
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 844 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY FLYNN, FARINA, SCHLOSSBERG, McNEILL, J. HARRIS,
COHEN, KOTIK, HAGGERTY, LUCAS, MIRABITO, GODSHALL,
DIGIROLAMO, VEREB, KINSEY, NEILSON, READSHAW, O'NEILL,
HARHART, BIZZARRO, MILLARD, THOMAS, ROSS, ROZZI, MATZIE,
CALTAGIRONE, GINGRICH, KAVULICH, YOUNGBLOOD, PICKETT, CLYMER,
DONATUCCI, McCARTER, DENLINGER, BOBACK, MAJOR, MARSICO AND
MAHONEY, MAY 5, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 5, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and congratulating the Borough of Clarks Green upon
2 the 100th anniversary of its formation, honoring the borough
3 for its great history and recognizing the residents that
4 helped to organize a centennial celebration.

5 WHEREAS, The Borough of Clarks Green in Lackawanna County
6 became a borough by action of the court on May 5, 1914; and

7 WHEREAS, Before its formal incorporation by court action,
8 Clarks Green had been an unincorporated village of South
9 Abington Township; and

10 WHEREAS, Clarks Green and Clarks Summit are considered twin
11 boroughs that were carved out of South Abington Township and
12 both boroughs derive their names from Deacon William A. Clark,
13 an early settler; and

14 WHEREAS, Clark was born in 1757 in Rhode Island and at 18
15 years of age, Clark joined the Continental Army, becoming a
16 soldier in the American Revolutionary War; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1775, Clark served with distinction at the Battle
2 of Bunker Hill; and

3 WHEREAS, He also served under General George Washington's
4 command at the Battle of Trenton in 1776 and during the brutal
5 winter at Valley Forge in 1777-78; and

6 WHEREAS, As payment for his Continental Army service, Clark,
7 who then lived in Connecticut, received a grant of 800 acres of
8 land in northeastern Pennsylvania in what is now Lackawanna
9 County; and

10 WHEREAS, Clark's wife, Mary, became the first woman of
11 European descent to settle in the area; and

12 WHEREAS, His three daughters and three sons relocated to
13 Pennsylvania in canoes and by strapping goods to their backs and
14 on drays for the journey; and

15 WHEREAS, Clark first visited the land granted as a fur
16 trapper in the early 1790s and would later learn that the land
17 had been part of an ownership dispute between Pennsylvania and
18 Connecticut that developed into what is known as the Yankee-
19 Pennamite War, and ultimately Clark's claim to the land was
20 worthless; and

21 WHEREAS, Clark ended up paying for a 200-acre parcel of land,
22 settled on that parcel with his sons, William, Jeremiah and
23 John, who had fur trapped with him, and built a log cabin on the
24 site of the current Clarks Green Cemetery; and

25 WHEREAS, Clark and his family worked to establish a farm and
26 received credit for developing the first apple orchard in the
27 area; and

28 WHEREAS, Clark went on to become a deacon in the First
29 Baptist Church; and

30 WHEREAS, Clark died in 1827 and is buried in the Clarks Green

1 Cemetery near where his original log cabin stood; and

2 WHEREAS, The first road, known as the Philadelphia and Great
3 Bend Turnpike, was constructed through the village in 1812 and
4 along the side of the road Clark's son, Jeremiah Clark, built a
5 tavern as a stop for stage coaches; and

6 WHEREAS, The tavern became the first commercial business
7 established in the village; and

8 WHEREAS, As the community grew, a militia formed and held its
9 practices on a greens ward or lawn, which resulted in the
10 practice site being named Clarks Green, which then evolved into
11 the name of the community; and

12 WHEREAS, The first store in all of Abington Township also
13 opened in Clarks Green and was established by Samuel Griffin;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Clarks Green later had a post office open in 1850
16 with S.A. Northrup serving as postmaster; and

17 WHEREAS, Both Clarks Summit and Clarks Green were considered
18 quiet little country villages content to remain part of South
19 Abington Township until the construction of the then Northern
20 Electric Street Railway around 1906; and

21 WHEREAS, Within a few years after the railway construction
22 and the commencement of its regular operation, home seekers from
23 Scranton began to locate in Clarks Green and Clarks Summit as
24 land companies opened sections of both areas to development; and

25 WHEREAS, Improved roads brought more residents and prompted
26 those living in Clarks Summit to seek an improved form of local
27 government, which led to application of a borough charter for
28 Clarks Summit, which was granted on August 30, 1911; and

29 WHEREAS, That circumstance and the ongoing changes in Clarks
30 Green also brought about an application for a borough charter,

1 which was granted on May 12, 1914; and

2 WHEREAS, A special election took place in Clarks Green on May
3 26, 1914, in which J.R. Schlanger, former treasurer and later
4 sheriff of Lackawanna County, won election as burgess, while
5 J.N. Douglas, R.H. Leib, Harry Older, William Swallow, B.E.
6 Wheeler, Silas White and W.L. Matthews all won election as
7 councilmen; and

8 WHEREAS, The borough council organized on June 2, 1914, by
9 electing Mr. Matthews as president and I.E. Jones as secretary;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The current leaders and residents of Clarks Green
12 will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the
13 borough with various activities on May 24 and 25, 2014, to
14 commemorate the centennial milestone; and

15 WHEREAS, The activities include a tribute to veterans of the
16 borough whose military service helped protect our nation's
17 freedom, a chicken barbecue provided by the Clarks Green United
18 Methodist Church, an ice cream social hosted by the Waverly
19 Masonic Lodge #301 and the highlight of the celebration
20 involving the dedication of a Centennial Clock in the borough at
21 noon on Saturday, May 24; and

22 WHEREAS, The following people have served on the Clarks Green
23 Centennial Committee: Mayor Bill Thornburn, chairman; Borough
24 Council Member Lynne Earley, co-chair and secretary; Borough
25 Council Member Marnie Palmer, co-chair; Borough Secretary-
26 Treasurer Jan Brown; Ben Brown; Pam Osborne; Rick Williams; John
27 Earley; Charlie Sandercock; Gail Rees; Mason Moher and Bethany
28 Earley; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
30 congratulate the Borough of Clarks Green upon the 100th

1 anniversary of its formation as a borough and join in
2 celebrating its centennial year, as well as its dynamic and
3 fascinating history; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the Borough
5 of Clarks Green for the great role that it and its residents
6 have played in the history of this Commonwealth; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize all the
9 borough residents, nonprofit groups, businesses and other
10 organizations that have helped in planning and putting together
11 the borough's centennial celebration and urge Governor Tom
12 Corbett, the Senate of Pennsylvania and all interested residents
13 of the borough, Lackawanna County and elsewhere in this
14 Commonwealth to join in this salute of Clarks Green during the
15 observance of its centennial year.