

Ingham house has a long history in Solebury

Built in 1747, it was a hospital for Washington's troops

By NED HARRINGTON

A house stands on a slope above Route 202, opposite Ingham Lake, which is fed by the Great Spring. That area was known in early days as the Logan tract, granted by William Penn to his secretary James Logan, who had come from Ireland in 1699.

When Solebury Township was being surveyed in 1702, Logan did some exploring and came upon that remarkable flow of underground water. He spoke out and received the area as a grant. It is described as Tract Number 6 by Eastburn Reeder in his "Early Settlers of Solebury Township," finalized as 612 acres in 1710.

Logan, being busy in Philadelphia, did not use the tract, and in 1747 sold 409.5 acres, including the spring, to Jonas Ingham.

Jonas came from Norfolk to New England in 1705. Thence he ventured to Burlington about 1708. He was a skilled weaver, and established a mill on Rancocas Creek. He became associated with James Burcham, who had also come from Norfolk. James died in 1709, leaving widow Elizabeth and two children. Jonas married the widow in 1710. They moved to Trenton, where he built a fulling mill.

Son Jonathan was born in 1710, the sisters Mary and Elizabeth. In 1735, Jonas and Elizabeth and the five grown children moved to Solebury Township, first rented land from Logan, and built a fulling mill on the creek leading from the spring. Also in the year 1735, Jonathan married Deborah Bye, daughter of Jolin and Sarah, who had settled along Street Road. Deborah's brother Hezekiah married Mary Ingham in 1743.

A deed to the property was finalized in 1747. The York Road, from Lahaska to New Hope, had been put through in 1711, cutting the tract almost diagonally in half. Jonas and Jonathan Ingham built Ingham Manor about 1747, close to the York Road. Both families lived there, while Jonathan took over the management of the mill from his ailing father. Elizabeth died in 1748, Jonas in 1754.

Jonathan and Deborah had sons John, Jonas and Jonathan, daughters Sarah and Mary. The father was evidently rather miserable and did not get along well with his children. He gave John such a hard time that the boy was twice incarcerated in asylums, and died therein when young.

Jonas was a scholar, mathematician and philosopher, and was a soldier preceding the encampment at Valley Forge. Later he moved to northeast Pennsylvania, married there, and left numerous descendants.

Jonathan had a falling out with his father at age 19, and



View from 202

Sales Manager Donna Brink of De Luca Homes shows the newly refurbished Ingham house, which will be a community center for the Fox Run development.

went to live for several years in Darby, studied medicine with Dr. Pascal, and became a physician. He was skilled in classic European and Indian languages and was a poet. In 1769, he married Ann Welding of Bordentown, N.J., and with her money bought the Ingham property from his father. He managed the fulling mill, a new saw mill and the farm.

During the Revolution, in the famous winter of 1776, the Ingham house was used as a hospital, surrounded by a camp ground for Washington's troops. Jonathan had many patients, other than those soldiers, among the local Quaker families. In 1793, he went to Philadelphia to assist with the yellow fever epidemic, but he became infected and died that year while traveling upcountry to seek a cure. Jonathan Senior died in 1799, preceded by Deborah.

Jonathan Junior and Ann had 11 children, Samuel Delucanna, born in 1779, being the fifth child and only son to oive to maturity. His middle name was after Anthony Deluccana, who had been an instructor and friend of Jonathan. Samuel grew to be of medium height, with blue eyes, a dignified manner and a sense of humor. Jonathan sent Samuel to a nearby school, where he began Greek grammar among other studies. But he did not do well, and was sent to a school near Durham, where he elarned German, along with Greek and Latin, under Allen Backus.

Jonathan died when Samuel was 14, and Ann was left with young children. It was time for Samuel to move on and he was apprenticed to a paper

maker at the mill on the Pennypack, so advised by his father, Jonathan Senior.

While learning the trade, Samuel was a good worker, and he read constantly, even walking miles to a library in Philadelphia to borrow books. He was guided by Dr. John D. Craig and studied mathematics and surveying. In 1798 he was sent to manage a paper mill at Bloomfield, N.J. There he met and married Rebecca Dodd.

They came to the homestead in 1800 and took charge of the property. He directed the building of a paper mill on the site of the fulling mill, and it

made paper for the first newspapers in Bucks County.

Samuel and Rebecca had three sons and three daughters, all born at the Ingham house along York Road. Samuel had shown an interest in politics, and in 1801 was elected to the Pennsylvania Assembly, recommended by Governor Thomas McKean.

He was re-elected twice, but declined further service in 1808. Meanwhile he had served in the 31st Regiment of the Bucks County militia. Governor McKean also named Samuel justice of the peace.

From 1809 through 1814, he was one of those interested in a bridge across the river at New Hope, and subscribed \$3,000. One of his colleagues was John Beaumont, who operated the ferry, but looked forward to a bridge. It was completed in 1814.

Samuel was elected to Congress in 1813, and again in 1815 and 1817. He served as chairman for post offices and roads, on the ways and means committee, with a knowledge of banking and tariffs. Because of Rebecca's health, he declined in 1819 and she died that year.

He was prothonary for Bucks County, and then secretary to the commonwealth, and all the while was busy with the mill and farm. In 1822, he married Deborah Kay Hall of Salem, N.J. They had one son and three daughters. Son William A. Ingham and became a lawyer in Philadelphia.

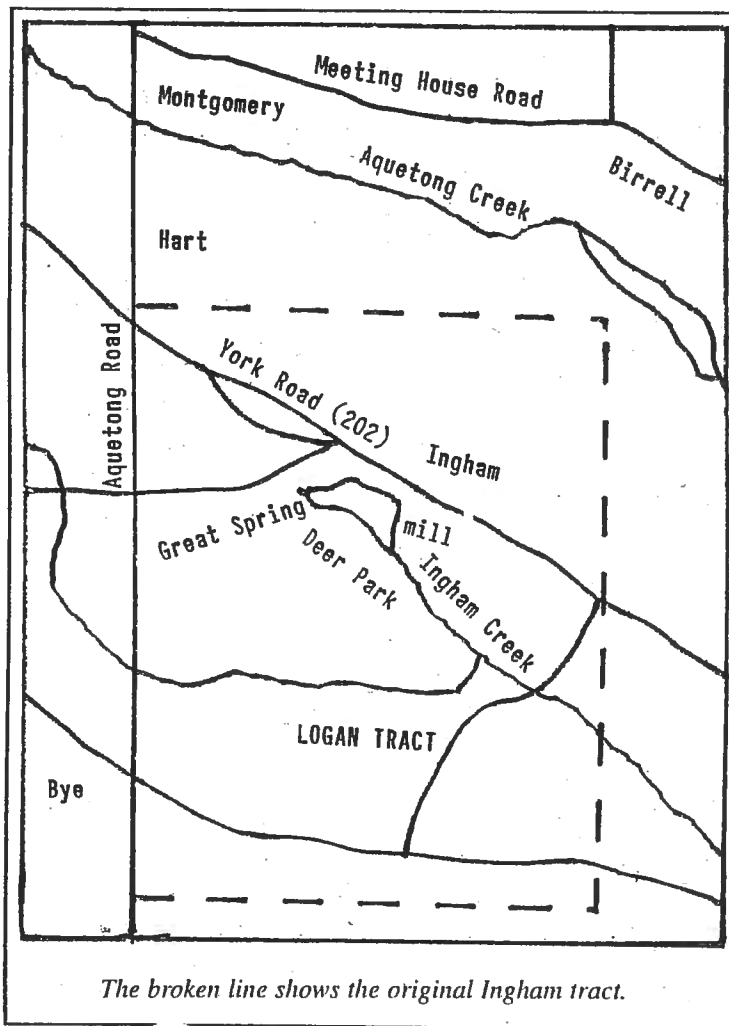
Samuel again served in Congress from 1822 to 1829, and was influential in Andrew Jackson's election. He was a friend of John C. Calhoun, and did not like President John Quincy Adams. Recommended by Calhoun, and by Judge John Fox of Bucks County, he was named secretary of the treasury.

John Eaton became secretary of war and John soon married Peggy O'Neill Timberlake, a sprightly young widow and erstwhile barmaid. Some of the wives of cabinet members did not approve and spurned Peggy. Samuel tried to remain objective, but no go.

The entire cabinet was dissolved, but President Jackson was not angry with Samuel—who returned home and was received with honors. He was offered the ministry to Russia, but declined, and from then on lost interest in politics. He tended to the mill, the farm and the new lime kiln. He became interested in anthracite coal, and spent time in northeast Pennsylvania, as president of the Hazleton Coal Company and of the Beaver Valley Railroad.

In 1838, Samuel organized the Ingham Female Seminary in Doylestown in cooperation with Judge Fox, the Rev. Silas Andrews and others. He was for a time president of the Bucks County Agricultural Society. The mill was taken over by Anthony Kelty of Chester County in 1840, and by then it was making paper from jute, mapping paper and manila.

Samuel decided to move to Trenton in 1849, and first destroyed most of his personal correspondence. After a long illness, he died there in 1860, and was buried at the Solebury Presbyterian Church, which he and Rebecca had helped to organize in 1811.



The broken line shows the original Ingham tract.

Continued next week