

The Third Brady Reunion

Cumberland Co., Pennsylvania
August 19th and 20th, 1926

Jupiter Pluvius did his best to wreck the Third Reunion of the descendants of Hugh and Hannah Brady, Pioneers. But every feature of the program was carried out between showers as scheduled and the universal verdict was that the affair was a complete success and amply repaid those courageous cousins who set out in the rainy weather after a journey of hundreds and even thousands of miles to the shrine of our forefather's homeland.

A Tribute To The Homestead And Beautiful Cumberland Valley

Spoken by Mrs. Belle McKinney Hays Swope at the
Third Brady Family Reunion held at the Homestead

Our President asked me to speak to you tonight on the interesting history of the Cumberland Valley.

Nowhere in God's masterpiece of nature more gloriously woven into mountain and vale than in the fertile reaches of these broad acres where our pioneer ancestors made possible for us the comfort and charm we now enjoy.

To the north the Kittoctinny range of the Blue Mountains sweeps along with guarding poise, as though protecting the beauty and grandeur of the everlasting hills. Another range of mountains skirts the valley on the south, leaving a breadth of eighteen miles at its widest point. Threading its course like a silver ribbon runs the Conodoguinet Creek, rippling on its way until it is lost in the waters of the Susquehanna near Harrisburg. On the bank of this creek our forefathers built their homes--not only the Brady family, but many who like them purchased land after 1736, when the valley was thrown open to settlers, most of them Irish and Scotch Irish.

The Brave Women Of The Frontier

From a speech by Belle McKinney Hayes Swope

Think of the women, their brave fighting spirits, devoted to piety, and undaunted self-sacrifice in the midst of tremendous dangers and perils which would overwhelm us in this age of luxury and freedom. Not only the men but the mothers of our race unselfishly gave their best and finest moral excellence to that most important duty and privilege of moulding character and implanting in the hearts and soul of their children that which God and they only could do.

The loving loyalty of Mary Quigley Brady is one of many outstanding types of ardent womanhood. After the death of Captain John Brady in 1779 she brought her family to the ancestral Quigley home along the Conodoguinet Creek, but remained only from May until October. The call across the wilderness could not be withstood. Near the present town of Muncy was her farm, her dreams and the body of her husband. The brave little pioneer took the trail she and Captain John blazed eleven years previous, and reached her destination in safety. I wish we knew more about the women and men who made history in those days when the axe felled the trees for the house, when the hearth fire shed warmth and glow on strong, tender faces--strong in fortitude and determination to make their valley blossom as the rose, tender with the ties which made life sweet and beautiful.

The Shawnees and Delaware Indians lurked and leered, burned and scalped, yet the sun rose and set, night and morning followed their appointed periods of time, seedtime and harvest-time failed not, one generation after another went home

to God and children's children visioned peace on the horizon. It became a reality, and today in our wildest flights of fancy we cannot even picture the seemingly impossible tragedies of life and love enacted in those early days when our nation was in the making, the foundations and stepping stones depending upon the character and righteous worth of the builders. Our ancestors helped lay and dedicate these foundations, and well may our hearts overflow with gratitude and our lips voice the praise our souls long to utter, when we contemplate their heroic deeds and devotion to a consecrated cause. They gave their best, we reap the harvest. It is that of peace, freedom, and a garden of loveliness in the midst of which we dwell.

*We the subscribers Acknowledge that we have received
our full share from the house of John Brady into
Cumberland Co. Pa. from the Company & Heirs of Capt
1759 as Witness our hands this 18th August 1759*

John Brady, Serjeant *Hugh Hunter, Serjeant*
William Braddy, Corp. *William Braddy, Corp.*
Andrew Braddy, Corp. *David Miller*
Joseph Braddy, Corp. *James Laman*
John Braddy, Corp. *James Braddy*
George Clark *Thomas Carley*

Through the kindness of Mr. Kenneth Buffington of the Colonial Trust Company of Pittsburgh, this precious old paper was exhibited at the Brady Reunion at Ligonier, Pa., in the care of his Secretary, Mrs. W. B. Morrison.

The signature of John Brady, sergeant, heads the list and it is a splendid signature well preserved. This John Brady was the son of Hugh Brady, Pioneer of Cumberland County, and became the celebrated Captain John Brady of Revolutionary days. The second signature is that of Corporal William Braddy, whose identity cannot be determined.

The time is August 18, 1759. All but a few hundred of Forbes Army returned East in December 1758, after the capture of Fort Duquesne, from the French.