

BURGETTSTOWN

The land on which the Borough of Burgettstown was located by Sebastian Burgett. A native of Germany, who emigrated to this Country with his wife and three children and settled in Berks Co., While living there his wife died and left to his care two sons George and Phillip and one daughter Agnes. He later removed to (Robbstown) West Newton, West Moreland Co., before 1773 where he soon after married Roxannah Markle. He came to Washington County shortly after he was married and located on a large tract of land which he later secured to his heirs. His name is mentioned as early as 1780 in connections with Virginia certificates of George McCormich, Henry Rankin and others whose lands he joined. At this time also his own lands was taken upon a Virginia certificate as mention is made of the warrants being based on the certificates, but the certificate was never found or copy has never been found. One of these tracts that was later surveyed and patented was known as West Boston containing three hundred 300 acres and 29 acres warrented Sept 30, 1785 and surveyed Oct 20, 1785. On this tract Sebastian Burgett built a mill on Raccoon Creek where the mill stood until after 1882. In repairing the mill and enlarging it in 1789 he became in need of castings with which to complete the repairs and went to Pittsburgh for them. While returning through the woods and within two miles of his home the wagon upset in crossing over a log and he fell beneath the casting and was killed.

The old Burgett house stood near the Robert Scott house and the old fort as it was called stood near the homes. The house stood for many years and later was covered with clap boards. Many years later his grandson Boston Burgett about 1840 built a new house on the site of the old structure and moved the old house across the street and used it as a shelter for his cows. The tomahawk marks and bullets as well as arrow heads were inbedded in the logs, that resulted from attacks of the Indians. Later the structure was struck by lightning and burned.

The widow of Sebastian Burgett lived many years after the death of the husband on the property and on Sept. 28, 1789 George Burgett on behalf of himself and his brother Phillip and sister Agnes entered into an agreement with Roxannah Burgett, the second wife of Boston Burgett (here is the first time that Boston Burgett has been used instead of Sebastian) for herself and her children John Burgett, Andrew Burgett, Mary Burgett, Isaac Burgett, Elizabeth Burgett, Sarah Burgett and Boston Burgett, that four hundred (400) of the estate of Boston Burgett be set off to her. The mill property to be retained by George Burgett. The tract on which the widow took was known as (Radius) and contained two hundred ninety seven (297) acres for which a patent and warrant obtained July 17, 1800 and patented Dec 10, 1800. It is recorded on a slab in the old Burgett family burying ground inter moved and lost that Boston (Sebastian) Burgett departed this life Sept. 4, 1789 in the fiftieth year of his age. His widow lived to the age of eighty three (83) years and died February 3, 1839. The widow sold ninety two (92) acres of the Radius tract to Benjiman Shipley. Nov 24,

1804. The remained was divided between the children by the second wife namely Isaac, Andrew, Elizabeth, Mary and Boston. Isaac was a hatter by trade and moved to Matchez, Miss., where he lived and died. Andrew kept the home place and purchased the rights of all the other members of his family and later it passed his son Boston Burgett who survided and was the last of the family to remain in the vicinity of Burgettstown. The estate of Boston Burgett son of Andrew Burgett later passed to his heirs, Robert Scott and A Mr. Morgan and their heirs who still retain a portion of the homestead. The daughter Elizabeth married Zacariah Linn or Lynn sold her portion to Fregift Crawford. Boston Burgett studied medicine with Dr. J. S. Perry one of the early physicians in that section and removed from the township no one knows his last residence.

Elizabeth after her marriage and sale of her share of the estate moved to Millersburg, Ohio. Mary married John Smith who resided at Liverpool, Columbiana, county O.

The patent for the West Boston tract of land recites that letters were granted to George Burgett in trust for the heirs of the deceased Boston Burgett and bear the date of March 28, 1797 and on this tract of land was laid out the town of West Boston later changed to Burgettstown with Peter Kidd as the surveyor. The following is copy of the writing that accompanied the plat of the town Raccoon Creek - The above is a draught of a Town laid off for George Burgett called West Boston on the fork of Raccoon Creek in Smith township, Washington Cc., Penna. Each lot containing one rod being eighty two and one half 82 1/2) feet front and one hundred thirty two feet back the course of Main street, North 73. E. at. Laid off January 27, 1795 Peter Kidd.

The earliest and most authentic history we have of the Burgett family dates back to a year or two prior to 1755-1756, when a German named Sebastian Burgett and his wife emigrated to America and after a short time in Maryland located in Berks County, Pa.

Three children were born to the family George, Phillip, and Agnes. We have no accurate account of where the wife of Sebastian Burgett died, as there is no record of her crossing the mountains when Sebastian Burgett emigrated from the eastern to the western part of Pennsylvania, but we do find that prior to 1773 Sebastian Burgett and his three children located at a point near what is now West Newton, Westmoreland, county, but West Moreland County at that time covered a large part of the territory of western Pa., so that it may have been that he was located fifteen to twenty miles from that point, but as at West Newton was a ford on the Youghioneny river, and located on a trail, and one of the direct lines of travel between the east and west, continuing on across the mountains to Elizebeth, Pa., in Washington county now.

In the 1780 we find from the state records of Virginia certificates conveying a tract of land from several separately situated Sebastian (Boston) Burgett. One of these tracts of land containing 329 acres more or less, bearing date of Sept. 27, 1785, and surveyed Oct 29, 1785. A small settlement was made and called West Boston located on Raccoon Creek, and the other little settlement farther down the creek was abandoned and several other families moved to Boston Burgett's town. Boston being a short nickname for the pretentious Sebastian.

Prior to the locating of the new settlement, Sebastian (Boston) Burgett met and married Roxannah Markle, but just when and where he married his second wife is still enshrouded in mystery as none of relatives have been interviewed.

During a period between 1786 and 1788 Boston Burgett started the erection of mill to grind grain for flour and the old mill had been in operation a couple of years when it was found to repair the mill and as Pittsburg was the nearest point to a foundry, Sebastian (Boston) Burgett yoked a team of cattle (Oxen) and made the trip to Pittsburgh. Having awaited until the castings were made five days, he started on his homeward journey and within two miles of the site of his home and mill the wagon upset in crossing over a log and when he was found sometimes later was dead, under the wagon and castings. No one knows whether the oxen in going along wandered from the trail which was out through timber, to pick grass caused the accident, or whether or not the driver fell asleep.

Another version of the accident that has been handed down was that the oxen having traveled sometime without water bolted the trail to small brook where water was running freely, and the wagon was upset in the brook and the aged driver was drowned as well as killed from the impact of the wagon falling on him.

The second wife Roxanna lived with her step children and made them an excellent mother, and they were deeply attached to her although a lot of other little Burgetts had made their appearance by this time namely - John, Andrew, Mary, Isaac, Elizabeth, Sarah and Boston.

A slab (1871) bearing the date of Sept 4, 1789 in the family burying plot near Burgettstown, marked the grave of the founder of the family Sebastian Burgett.

On Sept 28, 1789, we find recorded an agreement entered into and recorded whereby George Burgett, oldest son of Sebastian Burgett on behalf of his brother and sister Phillip and Agnes Burgett with Mrs. Roxanna Burgett for herself and her children John, Andrew, Mary, Isaac, Elizabeth, Sarah and Boston Burgett, that 400 acres be set off to her and her children.

The tract of land on which the mill property was located retained by George Burgett and his full brother and sister.

One of the tracts comprising the 400 acres set off to the widow and her family consisted of 297 acres and was then known as the Radius tract and warrants bearing date of July 17, 1800. Patents bearing date of Dec. 1800 gave her fee simple title to the property.

Sebastian Burgett from family history was a medium sized man but rather stoutly made, a tireless worker and thrifty to a degree that almost approached greediness. He was a likeable man, fond of company and said to have been in accord with the prevailing custom at that time, convivial in spirits. He never failed to assist in the religious services of the community, but he mixed his religion with plenty of common sense and never let it interfere with his progress or carving out a home in the wilderness.

Roxanna Burgett seems to have been one of those old time hardy pioneer women that braved everything for her husband and family, was very solicitous of the welfare of the entire family and was just as good and benvolent to her three step children as to her own, she died February 3, 1839, aged 83 years, as a marker bears in the family burial plot.

After the death of Roxanna Burgett, 90 acres of the Radius tract was sold to Benjiman Shipley, Nov 21, 1804 and the remainder of the property between the children of Roxanna Burgett. Andrew seemed to be the business man of the bunch and bought out the other heirs and it.....

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Andrew Burgett now drops out and nothing further is heard from him except through his son Boston Burgett who owned and held property as late as 1882 in Washington county, Pa. Isaac is not mentioned further and neither is Boston Burgett No. 2. Elizabeth married a man by the name of Linn and moved to East Liverpool Columbianna county, Ohio.

The moving spirit of the family seemed to be George Burgett, the oldest son of the Sebastian Burgett family as he was the spirit that moved all the vast tract of land that had been located in Pennsylvania by his father and on Oct. 17, 1787 we find from the state records that deeds for the lots in Burgettstown were advertised as being ready for delivery and the following year Crumrine's History, of Washington County Pa., states that he removed to Jefferson County, Ohio. and several years later moved to Richland county, Ohio.

This is as far as I have authentic history of the family. George Burgett, as late as January 21, 1804 retained unsold lots in the town of (West Boston) old Burgettstown as the new Burgettstown now located on the Pan Handle railroad is located about one mile north of the old original townsite known as Burgett's town.

Andrew Burgett survived some time after the death of his father and his home was one the noted tavern's of the community where hospitality was dispensed with a big H.