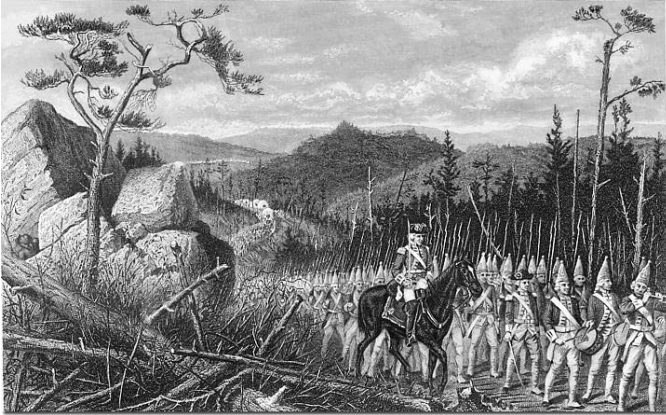


# OUR TOWN REMEMBERED



*Braddock's Army Marching to Fort DuQuesne*

## **Braddock's Road Through Mount Pleasant**

**Cassandra Vivian  
for the Mount Pleasant Area Historical Society  
Appeared in the Mount Pleasant Journal November,  
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It was rather obvious from my last column that I would take on Braddock's Road around Mount Pleasant. Well, I did. I spent the whole week researching it and on two weekends with several traveling companions found and traveled a short portion of the trail built by the British General and his 2000+ man army. They came up out of Maryland and traveled north to the point at Pittsburgh then inhabited by the French in Fort DuQuesne. I traveled a mere nine miles.

It was the general's mission to build a 12-foot wide road into the wilderness on his way to capturing Fort DuQuesne from the French. This was one year after George Washington met defeat at Fort Necessity following the same route (spanning the French and Indian War). Washington, only 23 years old, accompanied Braddock as Aide-de-Camp. It was anticipated that the route would be the way west for people along the eastern coast eager to travel into and settle the Western Country. It was.

I used as my guide several routes created by other curiosity seekers from the past attempting to discover this old but historic road. One such guide was created by the Westmoreland County Historical Society and it formed the skeleton for my

exploration. What I found was that Braddock's Road runs right through the heart of Mount Pleasant.

For our purposes we join Braddock's Road at Greenlick Lake where the army set up a military

camp on (or near) July 2, 1755. We now call that the Great Swamp Camp and the state has marked it with one of their historic markers. Understand, this was an army! In addition to the 2000 men it consisted of 300, 1400-pound wagons, 3,000 horses, 2,000 head of cattle, 200,000 pounds of flour, 10,000 sand bags, 400 spades, and four, 8-inch howitzers (each behind a nine horse team) and an unspecified number of camp followers, including women.

All of that spent the night at Great Swamp camp probably sprawling out for miles and miles. Today the site has a lovely lake with farmland as a backdrop, but in 1755 it was swamp land and forest. Can you image the sight that army created trying to eat and sleep amid the heat of July in a swamp infested with mosquitoes and other nasty critters while wearing wool clothing and carrying their muskets and mess kits?

The next morning the road builders began again. Hammondsville Road leading from the lake to Jacob's Creek IS Braddock's Road. It crosses Jacob's Creek. I veered left, but it continued in a northern direction cutting through farmland. I turned onto Buckeye Tram Road, while the army continued through the fields on my right. I turned onto 819, but the road cut directly through what is now St. Pius Cemetery and over the ridge to Braddock Street.

I saw Braddock Street and turned left onto Frick. This is PROBABLY directly on the road. I had to follow one way streets turning onto College and then to Church, while the road went directly up the hill. We met up again at the hospital where I turned right onto Eagle Street and was back on the road again.

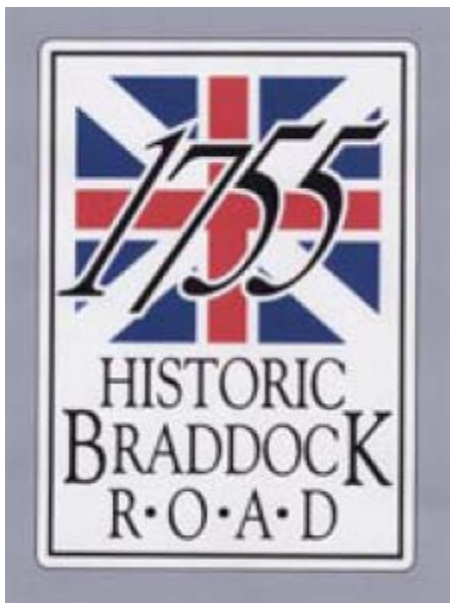
Then I ran into trouble. Braddock and his army stopped at Union Spring and spent the night. I turned onto Spring Street and did not find a spring at all. It was there in 1955 when John Kennedy Lacock found it and made a post card showing the hut over it. It is not there now. Feeling defeated, I

returned to Eagle Street and turned left onto Main and right onto Braddock Road Avenue. Braddock and his men did not turn left or right. They continued north from Eagle Street cutting through the houses and up the hill into what is now Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

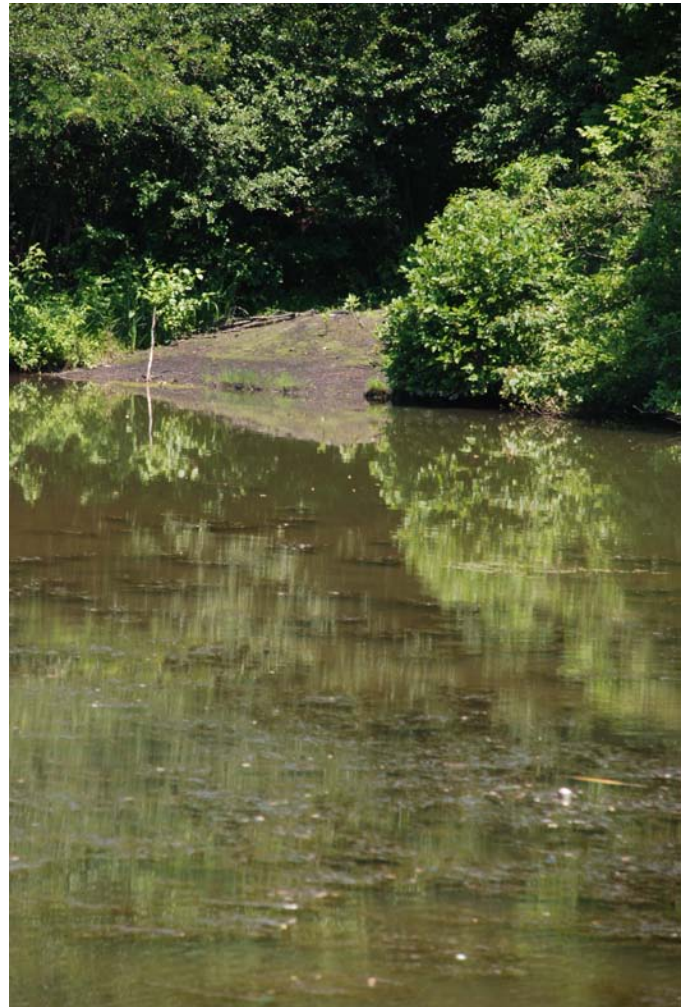
I caught up with the road again at the gate to the cemetery. It and I quickly veered left onto Sand Hill Road to old Route 119. Braddock camped again a mile or so up Sand Hill along a ridge with a commanding view near a modern gas well. It took him a long time to reach this point from the spring. It took me a few minutes. At this point we left Mount Pleasant.

If you want to read more about Braddock's Road in Westmoreland County try these sources:  
[www.britishbattles.com/braddock.htm](http://www.britishbattles.com/braddock.htm)  
<http://www.fortedwards.org/braddock/braddock.htm>  
[www.starofthewest.org/html/vtrail.html](http://www.starofthewest.org/html/vtrail.html)  
[www.hsp.org/default.aspx?id=622](http://www.hsp.org/default.aspx?id=622)  
[www.braddockroadpa.org](http://www.braddockroadpa.org)

## More images of Braddock's Road around Mount Pleasant



**Signage used to mark the road created by the Braddock Road Preservation Association**



**Exiting Jacob's Creek near the Sportsman Club.**