

## **SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA DESCENDANTS INDIANS IN GREENE COUNTY**

Source of above Indian information: Greene County 2008-09 Visitors Guide, PA

The earliest-known prehistoric settlers in Southwestern Pennsylvania were the Monongahela Indians, but several other tribes including the Iroquois, Algonquin, Seneca and Lenape have claimed this area as their home as well. The Lenape were also known as the Delaware Indians.

Greene County was once the peaceful domain of these Native Americans. They ruled the area with a sense of diplomacy, equality and a spiritual reverence for nature. These original settlers maintained a network of trails, were involved in commerce, conducted regular tribunals to discuss issues and celebrate common heritage. In all senses, they were a civilized and orderly society.

Later, as English settlers pushed westward into Pennsylvania's frontier and the French and Indian War began, the Shawnee, Lenape, Mingo and Wyandot moved into southwestern Pennsylvania and Greene County. The Indian tribes who had settled here took a stand against the English, who were determined to force them across the Ohio River.

The standoff that lasted for more than 50 years, ending in a large amount of bloodshed. The massacres of a number of families by the American Indians in Greene County has become part of local lore and is well documented with some of these tragedies marked by monuments.

The following massacres are among the most noted examples of what took place between the American Indians and the English settlers on Greene County soil:

1. Crow's Rock Massacre Monument: dedicated to a massacre that took place on May 1, 1791 and is located along Crows Rock Road in Northwestern Greene County. Four of the Crow sisters were walking to an adjacent farm when they were attacked by Indians and a renegade. Only one sister survived the attack. The rock reportedly served as the hiding place for the attackers. The names of the four sisters and the date are carved into the original rock: Susan, Catherine, Elizabeth, and Tina Crow - 1791.
2. The Spicer Massacre: there is no monument to this tragedy that took place on or about June 5, 1774 in the area known today as Bobtown, near Whiteley Creek.

The Spicer family was composed of Mr. and Mrs. Spicer and their seven children. Logan, a Mingo Chief was the leader of a party of Indians who came upon the Spicer family as they reportedly went about their daily chores intent on killing them.

At the end of the spree only 12-year-old Elizabeth (Betsy), and her 9-year-old brother, William, had survived. Both were taken captive by the Mingos.

When a treaty was signed in November 1774, Betsy was released but William, having been given to a tribe some distance away, remained in the remand.

There came a time when the young man could have returned to his former life, but he had apparently become fully a part of the tribe he had landed with and had no wish to return to the white man's world. Betsy Spicer is said to have lived into her

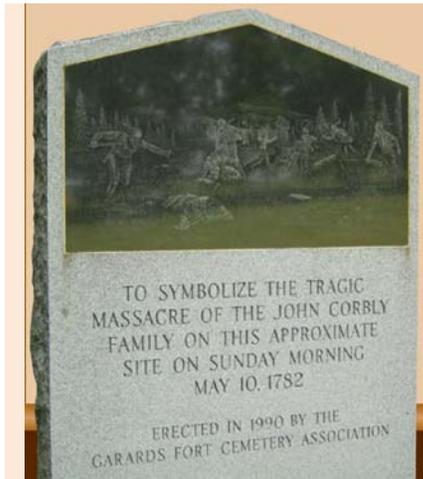
80'x and is credited with assisting with the medical care in the short time that she was in bondage among the Mingos, as well as learning to speak and interpret their native tongue.

3. The Davis Massacre: is considered to be the largest Indian massacre of a single family in what is today known as Greene County, Pennsylvania.

Early in the morning in the fall of 1787, John Davis with his wife and ten children were going about their daily routine when the eldest daughter reported seeing Indians hiding near their cabin. An attempt to grab their guns when the Indians came into their cabin proved fruitless. The eldest daughter who had reported to her father seeing the Indians outside leapt to safety through a window. Additionally, two other daughters and a grown son who were in the cabin during the raid (melee) escaped).

Seven members of the family lost their lives inside the cabin, John Davis, his two oldest sons and four younger children. Mrs. Davis and a baby daughter were taken captive. The fate of Mrs. Davis was never established, but the body of the baby girl was found some weeks later. It is assumed that Mrs. Davis also perished at the time bringing the total of this tragedy to nine victims.

4. The Corbly Massacre: occurred the second Sunday in May 1782, when the family of Baptist Reverend John Corbly met a terrible fate.



Monument erected in 1990 Garards Fort Cemetery Association -- to symbolize the Massacre of the John Corbly Family.

The Corbly's were on their way to Sunday church service in the Garard's Fort area where they lived. A summary of Rev. Corbly's account of the tragic day is as follows:

*The Reverend, his wife and their five children were about a mile from their home when the Reverend was walking roughly 200 yards behind his family carrying his Bible and meditating. Upon hearing screams from his family before him, he vainly sought a club as he ran to within 40 yards of his family. Mrs. Corbly yelled to her husband to run and he was thus able to flee from the attack of one of the Indians who was in pursuit of him. His wife was carrying their infant child in her arms. Both were murdered in the attack. Reverend Corbly's only son, age six along with his sister were also killed.*

*The eldest daughter of the Corbly's who had hid in a tree upon the initial melee nearly escaped physically unscathed.*

*Unfortunately she had a false sense of safety when she saw the Indians retreating and came out of the hollow tree trunk only to be scalped by an Indian who spied her exiting the tree. Miraculously she and one of her sisters who was also scalped survived.*

*Both young women were said to have not suffered any brain damage from the attacks. The extent of their physical injuries required many surgeries and left the Reverend Corbly in near financial ruin.*