

**THE SIMPSONS OF RYE
TOP, CUMBERLAND
VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA**

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The Simpsons of Rye Top, Cumberland Valley, Pennsylvania by Elizabeth Simpson Bladen

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ELIZABETH SIMPSON BLADEN

**THE SIMPSONS OF RYE
TOP, CUMBERLAND
VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Simpsons

Of RYE TOP,
Cumberland Valley, Pennsylvania

Mrs. *By*
ELIZABETH SIMPSON BLADEN
Of Philadelphia



PHILADELPHIA
PRESS OF ALLEN, LANE & SCOTT
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PREFACE.

I OFFER this story of the Simpson Family to my ancestors as a slight token of gratitude for the heritage of a healthy body and hardy soul which have enabled me to breast the storms and gather the sunshine of seventy years. I have followed their trail from the waters of Chesapeake Bay to the Forks of the Ohio, and their history from the reign of King James to the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt.

Among those who have kindly facilitated my investigations, I make grateful acknowledgment to Col. Thomas Kennedy, President of Cumberland Valley Railroad; Mr. George W. Boyd, General Passenger Agent Pennsylvania Railroad; Col. Frank N. Barksdale, for information of the old National Road, &c.; Mr. Jordan, Historical Society of Pennsylvania; the Curator of Historical Society, York, Pa.; Councillor George Calvart Lewis, of Pittsburgh; Mrs. T. J. Nill, of Green Castle, Pa.; and Miss Martha Clark, of Lancaster, Pa., for valuable assistance.

ELIZABETH SIMPSON BLADEN.

708 South Tenth Street,
Philadelphia.

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THE SIMPSONS

OF RYE TOP,

CUMBERLAND VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA.

WHEN Charles the Second was restored to the throne of England, 1662, he proclaimed a general amnesty to the various sectaries and adherents of the late Protector, Oliver Cromwell, but with the astute diplomacy characteristic of the "Merry Monarch," the provisions of this amnesty were delayed for two years. Eminent opponents were beguiled to London only to find that the "amnesty" was merely symbolic; many were indicted for treason and had their heads cut off. Notably among these was the Duke of Argyle, whose son had been

received graciously by the King and had persuaded his father to trust to his Majesty's clemency.

This summary vengeance on so shining a mark greatly impressed the old Cromwellian soldiers. One of these, John Simpson, who had done gallant service for Cromwell, turned all his property into gold and came to the New World with a thousand pounds in his saddlebags. He landed at New York, bought him a horse, and rode to Albany, subsequently prospecting through the Genessee country with a view to buying a new estate. From this he was deterred by the severity of the climate and the sight of numbers of refugees who could find no means of earning their bread. So he retraced his steps and finally made his way to Maryland, where he purchased a tract under the

charters of Lord Baltimore, in the northwestern portion of the State, which later was, under the survey of English Commission, Mason and Dixon, assigned to the Province of Pennsylvania. The milestones set up by Mason and Dixon in the reign of Queen Anne, marked with a royal crown, are still in good condition in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, on the border of the two States. At the time of the erection of these stones the present county, known as Franklin, was included in Lancaster.

John Simpson is referred to in genealogical and historical works as "Indian trader," though he cultivated a great farm and had many slaves and servants. In point of fact, all early settlers traded with the Indians for the lands they held, as this second payment was security for peace. •No