



COUNTY NOTEBOOK

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The nature of York County (Part 1)

Pulpit Rock

Pulpit Rock, now located on private property along the Codorus Creek in Spring Garden Township, was a popular site for picnics and weekend outings in 19th century Victorian York. Conflicting traditions claim that either this site or the nearby cliff at the eastern end of the Indian Rock Dam, was *"once occupied by an Indian Queen who addressed her Shawanese warriors ... after they had been defeated by the Susquehannocks. She urged them to sharpen their battle axes, make spears and Indian darts and ... together with bows and arrows, defend their rights and liberties against the other red men who had driven them westward from the banks of the Susquehanna,"* according to York historian George Prowell. Numerous Indian artifacts were found in this area by Atrous Wanner, superintendent of the York City Schools at the turn of



Courtesy of Hist. Soc. York Co.

Pulpit Rock, as it looked near the turn of the century.

the century. Authenticated records of the highly migratory Shawanese (or Shawnee) Indians in Lancaster County have been traced to William Penn's 1701 Treaty of Shackamaxon, which gave official permission

to 60-80 families of the tribe from Maryland to settle along the east bank of the Susquehanna River. In 1707 this group was joined by additional refugee Shawnee families from the Carolinas. This community moved north

to the New Cumberland area in about 1718. According to York archaeologist Barry Kent, no physical remains linked directly to the Shawnees have been found in York County.