
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 442 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MARSICO, MILLARD, THOMAS, REGAN, MURT, HELM,
COHEN, ROSS, KIRKLAND, BISHOP, M. K. KELLER, HENNESSEY,
VEREB, KIM, YOUNGBLOOD, WHEELAND, DIGIROLAMO, BAKER,
READSHAW, HICKERNELL, ROZZI, MACKENZIE, HAHN, D. COSTA,
BENNINGHOFF, WATSON, WARD, GROVE, CALTAGIRONE, DUSH, JOZWIAK,
SONNEY, PICKETT, PHILLIPS-HILL, EVERETT, O'NEILL, MAJOR,
MAHONEY, GINGRICH, GILLEN AND PAYNE, AUGUST 18, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 18, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of
2 Linglestown, Dauphin County.

3 WHEREAS, Pioneer Scot-Irish families, banished from their
4 homeland in Scotland in 1718 because of religious differences,
5 immigrated to America; and

6 WHEREAS, Many of them traveled down the Susquehanna and soon
7 after, German settlers followed; and

8 WHEREAS, They recognized the beauty and potential for farming
9 in the rich soil and the plentiful forest land for buildings and
10 chose to settle here; and

11 WHEREAS, Thomas Lingle arrived in the area from Berks County
12 in 1765, and decided to establish a new town; and

13 WHEREAS, After purchasing the land and laying out the 80
14 lots, he named it "The Town of St. Thomas;" and

15 WHEREAS, Because Mr. Lingle founded the town, many people

1 referred to it as "Lingle's town;" and

2 WHEREAS, After Mr. Lingle died in 1811 the former name of the
3 town was dropped and the name was unofficially changed to
4 Linglestown; and

5 WHEREAS, The early settlers found it necessary to build forts
6 to protect themselves from Native American attacks; and

7 WHEREAS, The settlers could run to the fortified buildings
8 for protection and the buildings had portholes for their guns;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, One of these buildings, Fort Gilchrist, was located
11 about a mile west of Linglestown and is still standing today;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, At the east end of Linglestown, Fort Berryhill had a
14 secret cellar to hide in during Native American attacks that was
15 later used as an Underground Railroad depot; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1790, Linglestown became one of the first
17 communities in the area to have a school in town; and

18 WHEREAS, There was also an institution of higher education at
19 the east end of the village called St. Thomas Institute; and

20 WHEREAS, The Institute was opened in 1856 by Professor John
21 Focht for a term of six weeks each year; and

22 WHEREAS, The students came from many surrounding communities
23 and were charged three dollars for each term; and

24 WHEREAS, The Institute operated for a number of years,
25 graduating many future professionals; and

26 WHEREAS, The three story building now houses private
27 residences and can be seen at 6073 Linglestown Road; and

28 WHEREAS, Many businesses prospered in Linglestown during the
29 second half of the 19th century and many of the buildings that
30 housed them still stand today housing new businesses or personal

1 residences; and

2 WHEREAS, At least five of the buildings are still log homes
3 under their siding; and

4 WHEREAS, The most popular event in Linglestown's history is
5 the Linglestown Fair; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1919, a class in agriculture was started at the
7 Linglestown High School; and

8 WHEREAS, One of the major projects of this class was to start
9 the Linglestown Fair; and

10 WHEREAS, Linglestown held its first fair on September 2, 1920
11 at the first farm east of Linglestown; and

12 WHEREAS, Prizes were given for displays of cattle, hogs,
13 sheep, antiques, fruits and vegetables; and

14 WHEREAS, The fair continued to grow every year and had to be
15 moved to a larger farm belonging to the Millers; and

16 WHEREAS, Thousands of people traveled to the Great
17 Linglestown Fair, at one point there were 20,000 attendees; and

18 WHEREAS, One of the main attractions of the fair came to be
19 horse racing; and

20 WHEREAS, Linglestown is still divided into the 80 lots that
21 Thomas Lingle originally laid out; and

22 WHEREAS, Linglestown is a small village with a big past,
23 whether it's the story of the Pletz brothers who attempted
24 flight 75 years before the Wright Brothers or the trolley that
25 delivered everything from people to livestock to the village or
26 the Linglestown Fire Company, there is much to celebrate for
27 Linglestown's 250th Anniversary in 2015; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
29 250th anniversary of the founding of Linglestown, Dauphin
30 County.