

PANDEMONIUM

From “The Ghost Towns of Perry County” a new book from Dr. Dennis Hocker and part of the Perry Heritage Collection. The book will be released in early 2014 and is available at www.PerryHeritage.com

No other village gets more interest and generates more curiosity than Pandemonium! However, Pandemonium is more modern mythology than any factual information. The historical truth is there has never been a village officially known as Pandemonium.

The name became popular over 40 years ago after an article was published in the Perry County Times claiming that Henry’s Valley was dubbed Pandemonium. The name stuck and the area became a point of interest for paranormal researchers. In all fairness, the claim is partially correct. However only a very small portion of the valley, about 300 acres, can lay claim to that name.

Back in the 18th century as Perry County was being settled and land was being warranted from the Penn family, it was a common practice to name a piece of property. The practice never really gained acceptance and use here in our area but large ranches in the mid-west and western United States are commonly known by their given name.

Many of us can relate to this practice from popular TV series. We all know that on the show Bonanza the ranch was “The Ponderosa” and on the show Dallas the ranch was known as “South Fork”. This illustrates the convention of formally naming a tract of land.

Back to reality – the Diehl family can officially be credited with introducing the name Pandemonium. Charles Diehl Jr. used that name for a 255 acre tract in York County in 1762. Daniel Diehl also used the name Pandemonium for a 300 acre tract on May 3, 1787 then in Cumberland County but now known as Henry’s Valley in Perry County.

Samuel Diehl warranted an adjoining 105 acres just to west of Daniel also in 1787. It is Samuel’s warrant that now would be the land on which the Pioneer Cemetery now rests.

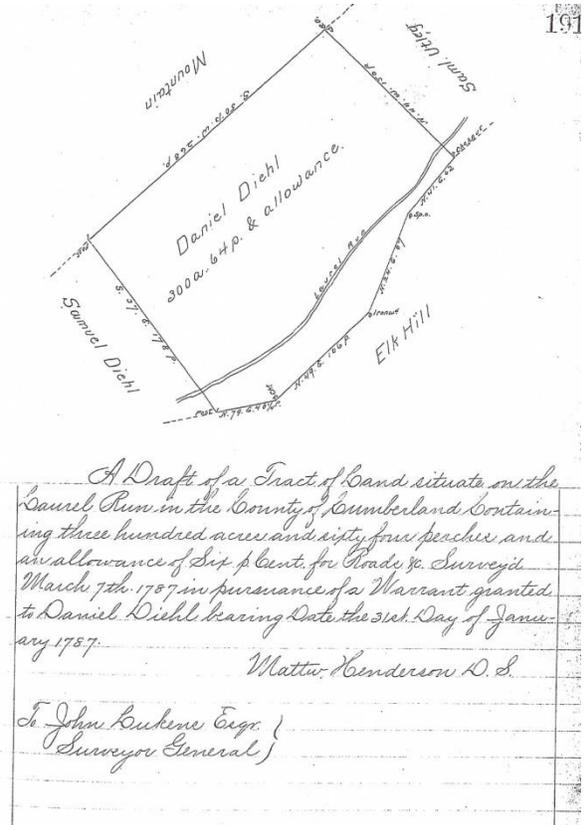
On the following page is a copy of the Land Names Register from the Pennsylvania Archives with the Pandemonium names on record.

The name Pandemonium was coined by English poet John Milton in his 1677 *Paradise Lost*. In the book Pandemonium was the capital city of hell. It comes from the Greek Pan (meaning all) and daimon (meaning demon). It can be translated to the abode of all demons. What a horrible name for a piece of property!

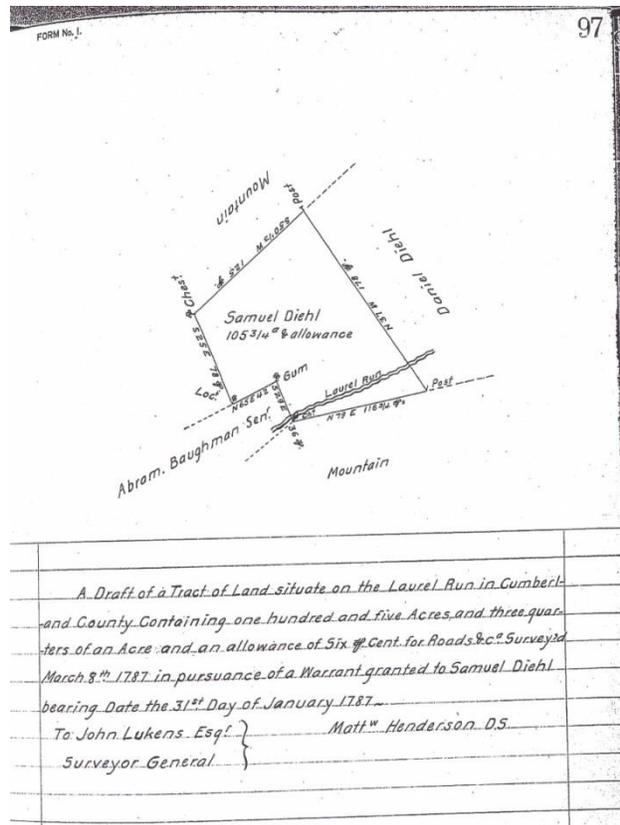
Where Enrolled			DATE OF PATENT	NAME OF TRACT	PATENTEE	AREA		WARRANTEE	DATE OF WARRANT	COUNTY
Book	Vol.	Page				Acres	Prs.			
P	18	338	Jan'y. 28. 1782	Pack Saddle	Drinker, Henry	88	48	George Woods	Augt. 11. 1782	Huntingdon
P	8	145	July 18. 1786	Packington	Haincs, Reuben	403	150	Israel Morris	July 8. 1786	Northampton
P	12	311	March 20. 1788	Paddy's Bride	McMahon, Patrick	235	57	Patrick McPherson	April 2. 1786	York
P	13	285	March 19. 1789	Paddy's Retreat	Walker, David	209	26	Robert Harvey	Sept. 15. 1782	Huntingdon
P	16	78	Oct. 10. "	Padstew	McCowan, John	148	145	John McCowan	July 2. 1787	Cumberland
P	12	261	Jan'y. 31. 1789	Padua	Neihart, Frederick	130	80	Frederick Neihart	May. 24. 1785	Northampton
P	5	33	Jan'y. 10. 1786	Paempling	Pratt, Henry	200	1	Dep. Cert. "41. Dist. 2	March 12. 1783	Westmoreland
P	18	289	Nov. 24. 1791	Paempling	Cooper, George	78 1/2	1	Michael Darragh	April. 16. 1776	Dauphin
P	3	499	Augt. 20. 1785	Paint No Paint	McAlister, Richard	35	100	James Sample	July 2. 1746	York
P	4	155	Sept. 16. "	"	Miller, George	426	120	Valentine Wagner	May. 31. 1785	Northumberland
P	4	375	Feb'y. 7. 1786	Paisley	Alexander, Jacob	216	120	Jacob Alexander	July. 5. 1786	Cumberland
P	7	161	June 6. "	Paisly	Stuart, James	250	1	Dep. Cert. "57. Dist. "5	March 18. 1783	Westmoreland
P	13	352	Oct. 22. 1788	Palace	McClaron, Matthew	392	1	William King	July. 1. 1784	"
P	1	118	Jan'y. 30. 1782	Packersburg	Packer, James	43	80	James Packer	Nov. 29. 1776	Northumberland
P	13	171	May. 20. 1788	Palace Royal	Rex, Abraham	108	59	Hans Adam Oetz	" 14. 1739	Northampton
P	19	21	Augt. 13. 1782	Palatinote	Hilegas, Michael	407	120	James Bayard	July. 1. 1782	Northumberland
P	5	32	Jan'y. 10. 1786	Palencia	Pratt, Henry	200	1	Dep. Cert. "137. Dist. 2	March 12. 1783	Westmoreland
P	5	34	"	Palermo	"	200	1	" " 132	"	"
P	5	24	" 3	Palestine	Cohen, Moses	200	1	" " 136	" 4	"
P	1	133	" 30. 1792	Palma	Wilson, James	323	77	Thos. Palmer	Oct. 9. 1776	Northampton
P	3	281	April. 13. 1785	Palmyra	Shippin, Joseph Jr.	175	40	Jes. Shippin Jr.	April. 1. 1776	Cumberland
P	3	108	Nov. 9. 1784	Painsburg	Palin, John Jr.	170	80	Adam Boneville	Oct. 2. 1751	BECKS
P	1	249	June. 14. 1782	Palmyra	Morris, Robert	343	150	Robert Morris (except)	May. 14. 1782	Northampton
P	16	146	Feb'y. 5. 1790	"	Palin, Adam	180	1	Adam Palin	June. 23. 1786	Bedford
P	1	350	Sept. 17. 1782	"	Swift, Joseph	398	50	Joseph Swift	Sept. 30. 1765	Cumberland
P	19	406	Augt. 21. 1793	Paltz	Beightel, George	216	1	George Beightel	Augt. 2. 1788	Dauphin
P	12	210	Feb'y. 12. 1788	Pamana	Potts, Samuel (Gnaw)	206	80	Edmund Physick	July. 29. 1751	Berks
P	1	162	Nov. 15. 1782	Pampadour	Morris, Robert	304	114	Matthew Irwin	April. 22. 1776	Northampton
P	1	163	March 27. 1782	Panama	Vannessa, Philip et al.	322	61	J. Leebuck (part)	Jan'y. 6. 1768	Northumberland
P	6	153	Jan'y. 10. 1786	Panama	Pratt, Henry	280	1	Dep. Cert. "74. Dist. 2	March 12. 1783	Westmoreland
P	6	153	Feb'y. 1. "	Pandemonium	Chambers, Rowland	237	40	Rowland Chambers	Jan'y. 29. 1786	Cumberland
P	15	221	Dec. 4. 1789	"	Diehl, Charles Jr.	255	78	Peter Miller	Nov. 27. 1762	York
P	10	85	May. 3. 1787	"	" Daniel	300	60	Daniel Diehl	Jan'y. 31. 1787	Cumberland
P	3	486	Augt. 3. 1785	Panther's Hollow	Hughes, John et al.	400	00	Jeremiah Ode	Jan'y. 23. 1781	Washington
"	"	"	"	"	Ryan, Timothy	"	"	"	"	"
P	8	220	Jan'y. 16. 1787	" Lick	McFarland, Daniel	"	"	Peter Marmie	Sept. 13. 1780	"
P	8	237	"	" Pit	"	"	Samuel McLean	"	"	"
P	10	58	Feb'y. 23. "	" Point	Robertson, Susannah	175	140	Susannah Robertson	Oct. 13. 1786	"
P	8	354	March 16. "	Panther's Den	Morton, William	231	1	William Morton	Feb'y. 15. "	"
P	14	255	Feb'y. 2. 1789	" Grove	Fullenwider, Henry	306	72	Henry Fullenwider	Jan'y. 23. 1783	"
P	18	253	May. 22. 1792	"	Muhlenberg, Rev	400	1	Frederick Hubley	Feb'y. 22. 1782	"
P	8	353	March 16. 1787	"	Smith, Thoringood	322	80	Thoringood Smith	" 15. 1786	"
P	10	203	June 8. "	" Thicket	Long, Samuel	400	00	Samuel Long	May. 12. 1785	"
P	18	259	Nov. 3. 1791	Papasmaa	Dedesman, John	29	50	Henry Hankey	Oct. 19. 1749	Bucks
P	16	295	May. 20. 1790	Paper Money	Eyerly, Jacob Jr.	417	63	Matthew Eggert	March 8. 1782	Northampton
P	13	299	Augt. 9. 1788	"	Heller, Joseph	50	1	Henry Handschie	Feb'y. 13. 1753	"
P	14	429	Jan'y. 14. 1789	"	Kreber, Henry	160	80	Hans Martin Bower	Oct. 20. 1736	York
P	12	477	" 22. "	"	McNity, Cromwell	252	1	John Long	June 4. 1762	Franklin

Land Name Register from the Pennsylvania Archives

We will never know why that name was chosen. Perhaps they had previously lived in a place with a similar name or perhaps they were just familiar with Milton's works.



Daniel Diehl survey along Laurel Run in Henry's Valley
"Pandemonium"



Samuel Diehl survey along Laurel Run in Henry Valley
to the west of "Pandemonium"

Samuel Diehl's property was not named and was just to the west of Daniel's property. It was this tract that later passed to Christian Henry and the valley became known as Henry's Valley.

Unfortunately, the stories of paranormal activities and modern ghost stories have obscured the incredibly interesting heritage of Henry's Valley. The truth has been twisted, locations changed, and the historical record ignored all in the name of ghost hunting. The true history of Henry's Valley is much more interesting than fiction. It is time to set the record straight to honor the brave hearty people that settled one of the most remote corners of Perry County.