

## KIDNAPPED!

*The Girty homestead was northeast of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Lancaster County at this time was much larger and included this area.*

Among the many adventurers who came to America to seek their fortune was a rough-and-tumble Irishman named Simon Girty. As he crossed the ocean toward the new land, though it's a cinch he never suspected that his sons would be early settlers of Greenfield, it probably would have come as no surprise to Girty that his boys would grow up to be some of the first notorious outlaws of the American West.

When Simon Girty arrived in America, he met and married Mary Newton, a young English girl half his age. With their four young sons—Thomas, Simon Jr., James and George—they set up a homestead on 300 acres of land in Lancaster County. Girty went into the trading business, traveling north to buy goods at Thomas McKee's trading post and then bringing them back to sell to the Indians. Mary stayed home with the boys.

Sometimes Girty traveled alone, sometimes with his partner, John Turner. It was a long walk over rough terrain, their packhorse team trudging single file with one man guiding in front and another behind. If folks were traveling, Girty and Turner were men to avoid.

*Simon Sr. was not a nice man. He was a drinker, and he had a hot temper.*

Consider the time they ran into a Delaware Indian known as Fish. The Indian had furs to swap, but all their trade goods had already been bartered. Instead, they took Fish to Chamber's Mill and got him drunk. The next day, Fish's body was in the mill pond and his furs were on the back of Turner's packhorse.

Girty often came home from a few days on the trail with a belly full of rum and a half-dozen Indians. The Girty home always seemed to be full to the brim with people. Simon Girty, Mary and the boys, John Turner, and their indentured servant Honour Edwards all lived there, and when you added Girty's guests, it made for a houseful.

Mary and the boys weren't welcome in the homes of their German neighbors because of Simon's Indian friends and his loud ways, but the Girty boys never seemed to mind. Their Indian guests brought gifts,

