 6 pence.) 1751 and 1752, Coroner at a council held in Philadelphia.

*The story will continue in our April issue of this Newsletter. Hendricks family service and sacrifice will be presented. As a Preview of Coming Attractions, see the photo below of the Historical Marker in Willow Park at Market Street. It commemorates Tobias Hendricks, Jr.'s son, Captain William Hendricks.*

