

Notes On Lion Hill

Lion Hill, just south of Newark and near the Maryland line, rises sharply about ~~1650~~ 1630 feet from relatively flat terrain. The fact gives the impression of a greater elevation than actually exists. It also provides an unparalleled view in all directions, and makes the hill a landmark.

It was ^{thought} known by its present name ~~since~~ 1659, indicating that the one it yields had been discovered by the very early settlers, in the later seventeenth century ~~the hill~~ ^{the hill} was within the area ruled by Colonel Abbot in an effort to intimidate settlers claiming under Williams Law, when a ~~white~~ colony, ^{from 1630} obtained a grant from Penn at the start of the new century. (This assurance was within their Welsh Tract. Its view may well have been one of the attractions, in the decades of 1720 and 1730 ~~the~~ morning began on a ^{more} ~~intensely~~ ^{more} substantial scale, and ~~the~~ continued, until about 1791. Sir William Keith's son works and the Abington Furnace were the only ones attempting to reduce the one in the immediate vicinity of Blackwood, but it was long and at Pennepio ~~turning in Maryland.~~ ~~the early September~~

~~1777, Lion Hill was~~

When General Howe's British and German troops ~~marched a great distance from the head of Elk~~ ^{marched a great distance from the head of Elk} ~~in late August and early September,~~ ^{in late August and early September,} ~~1777, he came a strategic spot. Washington,~~ ^{1777, he came a strategic spot. Washington,} accompanied by ~~General~~ ^{General} Lafayette and General Greene, reconnoitered from its top in

See quest 267, the day of their arrival. Early tradition recounts that they were overtaken by a storm and spent the night in a nearby farmhouse. Within the next few days Greene recommended the Cook's Bridge area as a good site for a major action; Washington apparently considered both it and Lion Hill itself, but decided finally upon a location near Stanton. On August 28th General ^{Washington} Maxwell moved into the Cook's Bridge area, taking a position for harassing the ~~en~~ British advance if it took that road. The next day a few British advanced as far as Lion Hill.

On September 3rd the enemy march started. The Redans joined those just above Flacoon (Calkin's Tavern). Before they reached Cook's Mill, Maxwell's unit of several hundred picked marksmen ^{to give a running attack} ^{in a distance of about two miles,} upon them, making two determined stands. One at the ford near the Cook house, the other probably at the Welsh Tract Church at the foot of Lion Hill. Harassment rather than interception ^{was} intended; this was accomplished. Troops were relatively light on both sides, each estimating those of the enemy above its own.

After the skirmish, the Americans withdrew toward their main lines, while the British held the appropriate area of the morning's action, with their headquarters at Calkin's Tavern, Lord Cornwallis's Center camp at Cook's Mill, ~~and~~ the Guards on Lion Hill itself and other elements nearby. They held these positions until September 8, 1777, at daybreak, when the British broke camp, marching through Redbank toward Shadwell Ford, camp 4.

Reported as early as 1857, are probably as reason for location of Wood Tract. - Sir Wm. Keith's Don Brook (ante 170-7) and Abington Furnace (ante 1735) both at place. Don Hill one. Notes mined for more distant use. [Wood I, 453, 457]

South of Newark - (218); Ruppert Hill in Delaware. British camped here 1777, & men in Nov 1812; 1661-1891 are apparently mined [Guide, 218, 461]

Washington used as meeting site [Ward, 187]

One pit operated in late nineteenth century, which attendant there (6-12); elevation, 530 ft. (194); ¹⁸⁵⁷ ~~the~~ pit closed meeting at foot of Hill (257); some brick masonry (25), Coock, Francis A., Little known History of Newark, Delaware and the Delaware.

Tabbot reading parties observed east of Fire chamber, Nov 14, 1884 (39); Farm established by planting 13 oak colony as buffer (79-80) Wood settled in 1703; church at base of Hill (88).

Good sketch of Don Hill Railway - Delaware Avenue Historic Route, Edw. Coock, 105-112

Stanley Cutler mural (front.); Aug. 36 W. with day, & Greene viewed terrain from top; sheltered in nearby house during storm (17-18); Greene recommended Coock's Bridge (McCraw's 26) as a major defense site, ~~that is necessary~~ (1); Work personally considered both it & the hill before encamping near Stanton (31-32) Aug. 29. British advanced to Don Hill. (26), Regular under Marshall arrived Aug. 30 (5) who proceeded to Coock's Bridge, arriving ~~at~~ a nearby ford - Aug. 30 (32); on day of battle skirmishing occurred ~~along~~ ^{along} about 8 miles from W. of Coock's mill to Wood Tract church, ^{the} British & Hessians. Return to Coock's mill & Don Hill (Sept 3), 43-44; Telt ^{eventually} (20). The distance is right of Aug. 26 (31-33) Washington reports British advanced 2.4 mi. beyond Don Hill before returning there, apparently to establish a post. - British accounts all mention Don Hill as an important place &

British & a landmark. Capt. John Montrose says
the Guards were the first sent out to the Hill after the
skirmish. - Major Baumerstein mentions "outposts"
sent out from Old Town & stationed under Iron Hill"
being attacked; enemy outposts at Cogel's Bridge (ms.
105)

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Iron Hill

Guide: ^{same as Reed} 14, 24, 25, 28, 46

Battle of Cook's Bridge, 17, 18, 21, 22, 26, 32, 44, 45,
20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 99, 100-103

Del. Hist. Events, 28, 29, 30, 31, 103, 106, 109, 110

Little Known Hist. of Newark III, 6, 12, 194, 204, 221,
227, 265

Reed, 453, 454, (639) - Modern Finnish settlement in area
beginning 1924

Ward - 187