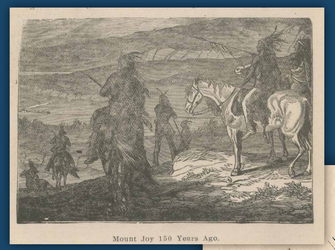
THE HISTORY OF MOUNT JOY

Early History

In 1450, the Susquehannock were the dominant entity in Lancaster County along the Susquehanna River. Between 1680 and 1690, the Susquehannock villages in Lancaster County ceased to exist as the tribe migrated to New York and Maryland. A remnant of about 200 remained along the Conestoga River. By 1718, the closest known native village site to Mount Joy was at the confluence of the Conoy Creek and Susquehanna River in the area of Bainbridge. Known as the Conoy, they were part of the Algonquin family of tribes.

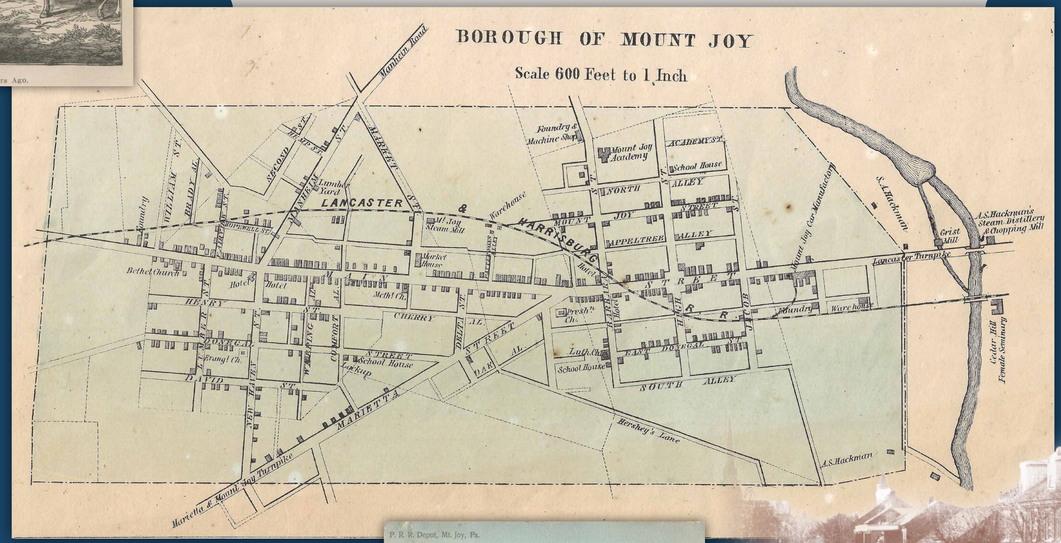


Mount Joy 150 Years Ago.

The Siege of Derry

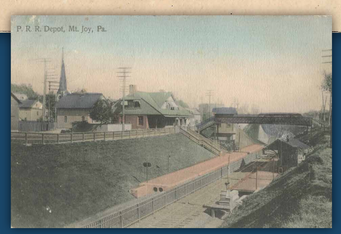
(Londonderry) Northern Ireland

1689 The merchant ship Mountjoy broke the boom (blockade) on the River Foyle, bringing food to the starving Presbyterians sequestered in Londonderry.

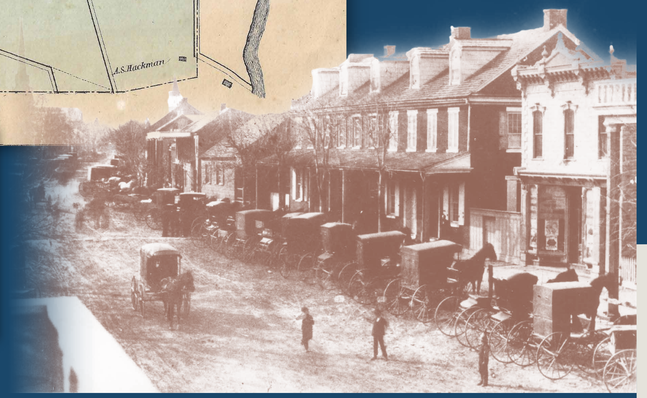


1864 map from the collection at the Mount Joy Area Historical Society

East Main Street, Mount Joy, Pa.



In 1896, a new straightened railine replaced the tracks that passed through town. These below-grade level tracks formed what became known as "the cut."



The Four Main Plantations

Warranty Deeds were issued to some Ulster Scots-Irish settlers from William Penn, creating plantations.

1738 Hugh White (349 acres) Encompassed the original **Village of Mountjoy** and that of **Richland**
1738 Arthur Patterson (294 acres + 355 acres) Called **Pattersonia**, east of the Little Chiques Creek
1739 Thomas/Mary Bayly (229 acres) encompassed the rest of the **Village of Springville** (Florin)
1740 John McCrackon (209 acres) called "Beautiful" encompassed part of **Florin**.

From Plantations to Villages

In the early 1800s three main villages emerged from the plantations. In **1807** Jacob Rohrer bought 58½ acres and divided it into 134 lots, becoming **The Village of Mountjoy** (the eastern section of today's borough). In **1812** John Bartrum laid out 122 lots, forming **The Village of Richland** (the western part) and **Springville** became the **Florin Ward**. Four other small parcels developed between and around the three original villages: **Wallickstown**, **Mountjoy Continued**, **Richland Extended**, and **Richland and Mount Joy Connected**. Now that's a lot of names to remember, but fortunately, the confusion was all sorted out when, in **1851**, the two main villages of **Mount Joy** and **Richland**, plus the other smaller hamlets, incorporated to form the **Borough of Mount Joy**. It took another hundred years to annex **Florin**, but in **1963**, the Borough of today was complete.

The historic Florin Inn had more than a few names between 1814 and the present. It is not known when the actual watering trough was placed in front of the hotel, but it was before 1900 and is still there today.

FLORIN

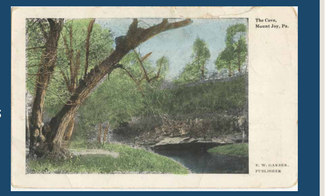
1812 The **Village of Springville** is formed by Christian Hertzler. He divided his property into 42 lots.

1864 The name is changed to **Spring Garden**.

1880 The name is changed to **Florin** because the post office needed a unique name for the town.

1963 Florin is annexed into the Borough of Mount Joy.

Mount Joy Folklore



The White Hermit of Mount Joy It is said this guilt-ridden 18th-century Scottish teacher fled to America after accidentally causing his step-family's deaths. Earning his name for his long, white beard, he famously stripped naked in his final years as an act of spiritual penance.

The Ghosts of Bube's Brewery This 19th-century establishment has a long history of paranormal lore, including reports of a prohibition-era worker killed in the brewery and a child's spirit running through the upper hotel floors. Most famously, guests and paranormal teams frequently claim to encounter the ghost of brewery owner Alois Bube's granddaughter wandering the halls.

The Mount Joy Meteorite A cosmic anomaly added to the area's lore when an 847-pound meteorite (once the largest found east of the Mississippi River) was uncovered by a local farmer while planting an apple tree in 1887.

The Ridge of Death Folklore claims a cursed, 3-mile stretch along Cloverleaf Road between Mount Joy and Rheems experienced over 200 years of tragic calamities, including fatal horse accidents, suicides, and gruesome deaths. While the tragedies reportedly stopped, the folklore of the haunted ridge remains.

We Are Not A Mountain

We are not abbreviated, as in "Mt. Joy." We are an aristocratic English name, formerly one word (Mountjoy), but now two (Mount Joy). This explains the ship on the main street of a land-locked town, and the Scots-Irish names in the middle of Pennsylvania Dutch country. Ours is a distinct and distinguished heritage—one that every Mount Joyian, past, present and future, can claim.

To learn more about the great history of our town, please visit the Mount Joy Area Historical Society, 120 Fairview St. The society is open on Sunday from 1-4 pm.