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INTERESTING BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

Memoranda read by Geo. W. Harris, at a meeting of
the Hope Fire Company of Harrisburg; of which he
was an early member.

GEN. MICHAEL SIMPSON.

In this centennial year of our national independence, it is proper to bring to notice some of those who were actively and effectively engaged in its achievement, and whose names have nearly faded from the recollection of the public of the present day. It affords me pleasure to bring to public notice one who in my early years I knew personally, and of whose kind and genial manners I have pleasurable recollection. This is General Michael Simpson. He was a native of this county, his father, Thomas Simpson, owned 380 acres of land, a part of which is now within the limits of the upper part of Harrisburg. The patent to Thomas Simpson is dated the 21st of February, 1760, and this land adjoined that afterwards the property of William Maclay, on a part of which the state capitol is built. The land of Thomas Simpson was originally a part of about 1,200 acres surveyed in 1752 for proprietaries. It fronted on the Susquehanna, and was afterward, in 1759, re-surveyed; and in 1760 was patented in three parts, of about the same quantity, to three persons, whose christian name was Thomas. The upper part, of about 380 acres and allowance, was conveyed to Thomas McKee; the piece next below, of about 380 acres and allowance, was conveyed to Thomas Forster, and the lower piece, also of about 380 acres and allowance, was patented to Thomas Simpson.

Next below the land of Thomas Simpson lay a tract of about three hundred acres of John Harris, a part of which, viz, about one hundred and eighty acres, afterward belonged to William Maclay, as above stated; and next below was the five hundred acres of John Harris, on which Harrisburg was laid out, the title to which, William Maclay states, was obtained long after settlement; the title to both tracts of John Harris being dated 1733. Upon the death of his father, Michael, the subject of this sketch, sold his interest in this land of his father; and, I have been told, received in payment for it continental money, which became nearly worthless.

He was a revolutionary soldier. In the latter part of his life, and for a number of years previous to his death, he resided on a farm on the Susquehanna in York county, about three miles below the Harrisburg bridge. This valuable farm consisted of several hundred acres, and originally belonged to the first John Harris, from whom it was transmitted down till it came, through his marriage with the widow Chesney, to whom it then belonged, to the ownership of General Simpson. He was a friend of the father of the writer of this article, and when quite young, perhaps ten or twelve years of age, I, with one of my brothers, frequently visited him, crossing the river in our log

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