

ACCOUNTS

Journal of the Union County Historical Society
Union County, Pennsylvania

October 2017

Issue: 7-2

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Table of Contents | |
| <u>What's in this issue</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Passing the Baton to a New Editor</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Old Time Music in Central Pennsylvania</u> by Carl R. Catherman | <u>4</u> |
| <u>Editing the Mifflinburg Telegraph</u> by Mary Lee Jensen | <u>20</u> |
| <u>The Mifflinburg Telegraph, Part I: From the Civil War to the Great Depression</u> by Sidney Dreese | <u>27</u> |
| <u>That Championship Season; Baseball is Back and New Berlin is Best</u> by Tom Walker | <u>41</u> |
| <u>Helen Fairchild, White Deer Valley's Own</u> by Nelle Fairchild Rote | <u>57</u> |
| <u>Lewisburg's Nineteenth Century Heavy Industries, I: Canal Boats and Foundries</u> by Richard A. Sauers | <u>69</u> |
| <u>About this issue's authors</u> | <u>86</u> |
| <u>Writing for ACCOUNTS</u> | <u>87</u> |
| <u>Index to Vol. 7, No. 2</u> | <u>89</u> |
| <u>A Note Regarding the Index of ACCOUNTS</u> | <u>96</u> |

What's in this issue?

Readers will find fascinating reading in this issue. **Carl Catherman** introduces you to the rich and vibrant history of Old Time Music in our region and in our county. From the Civil War to the mid-Twentieth Century, fiddlers, banjo players and other musicians and vocalists entertained and informed listeners live at dances, parties, and regularly on the radio. Catherman shares his knowledge and lists recordings from his collection. This article fills an important gap in Union County cultural history.

The Mifflinburg Telegraph informed mid-county readers for a century and a half, issuing its last issue in 2014. **Mary Lee Jensen**, now living in Ithaca, NY, edited the newspaper for more than a year in 1979-80, her first professional job, supervised by publisher Harris Lemon. She shares with us her experiences and her conclusions about the important functions a local newspaper fills, and how it differs from regional and national newspapers.

Sidney Dreese extends our knowledge of the Mifflinburg Telegraph with part 1 of a two-part study of the Telegraph from its 1862 founding to the 1930s, emphasizing the policies, politics, objectives, and business profitability under its four successive owner-editors. Based on a page-by-page, issue-by-issue reading, Dreese explores how the newspaper responded to both national (e.g. Civil War, Lincoln assassination, World War I) and local events (e.g. local businesses, civic groups, re-naming streets) through the nearly 7 decades covered by this article.

You don't have to be a sports fan to enjoy **Tom Walker's** account of the New Berlin Baseball Club's 1946 championship season, as WWII soldiers returned home and peacetime life resumed. Walker's father, Billy Walker, was the winning pitcher in the 5-game season finale against the archrival Mifflinburg Middies, and the original game tallies, artifacts, and statistics are part of this article. Adopting the writing style of sports journalism, author Walker shows that history can be made, and recounted, in more than one writing style.

Ninety-nine years after the 1918 death of American battlefield nurse Helen Fairchild, **Nelle Fairchild Rote** draws from her great aunt's diary to take us into the hardships and horrors of Helen's wartime service. At the same time, author Rote embeds Helen's heroism within Helen's White Deer family background and the aspirations of a young woman, allowing ACCOUNTS' readers to discover the person Helen Fairchild beneath the official citations and remembrances.

Richard Sauers returns to the pages of ACCOUNTS with the first of a multi-series on Lewisburg's economic history. Part I focuses on the lumber mills, boat-building, foundries and machine-manufacturing that shaped and broadened Lewisburg's economic base especially in the early- to mid-Nineteenth Century. Based on exacting study of records, as well as of the archives of Lewisburg newspapers, Sauer's article and his others to come will be benchmarks for the history of Lewisburg and Union County.

Passing the Baton to a New Editor

I have had the honor and privilege of founding ACCOUNTS in 2011 and editing its first 7 years of twice-yearly issues.¹ The work has provided me great satisfactions, especially the

¹ ACCOUNTS was approved by the UCHS board in the fall of 2010. Planning began in January, 2011. Authors were recruited across the Spring and the first issue (vol. 1.) appeared in October. Thereafter the

opportunity to work with many dozens of outstanding authors. Some have been professional historians, but others, the majority, are those who have deep knowledge and interest in Union County history and who have been willing to put in the substantial effort to write up some part of what they know. To all ACCOUNTS authors: it has been a pleasure; you have taught me – a mere anthropologist - a great deal of history. And together we have preserved knowledge that otherwise would be forgotten as memories fade and we pass away.

History is a learning enterprise, and so is editing a new journal. ACCOUNTS has much to show us. Consider the following five points:

One, ACCOUNTS demonstrates that a new, on line journal fills a need. Too much of what we should know about Union County's history resides in the heads and memories of our citizens, and largely evaporates when we pass on. ACCOUNTS is a working vehicle for capturing and preserving much of what otherwise is likely to disappear.

Two, ACCOUNTS shows that preserving history (which we define broadly) is a task all of us – not just the professionals – can shoulder. Local history is a community enterprise.

Three, ACCOUNTS shows the viability of an on-line format. The reason ACCOUNTS is on-line only is, frankly, that it's almost cost-free to the Society, and that any expenses that publishing an on line journal does incur, such as paying a website service, it would need to pay anyway.

Four, ACCOUNTS also points out the limitations of an on-line-only journal: it's hard to get visible and thus to attract readers and writers. A paper copy lying on a coffee table is much more visible than a web address. But paper copies entail production costs, subscription lists, financial records, mailing costs, and significant staff time --- incompatible with a volunteer organization already on a tight budget.

And five, to offset the visibility problem every issue needs to become its own vehicle for getting the word out, through e-mail announcements, flyers, and in-person pitches at the main Society events. Even so, a portion of the Society's members have little contact with the cyber world and are thus marginalized from ACCOUNTS. That's an uncomfortable reality.

Now that the first seven years of ACCOUNTS are complete, it is time to pass the editor's cap to a new editor, and I am pleased to introduce **Matt Wagner**, recently retired Mifflinburg music teacher and director of its award-winning band, who has nourished a lifelong interest in local history. Appointed by the UCHS Board this past September, Matt's first ACCOUNTS issue will be February, 2018. Welcome Matt! Please get in touch with Matt (mcwagner.mcw@gmail.com) with your ideas for an ACCOUNTS article - either one you could write, or a potential author he could approach. Help him get Volume 8 off to a strong start.

Thanks to all , **TOM**

issues of each annual volume of ACCOUNTS have appeared in February (#1) and October (#2) of each successive year.

Old Time Music in Central Pennsylvania

By

Carl R. Catherman

Old time music is generally thought of as music played on acoustic stringed instruments, particularly fiddle¹, banjo and guitar, which were most often used by string bands in the Appalachian region. In addition to those three



Jim and Jane and the Western Vagabonds. Rawhide (seated) and Tumbleweed (standing) 2nd from the left, 1938. (author's collection)

main instruments various bands used the mandolin, upright bass, washtub bass, ukulele, harmonica, autoharp, mountain dulcimer (an American invention), jug, pump organ and anything else that might contribute useful sounds. *The Old-Time Herald*, a quality magazine published in Durham, North Carolina since 1988, focuses on music with roots in Appalachia, including Afro-American and

¹ The word fiddle is used universally to refer to the violin by old time and bluegrass musicians and also by some musicians in all genres.

Cherokee musicians, but also expands its coverage to include regional styles such as Cajun, Norteño, Norwegian-American Hardanger fiddle players from the Upper Midwest, early cowboy singers and others. The concertina or accordion are used in at least two of these regional styles.

The fiddle has been in America almost from the time of the earliest European settlements, brought here mostly by Irish or Scottish immigrants to the United States and by the French to Canada. Often called the devil's box, it was used primarily to provide music for dancing. The modern banjo is an American adaptation of gourd instruments played by African slaves. It first became popular among Whites in the 1830s. Although C. F. Martin began producing guitars in 1833 the guitar did not become a popular instrument among traditional musicians until several decades later and the mandolin was seldom used until still later. The harmonica, concertina and accordion were introduced by German immigrants.

Although there is no documented evidence there can be little doubt that there were fiddle players in Central Pennsylvania before 1800. As mentioned above, the fiddle was used primarily to provide music for dancing. The earliest dances were held in people's homes. Furniture was moved out of the way and rugs were rolled up in one or more rooms to provide space for the dancers, generally close friends and neighbors of the host family. Apart from a meal the fiddlers were not paid except on rare occasions when a hat was passed around. As is still true today, the non-professional musicians were enjoying the occasion as much as the dancers.

In the late 1800s dances began to be held in Grange Halls and still later in fire halls and other public places that could accommodate larger numbers of people. Some dances were held outdoors. Charles M. Snyder mentions dances on a platform at the Sugar Camp in the 1870s and 1880s.² I recall a square dance in the parking lot of the church in Vicksburg around 1950.

² Snyder, Charles M., *Union County, Pennsylvania: a Celebration of History*, p. 167.

The fiddler who played for the dances at the Sugar Camp³ was Charles Hummel who lived at White Springs. Another fiddler from the same period was George Englehart (1853-1932) who lived in the vicinity of Forest Hill. R. Raymond Allen⁴ mentions Englehart, his grandson Lester Englehart (1908-1997), Archie Miller (1893-1996) and other Union County fiddlers but with only surnames, as well as Snyder County fiddlers Renaldo Gemberling, Ralph Kratzer (1893-1975), Isaac Sprenkle (1871-1954) and Ben Herman. He also refers to



Marty D'Addario



Harry D'Addario

The sons of Italian immigrants, Harry and Marty were long time fixtures on the old time music scene in Central Pennsylvania. Photos from album liner, "Oh Mother It Hurts Me So," UCHS, used with permission

brothers Marty (1905-1992) and Harry D'Addario (1908-1992) who learned from Calvin Walters, Earl Bingaman and Clyde Kline. Jacob Zimmerman (1853-1940), a native of White Deer Valley and who died in Clinton County, was much in demand as a fiddler and singer of old ballads.⁵

It is curious that almost all of the fiddlers named by Allen were of German extraction, since there is very little evidence of the fiddle being used in German

³ The Sugar Camp was located on an island in Penns Creek about two miles east of the bridge below Millmont. It was so named because of the little cabins and the sugar maple trees that were on the island.

⁴ Allen, R. Raymond, "The Fiddle Tradition in Central Pennsylvania," in *Pennsylvania Folklife*, Winter 1981-82, pp. 50-55.

⁵ Newspaper clipping dated in pencil 6/7/39, unknown newspaper. A photo of Zimmerman with his fiddle can be found on Find a Grave memorial #16797737.

folk music. However, he quotes Pennsylvania German scholar Don Yoder⁶ who refers to “the popularity of fiddling among the German population of Berks and Schuylkill Counties” in the 19th Century. Clearly the German immigrants enjoyed the music of their Anglo neighbors and some learned to play it. What is also curious about the names of the fiddlers referred to by Allen is the almost total absence of surnames that could be associated with the British Isles from whence the fiddle was brought to Pennsylvania. I would suggest that the English-speaking immigrants who populated Central Pennsylvania eventually began to think of their fiddle tradition as being old fashioned and rejected it in favor of more modern styles of music. This happened among other cultural groups, for example Cajun and Métis, but in most cases a few diehards have kept their traditions alive.

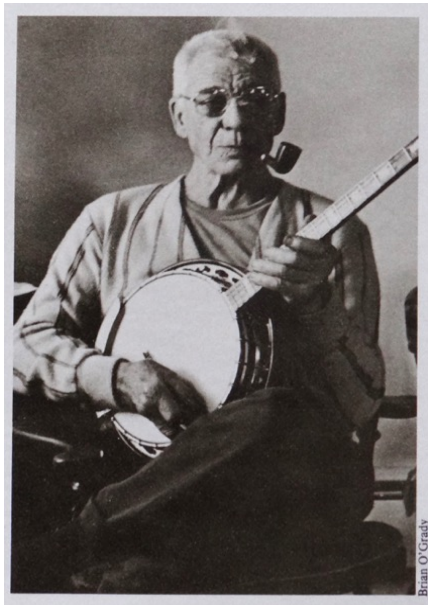
The invention of methods to reproduce sound on cylinders or discs and the development of commercial radio helped to bring about a change in the way people viewed traditional music. In addition to being something used almost exclusively to accompany dancing it became something to just sit and listen to. Old songs, some dating back to pre-Civil War times, were now being sung to the accompaniment of stringed instruments. String bands began to flourish. One of the earliest was the Mifflinburg String Band. A photograph of this aggregation of about twenty men, probably taken about 1915, shows five holding fiddles or bows, five with guitars, two with five-string banjos, one with a bowl-back mandolin, a drum, and the rest probably vocalists.⁷ However, this group does not fit the profile of an old time string band and it is impossible to know what kind of music they played. Most likely they were inspired by the mandolin orchestras that were in vogue at the time.

The first known old time string band in Union County was Jack’s Mountaineers which was probably formed in the late 1920s and disbanded in the mid-1930s. At one time or another this group included Jacob Barnett (1901-1988), Harry D’Addario (1908-1992), Archie Miller (1893-1996), Earl Miller, Pete

⁶ Yoder, Don, “Pennsylvania Dutch Folk Dancing,” in *Pennsylvania Dutchman*, 2,5: p. 1. The reference is Allen’s, not the author’s.

⁷ Snyder, Charles McCool, *Mifflinburg. A Bicentennial History*. p. 31.

Miller (1912-1987) and Earl Solomon.⁸ This band performed both vocal and instrumental music and played regularly for dances at public venues throughout the region. They also broadcast on radio WKOK in Sunbury. Pete and Earl Miller played more than one instrument and Archie Miller handled most of the vocals.



Pete Miller

Archie Miller

Pete and Archie played together in Jack's Mountaineers⁷
Photos from album liner, "Oh Mother It Hurts Me So," UCHS,
used with permission

Kenneth Clark (1913-2005) was born in Snyder County but in the 1930s he was living with his uncle on a farm on Blue Hill in Union County. Inspired by nationally known musicians that he heard on distant radio stations he learned to play guitar and harmonica.⁹ In the mid-1930s he began singing with the Hile Brothers on their weekly radio program on WKOK. In January 1938 he was hired as a member of Jim (Claar, 1914-1991) and Jane (1914-2011) and the Western Vagabonds who broadcast six days a week on radio WRAK in Williamsport (see the photo on the first page of this article). He was teamed with mandolin player Raymond Milburn (1919-1940), a native of Bedford County who had already been

⁸ The four musicians whose birth and death years are given were confirmed as members in their obituaries in *The Daily Item*. The other two were named in the liner notes to "Oh Mother It Hurts Me So," an LP album released by the Union County Historical Society's Oral Traditions Project in 1980.

⁹ Leiderman, Jack, "And Vivid Lightning Comes," in *Bluegrass Unlimited*, Sept. 2002, pp. 40-42. Much of what follows regarding Clark's career has been extracted from this article.

given the name Rawhide and Clark was dubbed Tumbleweed. Both men could sing lead and tenor and their close harmonies quickly made them immensely popular. They had an extensive repertoire of old sentimental songs and hymns and they drew large crowds at festivals, carnivals and other venues.

A year later they left Jim and Jane to join up with Radio Dot (1916-1972) and Smokey (Swan, 1907-1980) on the same station. With this aggregation they went south for a while to broadcast on radio WSPA in Spartanburg, South Carolina. (Moving from one station to another was common practice among professional old time bands in those days and this practice continued well into the 1940s.) It is worth noting that Dot and Smokey went on to play on the Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport and in 1946 they became cast members of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, giving them national exposure.

After returning from South Carolina late in 1939 Rawhide and Tumbleweed left Dot and Smokey but continued to broadcast on WRAK, performing as a duo but sometimes with a full band called the Western Rangers. They attempted to expand their territory by leaving WRAK to broadcast on stations in Wilkes-Barre and then Easton, but their style of music was not as popular in those markets. Discouraged, they returned to their home base and on April 1, 1940, Milburn committed suicide while staying with a family near Muncy, thus ending a career that might have been far more successful had they made the right moves. Shaken by his close friend's tragic end Clark gave up his musical aspirations.

Developments in the electrification of stringed instruments in the 1930s were destined to bring dramatic changes to many genres of music. The electric guitar, invented in 1931, was first used in Western Swing recordings in 1935 and introduced into mainstream country music by Ernest Tubb in 1941. The electric bass and lap steel guitar were both invented in the mid-1930s and the lap steel was mostly replaced by the electric pedal steel guitar in the 1940s. Pickups were invented to connect acoustic instruments including fiddles to amplifiers; mandolins began to fall out of favor. By 1950 Grandpa Jones and David "Stringbean" Akeman were the only nationally known old time banjo pickers who were still recording and their popularity was based at least as much on their

comedic performances as their music. Old time fiddlers and old time string bands were no longer being recorded.

Another seminal event was the formation of Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys in 1938 after he and his brother Charlie went their separate ways following a successful career as a mandolin-guitar duo. Although it was not immediately evident this new band signaled a divergence of country music into two separate paths, mainstream and bluegrass. While other country musicians gravitated to electrified instruments in the 1940s Monroe remained fiercely loyal to the acoustic sound. His first recordings in 1946 with Earl Scruggs picking the five-string banjo created a sensation. Scruggs played incredibly rapid three-finger rolls on the banjo that were completely different from the techniques used by old time banjo players. As a result, hundreds of young musicians learned this new technique and "bluegrass" bands proliferated rapidly.

None of these developments went unnoticed in the Central Susquehanna Valley. New country music bands playing electrified instruments emerged and by the early 1950s every radio station in Sunbury, Milton, Williamsport and Bloomsburg broadcast live country music played by these local bands on Saturday mornings. This development almost destroyed the old time music tradition in the region. The old timers still played for square dances but the dances were held less frequently and attendance declined, especially among the younger people. One of the few bands that continued to use only acoustic instruments was the Tumbleweed Troubadors (sic) although the accompanying photograph (next page) clearly shows leader George Reimensnyder (1931-2012) with a pickup cord attached to his guitar. Most of the band members were from the vicinity of Milton but Hank Miller from Kelly Point who joined the band after the photograph was taken told me that while he played with them they continued to use acoustic instruments, but that their repertoire was mostly a reflection of the then current mainstream country music songs.

Bluegrass music also made inroads in the region. For a time the Bob and Dean McNett band employed bluegrass banjo picker Sonny Bower from southern



The Tumbleweed Troubadors, ca. 1952 (author's collection)

Lycoming County. In the early 1950s Union Countian Bill Bingaman (1908-1963) purchased bluegrass instruments for family members.¹⁰ After much practice they formed the Black Mountain Ramblers with Bill playing bass, son Lamar (1931-2001) guitar, son Clarence banjo and occasionally guitar or mandolin when needed and son-in-law David Bell (1930-2009) played fiddle. In later years they were sometimes joined by musicians from east of the Susquehanna River including Zane Laubach (1947-2013) and Weldon Fausey who founded their own band, the Eagle Mountain Boys. The Ramblers later changed the name to The Bingaman Brothers and the Blue Grass Valley Boys. They recorded singles and cassette tapes, some of which included songs written by Lamar. They broadcast on Mifflinburg's FM radio station and made personal appearances at various festivals.

¹⁰ Telephone interview with Clarence Bingaman, Dec. 11, 2016.



“So Lonesome and Blue” Bingaman Brothers,
45 rpm single. Del Marr Sound, Lewisburg PA

In spite of these developments the old time musicians did not abandon their music. Archie Miller continued to play his fiddle and sing the old songs, if only for his friends or for his own pleasure and he participated in at least one fiddling contest, sponsored by the New Berlin Heritage Association. Brothers Marty “Hi-Ho” and Harry D’Addario also continued to play and in the summer of 1984 they were given exposure to a wide audience when Mike Stevens featured them on his “On the Pennsylvania Road” segment which was broadcast on WNEP-TV. Harry was seen playing fiddle and mandolin while Marty played fiddle, guitar and harmonica.

Harry was particularly active in various musical groups playing a variety of musical styles including John Throssel’s Orchestra, the Wagonaires, the Buffalo Creek Bogtrotters and the Union County String Band, the latter two of which played in the old style. In the latter group he was joined with his long time friend and neighbor Pete Miller with whom he had played in Jack’s Mountaineers many years earlier.

Pete and Harry had both worked at Rosedale Dairy and after Harry retired he took a custodial position at Bucknell University where he began holding late night music sessions in the Vaughn Literature Building. Among others these sessions included Bucknell professor Bob Taylor and later Mike Moynihan.

Bob Taylor is a great-grandson of James Taylor whose younger brothers Alfred and Robert were both fiddlers who served as governors of Tennessee, once running against each other and both playing the fiddle to draw crowds to their campaign rallies. A fiddler himself Bob is also the author of two novels in which music plays a prominent part.¹¹ He lived in Mifflinburg and after retiring he moved to Grayson County, Virginia¹² where he plays fiddle in the Buck Mountain Band. Two tunes on their “Moon behind the Hill” CD were inspired by Harry’s versions.

Mike Moynihan, a native of Vermont who moved to Union County in 1972, became interested in old time music during the “folk boom” of the 1960s. An excellent guitar player, he joined Pete Miller and Harry D’Addario in the Union County String Band which played annually at New Berlin Heritage Day until Pete succumbed to a heart attack after their performance in 1987.

If any documented proof was needed that old time music was still alive in Central Pennsylvania it came in 1980 with the release of “Oh Mother It Hurts Me



LP album cover for "Oh Mother It Hurts Me So", issued in 1980. The cover photo shows Mooresburg potter Daniel Ack and John Curry, ca. 1907. Used with permission from the Union County Historical Society.

¹¹ *Fiddle and Bow*, 1985 and *Blind Singer Joe's Blues*, 2006.

¹² The region of Grayson and Carroll Counties is and always has been a hotbed of old time music.

So,” an LP (see footnote 8) featuring seventeen tunes and songs played and sung by Union and Snyder Countians. The artists were Marty (fiddle and harmonica) and Harry D’Addario (fiddle), Pete Miller (4-string banjo), Archie Miller (vocals), Ellsworth Snook (square dance calls), and Mike Moynihan (guitar). The selections included traditional fiddle tunes, old sentimental songs, polkas and two tunes that Marty learned from his father. Most of the tunes were recorded in a studio but some were recorded in homes by Ray Allen who provided guitar accompaniment. The excellent liner notes and booklet give considerable details regarding the fiddle tradition among Pennsylvania Germans, the techniques of the musicians, their bibliographies and the origins of the tunes and songs, all of which are beyond the scope of this article.

The music played by Marty D’Addario¹³ is particularly interesting. For many years Marty lived alone without a radio, record player or television set. Thus his music was unaffected by the sounds of either bluegrass or electrified country music. All of his tunes were learned from either his father who played the accordion or from fiddlers who learned in the late 1800s. Marty often played on the sidewalk outside of the Copper Kettle restaurant and also played for square dances in the vicinity of Middleburg.

Since the release of the LP mentioned above all of the local old time musicians mentioned have passed on. I have questioned several people who are over 80 years old and who have been familiar with the country music scene in Union, Snyder and Lycoming Counties for decades. Although they were familiar with the musicians named in this article none of them could name a single surviving old time musician.

Nevertheless, there is still one old time fiddle player living in the region. Blaine Shover, nearing his 91st birthday, is a native of Juniata County who now lives in Snyder County. Blaine is still actively playing music and as recently as August he was appearing every Wednesday night as part of the back-up band for the country and bluegrass music open mic at the Middleburg VFW where he would occasionally play on old time fiddle tune. It is clear from a homemade CD

¹³ The information about Marty D’Addario was provided by Kay Poeth.

that he gave me he is equally proficient at playing old time, bluegrass, modern country, pop, and Western Swing music. On this CD his brother-in-law, the late Paul Miller, played excellent back up on guitar on the seventeen old fiddle tunes. Blaine has played in various local bluegrass and country bands and has played informally with bluegrass luminaries such as Del McCoury and Mac Wiseman.

Old time music still thrives in many regions across the nation. Every year there are several dozen festivals or fiddlers conventions, as well as numerous workshops where aspiring players can learn from masters of their instruments. Unfortunately, it is almost certain that old time music is destined to disappear from the Central Pennsylvania music scene.

For those who are unfamiliar with old time music but might be inclined to get a taste of it I recommend the following in addition to the LP issued by the Union County Historical Society (see footnote 8) which is almost impossible to find. Recordings which are known to be available on CD are indicated by *. There may be others. Vinyl copies are often available from Amazon.com and other dealers on the internet.

Another source is County Sales, a retail distributor of old time and bluegrass recordings and a division of County Records which produced many of the recommended LPs on the list below. You can find out what is still available by clicking on the "Contact" button on the main page of their web site.

Background to this Article

The editor of ACCOUNTS has suggested that I include some brief comments on my own long-standing interest in the old time and other forms of traditional music of our region. I first heard old time music on 78 rpm records played on a wind-up Victrola when I was a child. My interest and knowledge grew exponentially from attending the Brandywine Mountain Music Convention near Fair Hill, Maryland from the late 1970s through the 1980s. Sponsored by the Brandywine Friends of Old Time Music the three-day event almost always featured musicians who began playing before the 1920s and many who recorded professionally in the 1920s and 1930s.

As indicated in the text and footnotes, I am indebted to many people who have contributed to my understanding of traditional music and those who shaped and played it. Although the following list is necessarily incomplete, I would like to single out Harry D'Addario who I visited on several occasions, the late Lou Denemoustier (Delaware), Judge Carl Goldstein (Delaware), Judi H. Marti (Adams County, PA) who presented a workshop/concert at the Elias Center for the Performing Arts, and Blaine Shover. Twenty-five years of reading *The Old-Time Herald* was invaluable, as were the following books - *Fiddling Way Out Yonder: The Life and Music of Melvin Wine* by Drew Beisswenger, *The Stars of Country Music* (first six chapters), edited by Bill C. Malone and Judith McCulloh, *A Banjo Pickin' Girl: The Life and Music of Ola Belle Campbell Reed* by Judy H. Marti, *The Stonemans* by Ivan M. Tribe and *Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone: The Carter Family and Their Legacy in American Music* by Marl Zwonitzer and Charles Hirshberg. I would also like to thank Laura (Bingaman) Bell, Clarence Bingaman, Jim Brouse, Jack Crain, Hank Miller, Kay Poeth and Tony Shively for providing other useful information.

A Basic List of Recordings of Old Time Music¹⁴

The "sound" of old time fiddling is affected by bow strokes, fingering and tuning and it varies considerably from one region to another. In cases where it is not stated in the album title I have indicated in parenthesis the state where the fiddler(s) lived.

Old Time Fiddling

Various bands: Hell Broke Loose in Georgia, Georgia Fiddle Bands, 1927-1934 – County LP 514

Clyde Davenport: Clydoscope, Rare and Beautiful Tunes from the Cumberland Plateau – County 788 (Kentucky)

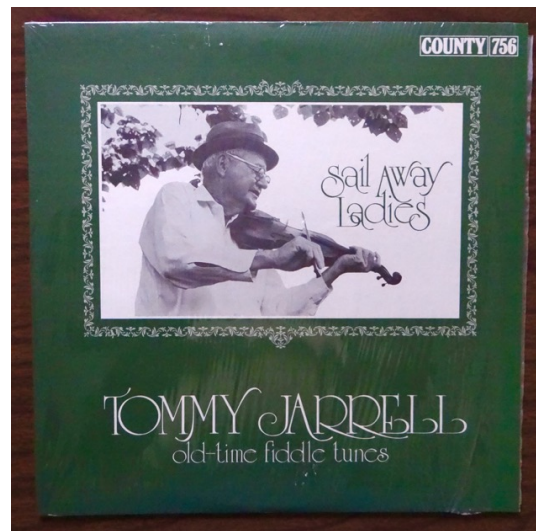
Various bands: Traditional Fiddle Music of Mississippi, Vol. 1 and 2 – County LP 528 & 529

¹⁴ Recordings preceded by * are believed to be available in CD format.



Art Galbraith: James River Fiddler “Dixie Blossoms” – Rounder LP 1033 (Missouri)

* Tommy Jarrell: Sail Away Ladies – County LP 756 (North Carolina)



Jehile Kirkhuff: Autumn Breeze – no label JK LP 1 (Pennsylvania)

Roan Mountain Hilltoppers: Cloudlands LP 001 (Tennessee)

John Ashby: Old Virginia Fiddling – County LP 727

Melvin Wine: Cold Frosty Moring – Poplar LP 1 (West Virginia)

Old Time Banjo

Old time banjo players almost invariably used one of two methods of playing, either clawhammer (aka drop-thumb) or two finger. All of the following played in the clawhammer style.

*Dock Boggs: His Folkway Years, 1963-1968 – two CD set from Smithsonian Folkways

*Tommy Jarrell: Come and Go with Me. County LP 748

*Uncle Dave Macon: Keep my Skillet Good and Greasy – Old Homestead LP 148

*Various artists: Clawhammer Banjo – County LP 701

Old Time String Bands

The Blue Ridge Highballers: 1926 Recordings – County LP 407



*Buck Mountain Band: Moon behind the Hills – no label, no # (Bob Taylor's band)

*Carolina Chocolate Drops: Genuine Negro Jig – Nonesuch 516995 (Grammy Award winning African-American band)

The Georgia Yellow Hammers: The Moonshine Hollow Band – Rounder LP 1032

The Leake County Revelers: Saturday Night Breakdown, 1927-1930 Recordings – County LP 532

Martin, Bogan and the Armstrongs: That Old Gang of Mine – Flying Fish LP 056 (older African-American band)

Charlie Poole & the North Carolina Ramblers, Vol. 2: Old Time Songs Recorded from 1925 to 1930 – County LP 509 (Poole was by far the best two-finger style banjo player and singer)

*Various bands: Echoes of the Ozarks, Vol 1, Arkansas String Bands, 1927-1930 – County LP 518

*Various bands: Nashville, the Early String Bands, Vol. 1 – County LP 541



✧ ACCOUNTS ✧

ACCOUNTS Vol. 7, No. 2, 2017
Union County Historical Society

Editing the Mifflinburg Telegraph

by

Mary Lee Jensen

It has been almost forty years since I left the Mifflinburg Telegraph -- my less than two-year stint as an editor of the newspaper only a small blip in its 150-year history. I began work at the Telegraph on March 20, 1979 and ended my job on August 1, 1980. In reflecting on my tenure, I now realize how little I knew then about its importance to the community and how naïve I was about so many local issues.

I was offered the position of editor soon after graduating from college, having moved to Lewisburg from the Philadelphia area to accompany my husband who was completing graduate work at Bucknell University. I had no journalism background apart from some time spent working on junior high and high school newspapers, but the Telegraph was not about hard-hitting investigative reporting. It was a weekly that was pretty much published as a community service since I doubt it ever made much of a profit – that came from the printing side of the business.

I knew how to write and must have met enough hiring criteria for Harris Lemon, the then publisher of the Telegraph, to give me a chance – although I quickly tested his confidence. The Mifflinburg High School wrestling team had just won the state title and they had been escorted through town by the Mifflinburg fire trucks the day before I started on the job. This was a big deal and I accompanied the front-page account with the banner headline below. I was pleased with myself for having completed my very



Masthead and my inaugural (misspelled) headline

first issue of the paper and was certain that extra copies would be sold. That brief optimism lasted until the next morning when Harris called me into his office and, pointing to the headline, gently mentioned that I might want to pay a little more attention to grammar and spelling for the next issue. I am still embarrassed by the mistake all these years later.

As editor of a community newspaper, I was indeed a “Jill of all trades.” Little did I know when I accepted the position that I would be doing much more than writing and proofreading articles! Job responsibilities included gathering news information, taking photographs, selling advertising, laying out the paper, transporting the galleys to the printer and delivering copies of the paper to drop-off points. It was never boring and challenged me to master new skills – including throwing cow chips at the county fair where I represented the Telegraph in the VIP competition (and won)!

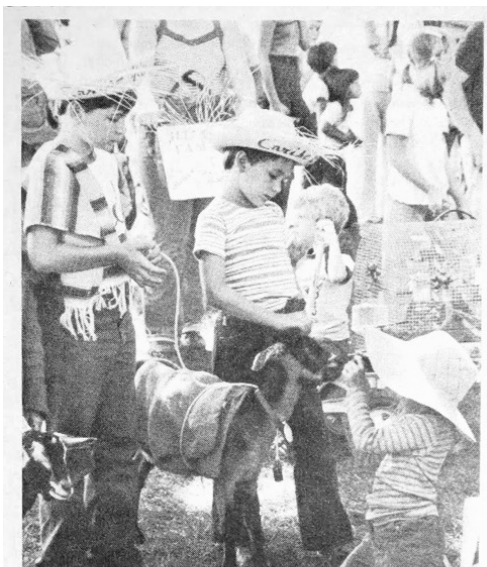
Putting together a weekly newspaper had a set rhythm. Thursday morning through the following Tuesday was spent pulling together information for the next issue. Stories either came through the mail as press releases (such as the one from the Department of Transportation announcing that photos would be appearing on all driver licenses by 1984) or were dropped off at the Telegraph office (this happened most frequently for news of weddings, reunions and obituaries). Other leads were supplied by my co-workers who were local to Mifflinburg and more “in the know” than myself.



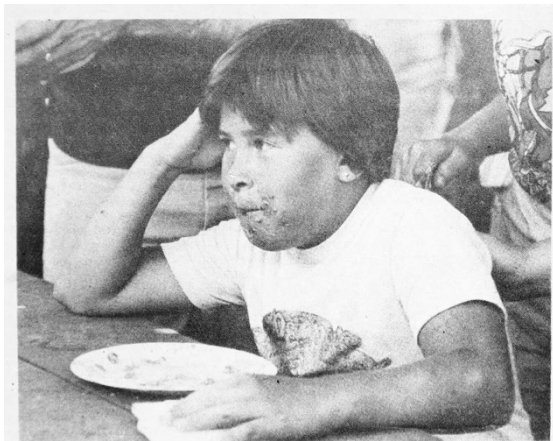
Three members of the Mifflinburg Community Ambulance Service recently received certificates of recognition from the American Red Cross for their use of CPR techniques in the near-drowning of a Mifflinburg Boy, John Yost, on June 14. Alvin Hoffman, Jr., Captain of the Mifflinburg Ambulance Association is shown here with the award recipients [l. to r.]: Tim Kloese, Tod Steese, and Ken Yoder.

The focus of the Telegraph was always local news. Here volunteers for the Community Ambulance Service were recognized for their efforts in saving the life of a local boy who had nearly drowned.

The paper regularly included news from local organizations – the Kiwanis, the Athenaeum Club (bible study) and the Twentieth Century Club. Even in the late 1970s, each of the women’s groups maintained the protocol of listing members’ names with the title “Mrs.” or “Miss.” School sports coverage was supplied by Bob Derr, a freelancer, and there always seemed to be a steady supply of news from the Young Farmer’s Association, the 4-H and the Future Farmers of America. “Coming Events” included notices about events such as the Mifflinburg Firemen’s Carnival, the Laurelton Girl Scouts litter pickup and Heritage Days in New Berlin.



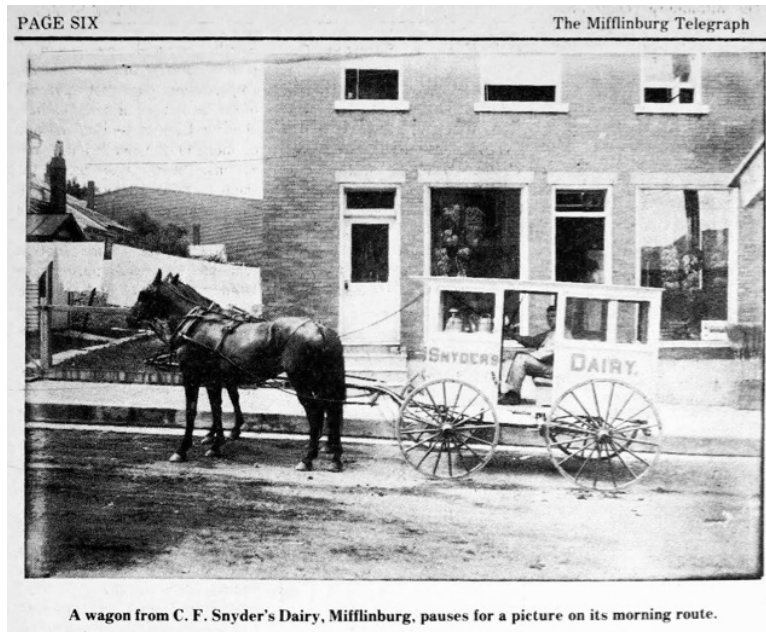
Josh and Lucas Koch and Alethea Abramson took first place in the miscellaneous pets category of the Kiwanis Club’s pet parade.
[Photo by Kieth Orndorf]



Pie-eating contests, bingo, volleyball, games, food and fun are sure to abound at this year’s 4th of July Celebration in Mifflinburg. Shown here is Renee Estes, first place winner in her age group in last year’s pie eating contest. Will she try to retain her title this year? Only Renee can answer that question.

Festivals, such as the 4th of July celebration, received regular coverage. Community events, like the Kiwanis pet parade and the pie-eating contest , received regular coverage.

Routinely, Charles McCool “Cool” Snyder stopped by my office to bring copy for his “Trail of History” column that highlighted some aspect of Mifflinburg’s past – usually accompanied by a photograph like this one:



Trail of History column was frequently accompanied by photos such as this one taken by Grover Bierly in 1915 of Charles F. Snyder driving a dairy wagon from his farm. The photo was taken in front of the former Buffalo Valley Telephone Company building on N. Fourth Street.

Other photos were taken by me with the paper's black and white Polaroid camera. These included such ordinary subjects as the new street lights on the corner of 4th and Chestnut Streets, participants in the elementary school's annual Turtle Race and Frog Jumping Contest, and a trio of brothers on their way home from school. Mifflinburg resident, Keith Orndorf, also supplied photos of community and school events. The paper also featured a regular column titled, "Do You Remember?" that included snippets from Telegraphs from ten, twenty-five and fifty years ago. Items like this one were a reminder that any news about neighbors was, at one time, worthy of inclusion in the Telegraph:

"July 17, 1930 – The barn at the rear of the Ethel M. Koons shoppe was badly damaged Tuesday afternoon as the result of Mrs. Samuel Haire cranking her Chevrolet truck while it was in gear. Mrs. Haire was not injured."

In addition to news that came into the office, I would also gather information on real estate transactions and wills from the Union County courthouse in Lewisburg and "new arrivals" from Evangelical Community Hospital. Another assignment was to attend monthly school board meetings. This was during a period when anti-property

tax sentiment was pervasive in the community and discontent against any non-essential expenditures ran high. The meetings often were attended by residents with strong opinions and they went late into the night. I wrote a few editorials that encouraged more understanding on both sides.

My other responsibility was to secure advertisements for the paper – not one of my strengths. I was always so grateful when Central Counties Bank (offering 5 ¼% passbook savings at the time) or Mifflinburg Motors (selling a Pinto Pony for only \$3334) came through with a full-page ad. Classifieds were free and so generated no revenue.

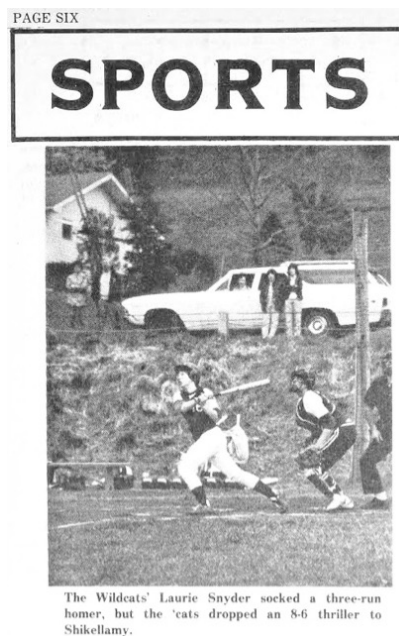
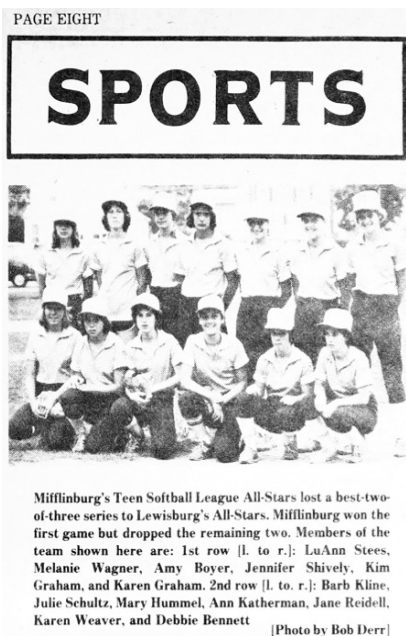
Once the content for that week's issue was finalized the copy had to be typeset. Although the print shop of the Telegraph still used a letterpress process for some of their jobs, the newspaper relied on newer technology. Linda Campbell, a long time employee of the Telegraph, used a phototypesetter to produce column width galleys. These then had to be trimmed and run through a waxer. The wax on the back of the galleys allowed items to stick to the layout sheets, but also to be moved around as the week, and stories, evolved. I quickly learned on the job how to make everything fit into five columns on twelve pages – the standard length of the paper.

Layout was generally completed by Tuesday night - except when there was some breaking event that required last minute additions. One of those occasions included local elections. Since these always occurred on a Tuesday, I would have to wait at the County election offices until all the results were in and the paper ballots had been counted (this often lasted until 3:00 in the morning). I would write most of the column beforehand and then, after the winners were officially announced, just insert the names into the story. The column had to be almost immediately typeset so that it could be included in that week's paper. No one wanted to wait a week to find out who had been elected as county commissioner.

Wednesday morning was the absolute deadline for changes and additions. The day would begin with my commute from Lewisburg to the Telegraph office where I would edit any last-minute stories or add photographs. Once the layout was finalized, I would drive the 40 minutes to Danville – making sure to get there no later than 10:30 am. Since the format of the Telegraph was the same as the *Danville News*, we used their presses and punctuality was key. Being late with our paper would interfere with their

schedule for the rest of the day. After consulting with the pressman about any photographs that had to be inserted, I would walk around the town for about an hour while the paper was run through the presses, and copies put into bundles and secured with twine. It was then my job to drive the papers back to Mifflinburg, dropping stacks off at the high school and a few other locations around town. The rest of the papers were delivered to the Telegraph backroom where they were labeled and prepared for mailing to subscribers. I would then leave the office in the afternoon, ready to start the process again the next morning.

The Mifflinburg Telegraph did not offer groundbreaking news or scandalous revelations. Being a weekly, most people in town were already aware of what was being reported by the time the paper landed in their mailboxes. So, what then was its value to the community? Many years after my brief tenure as editor, I found the answer to this question in Ithaca, New York where I now live.

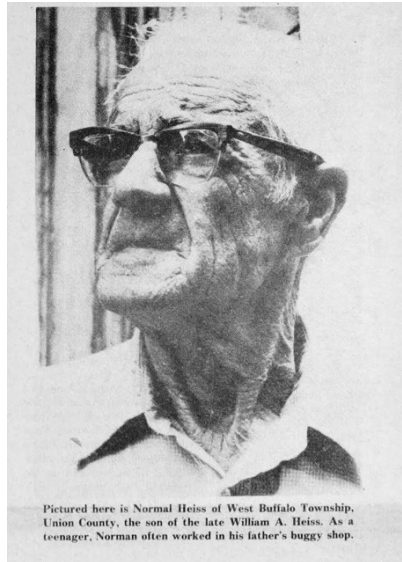


The paper often included sports photos taken by Bob Derr like these of Mifflinburg's Teen Softball League All-Stars and the Wildcats baseball team.

Employed by Ithaca College at the time, I found myself working with Randy, a woman who happened to have grown up in New Berlin. After a few discussions about Mifflinburg and her time there, I shared with her my bound copy of the Telegraph issues

from my time as editor. Coincidentally, she had been in high school during that time and took great pleasure in flipping through the pages to see the faces of people she knew.

Randy shared with me that for her the importance of the Telegraph was its local focus. She said that people read the paper because they knew that there was always a chance that they might see their name mentioned on any given week. Today, with so many newspapers being owned by large corporations or ceasing operations entirely, the absence of such local print platforms makes that observation more poignant.



Normal Heiss, son of William A. Heiss owner of the Mifflinburg Buggy Works. Efforts were underway at the time to restore the former buildings to a Buggy Museum.

Throughout its history each issue of the Telegraph provided a snapshot of life in Mifflinburg and the west end of Union County – whether it was a report of damage to electrical wires by B.B. guns, disorderly conduct at the Scarlet D Tavern, the establishment of a buggy museum, or a hero's welcome given by the town for their state champions. I am proud to have served as editor – just one of many in the long history of the newspaper.

**The Mifflinburg Telegraph,
From the Civil War to the Great Depression
(Part 1)¹
by
Sidney Dreese**

Introduction

One newspaper is widely known around the world, the *New York Times* which began in 1851, but by the name *New-York Daily Times*. In 1857 its title was trimmed to *New York Times*. Eleven years after the founding of the *New York Times*, the *Mifflinburg Telegraph* began publication. As a newspaper the Telegraph had a long life of 152 years; quite remarkable in comparison to other newspapers published in Mifflinburg. The Mifflinburg Telegraph has had quite a long history. The present article covers the Telegraph from its founding in 1862 through 1931. A second piece covering the Telegraph's history until it ceased publication as a newspaper in 2014 will be written at a later date.

This article reviews the Telegraph's first seven decades, divided into the four eras of its successive owners/editors. Their principles, morals and political views were reflected in what was printed. Yet, too, they deeply cared about the community. They took pride in the town and told about school events, a resident cleaning up around the home, a business expanding, and the history of a long-established store.

**The Beginning: Charles E. Haus and Joseph John Ray Orwig
(1862-1866)**

¹ The core information for this article comes from examining each issue, from the earliest in the 1860s forward. In this instance I have found that the issues after 1931 are temporarily inaccessible. I expect to obtain the issues after 1931 and to be able to finish the entire sequence of The Telegraph to its last issue in Part 2 in a forthcoming issue.

On the masthead appeared this text: Tuesday, June 10, 1862 – C. E. Haus & J. J. R. Orwig, Editors – Published every Tuesday evening. Office in Hassenplug’s Building. The opening of the Salutory gave the mission for the new Mifflinburg newspaper as noted in the following paragraph:

In presenting a new newspaper to the citizens of Union county, duty enjoins us to lay down some general plan or principles upon which it shall be conducted. We have long since felt the need of a paper that would properly represent the citizens of Mifflinburg and its vicinity abroad; to supply this want, and do it well—to do good, and if possible to interest, ennoble, and benefit the community shall be our highest aim....We aim to publish a cheap and good county newspaper, one to which every citizen may refer with pleasure and profit. We seek your generous co-operation, and shall labor to deserve the public favor.

It was a difficult time for the nation as it had been split in two and “now we are engaged in a great civil war” as President Lincoln had said in the “Gettysburg Address.” War broke out when Union troops and Fort Sumter were fired upon on April 12, 1861. Editors Charles E. Haus, senior editor, and Joseph John Ray Orwig, junior editor, were in support of the government. They wrote, “we deem it not the time for partisan controversy and bitter crimination We are unconditionally for the Union” and certain the government will do what is “necessary to crush the loathsome spirit of rebellion and to preserve and perpetuate the liberty bequeathed to us by our fathers.” It was also their intent to publish war news and to report the deeds of “our brave soldiers” who wanted to preserve the government and free institutions.

It is no surprise that education was a prime focus for the editors as both were school teachers (Charles’ sister, Mary Ann, was also a teacher) in Mifflinburg. “The great cause of Education, upon which depends the safety of a free government, shall receive our careful attention.” Education was critical and every issue had either reports from the county superintendent, accounts of the proceedings of the Union County Teachers’ Institutes, or essays about the importance and value of various subjects to be taught, or methods on how to be a better teacher.

Other main themes Haus and Orwig championed were: religion, agriculture, the value of women and girls during the war effort, support of President Lincoln and the government, and business and industry.

Those who received religious education by attending worship services and Sabbath school, they asserted, also acted more ethically and morally. Ministers also stressed that the people have a contrite spirit and turn to God. Mifflinburg was in a heavily agrarian area, so much value was placed on farming. The Telegraph was a guide for local farmers and printed methods for farmers to be successful by using practical and scientific methods.

Typically, women received little press in newspapers, but when women and girls helped the soldiers, their benevolent work received the attention of the press. Food, clothing, blankets and other items were sent to the front to bring comfort to the men. The Telegraph reported on the activities of the females and so then they felt their service was recognized.

Politically the newspaper embraced Republican ideals and expressed a sense of nationalism strongly. They felt by adhering to these principles in support of Lincoln and his administration the country and the government would be preserved and reunited. Businessmen, professionals, farmers, and laborers offered goods and services and all contributed to the economy.

During the Haus and Orwig administration of the newspaper, their office was located in Hassenplug's building. According to *The History of Mifflinburg, 1792-1927* by Charles M. Steese and published in 1929, Johan Heinrich Hassenplug settled in Mifflinburg around 1800 and "operated a brewery, on the site now occupied by the Lutheran church" (p. 4). Steese continues, "It was in 1857 that the trustees of the Lutheran church purchased from Samuel Hassenplug a property on the North side of Market Street." Then a two-story brick church building was erected. In 1900 a new church was completed and formally dedicated (p. 15).

Both men were soldiers during the war and served several times, and oddly neither was away from Mifflinburg at the same time. One was

always in the office managing the newspaper. Of note is Orwig who was a 1st Lieutenant, Company A of the 131st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. After the war he wrote a history of the regiment. The book was titled, *History of the 131st Penna. Volunteers, War of 1861-5*.

Charles E. Haus was born September 17, 1836, the son of Benjamin and Mary Haus. After the war, he became a postmaster in Hartley Township, and he also was an assistant assessor for the county. In 1868, he was appointed inspector of tobacco, snuff and cigars for the 14th district of Pennsylvania. His death occurred on June 22, 1894, and he was buried with his wife, Mary Ellen, in the Mifflinburg cemetery.

The parents of Joseph J. R. Orwig were Samuel and Mary Orwig. Joseph was born on June 30, 1838. After the war Joseph became the assistant state librarian in Harrisburg and held the position during the 1870s through the 1890s, after which the family moved to the Midwest. Being a newspaperman, while in Missouri he worked for *The Reveille* of Linn Creek, MO. He died on June 4, 1913 in Des Moines, IA and was buried there along with his wife, Jane, in the Woodland cemetery.

Charles Haus and Joseph Orwig brought to Mifflinburg a new newspaper because they firmly believed in freedom of the press and freedom of speech. In its first four years the two men used the Telegraph to educate the citizens about the importance of going to school. Education was a safeguard against ignorance. They too stood strongly behind the national government and felt it was imperative to perpetuate the government.

The reader may be interested in a previous article about Mifflinburg's *Union County Press*, by Sidney Dreese in *ACCOUNTS of Union County History*, Vol. 6, No. 2. This newspaper was short-lived, running from 1858 until 1863. It was operated by Frederick Smith and Jacob Kuhney.

The Telegraph Changes Hands: James Edwin Herr and William Henry Harrison Haus (1866-1873)

“Be Just and Fear Not, Let All the Ends Thou Aimest at be Thy Country’s, Thy God’s, and Truth’s” – This quotation, attributed to Shakespeare from the play, “King Henry the Eighth”, appeared on the masthead of the new editors of the Mifflinburg Telegraph. After four years two new men took over the newspaper and the first issue, August 16, 1866, came off the press for James Herr and William Haus. Their office was located on the second floor of the Herr & Hayes building, a dry goods store, and was located at 308-310 Chestnut Street.

Joseph Orwig gave his farewell, followed by the introduction and salutatory by J. Edwin Herr and Wm. H. H. Haus. Orwig stated, “The best good of Mifflinburg and the community and an honest livelihood were our purposes.”

Herr and Haus continued with their salutatory,

“We accept the position as editors of the MIFFLINBURG TELEGRAPH with a lively sense of duties and obligations that will rest upon us We shall endeavor to advance the interests of Mifflinburg and vicinity, and do all we can to supply the public with a good and reliable newspaper.”

Since the war had ended, so did the war news—accounts of battles and news about local boys being wounded, being captured and taken prisoner, or their death on the battlefield or in the hospital. Now the nation moved onto the Reconstruction period.

Reminiscent of when Abraham Lincoln was running for president, there were mass meetings held in Union County with torch light parades followed by speeches. “The Boys in Blue” wanted Major General John W. Geary for the next governor of Pennsylvania. The new editors expressed anti-Andrew Johnson sentiments. They also reported on the capture and trial of Mary Surratt’s son, John. The two of them were co-conspirators along with John Wilkes Booth and several others in the assassination plot against President Abraham Lincoln.

There was less emphasis on the value of education, and there were occasional announcements of Union County Teachers' institutes. Also, there was less religious news, but there were listings of times for worship services, announcements for prayer meetings and festivals at various churches, and reports of the Sabbath School Convention. There was a short piece on a camp meeting of the M.E. church, and picnics of the Sabbath schools.

A hot topic of discussion was the railroad and bringing it farther into Union County. Extending the railroad farther westward would be advantageous for passengers traveling, and also for the transportation of goods in either direction. Several meetings were held in various towns. Part of the discussion was the construction of the "Lewisburg Railroad and Wagon Bridge."

On December 5, 1867, the citizens of Mifflinburg gave a petition to the Town Council to change the names of the streets." Why? "The meaningless names of the streets and the fact that some of them have no names." The petitioners also suggested new street names. Then on February 4, 1868, Town Council approved the new names of the streets, most of which still remain.

In January 1868 the editors announced they were ready and equipped to do job printing, such as "posters, labels, orders or blanks of any kind."

William Haus bade goodbye to the paper in the issue of April 9, 1868. In his final message to the readers he tipped his hat and "bid adieu to the old editorial chair." He hoped the Telegraph would continue to prosper and to be useful. William Henry Harrison Haus was the younger brother of the above Charles Haus. James Edwin Herr, then continued the paper on his own until 1873.

David Joel Herr and his wife, Jane, were the parents of James Edwin Herr who was born on June 22, 1836 in Mifflinburg. His father operated a foundry in the 300 block of Chestnut Street. James' death occurred on July 31, 1920 in Bennington, Kansas and he is buried in the

Bennington cemetery, while his wife, Annetta, who died on March 9, 1920, is buried in the Mifflinburg cemetery. Mifflinburg's public library, the Herr Memorial Library is named for her and daughter, Jane. They had willed their home at 500 Market Street for use as a library, and the library, now expanded, continues at the same address.

Past histories of Mifflinburg have neglected to tell about James Herr and William Haus, yet they played a vital role with the Mifflinburg Telegraph. While they wrote about the town and Union County, they also advanced the newspaper as a business enterprise. In addition to printing the newspaper, they also became print jobbers by printing order blanks, labels, handbills and posters. Print jobs would also have supplemented their income.

George W. Schoch, Editor and Proprietor, 1873-1918

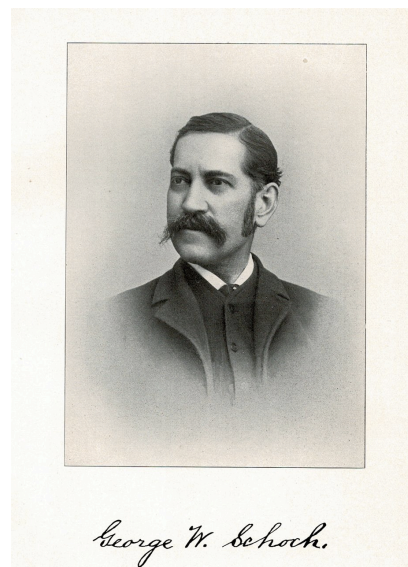
George Schoch, taking over the newspaper as both editor and proprietor addressed the readers in his salutatory message, "Kind friends in Mifflinburg How-do-you-do?—hope you're well, contented, and the like The risk seems to have already been made, in that the paper has survived one decade." (January 2, 1873) Schoch continued to use the same Shakespeare quote across the top of the front page. Later though he made a change and placed the following across the top of the front page, "A REPUBLICAN FAMILY NEWSPAPER. CHIEFLY DEVOTED TO THE DISSEMINATION OF THE LOCAL NEWS OF UNION COUNTY."

The paper would keep its allegiance to the Republican Party and its principles, and would adhere to providing information for the "public good....the prime mission of a news-paper." Schoch expressed gratitude for the "hosts of Republican boys in blue" who crushed a "mighty Rebellion."

Schoch's house was at 412 Chestnut Street where he added an addition. The first floor was used as Mifflinburg's post office (he was the postmaster under both President Harrison and President McKinley) and the second floor was the location of his printing press and the Telegraph.

Milton M. Schoch, George's brother, was the foreman of the Telegraph printing office.

George Schoch was at the helm for 44 years, nearly until the end of World War I. During that time period he was an advocate of improvements to the town and requested the citizens to take pride in their properties and to tidy up. Mifflinburg needed fresh water and he pushed for the town to have a water works. In the spring of 1883 a committee was formed by the town council to locate a suitable source. However, the plant was not constructed until 1898.



“For the welfare of the old soldier he has ever manifested the utmost interest, both in the newspaper and by personal effort, especially in the securing of pensions for worthy comrades.” (*Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania*, p. 834). He remained active too in the posts of the Grand Army of the Republic. First he joined the Tucker post of Lewisburg, then the Forster post of Mifflinburg, being a charter member in both organizations. In the Telegraph he reported on meetings of the posts, and also of reunions of various regiments. Many of the men, if they were physically able, would travel back to various battlefields.

“War Is Now On!” was the headline in the Telegraph as the United States declared war on Spain on April 25, 1898. “Remember the Maine”

became the rallying cry after the explosion of the ship in Cuba's harbor. Spain was suspected of blowing up the ship and the incident caused patriotism to rise high. Men from Mifflinburg enlisted to fight in the Spanish-American War. Family and friends gathered at Mifflinburg's train station to see the men depart for the front. They would make good soldiers and were described as "young, hardy, enthusiastic and patriotic." As with the Civil War, letters home were printed in the newspaper. The conflict was short-lived, and by August the war was over.

George W. Schoch was born May 1, 1842 in Mifflinburg to George and Harriet Schoch. He received his education in the schools of Mifflinburg. About the age of thirteen, he "learned the art of printing" (CBR, 833) in the Mifflinburg office of the *Union County Star* [the paper later moved to Lewisburg]. In 1855 he moved with his parents to Lewisburg, continuing to learn the trade in the office of the *Lewisburg Argus*. After six months, the publisher, Franklin Ziebach, left Union County and moved to Sioux City, Iowa. Employment then was found at the *Lewisburg Chronicle*.²

He took a break from the newspaper business at the beginning of the Civil War. He ran away from home and enlisted in the army, 5th regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps. He was at several battles including Gettysburg. On June 11, 1864 he was discharged from the service.

Upon his return to Lewisburg he continued working for the *Lewisburg Chronicle*. On January 1, 1873 George Schoch took over the *Mifflinburg Telegraph*, and on May 1, 1892, he became the proprietor of the *Lewisburg Chronicle*.

His wife was Isabella Derr Kelly and they married on April 28, 1870. Both are buried in the Lewisburg cemetery and he died on May 25, 1918, followed by her in 1922. After his death, his son, G. Warley Schoch

² The many 19th Century newspapers, short- and long-lived, that were published in Lewisburg are the subject of an article, "Lewisburg's 19th Century Newspapers," by Richard Sauers, that appeared in *ACCOUNTS of Union County History*, Vol 6, No. 1 (2016) pp. 46-70.

took over the newspaper for a few more months. His last issue of the Mifflinburg Telegraph was printed on September 16, 1918.

Over four decades George Schoch had much pride in his hometown. In addition to telling the news, he also was an encourager of the townspeople to tidy up their properties. Town improvements were very important to him and a sign of progress.

A New Era Begins for the Telegraph with C. Asher Kniss (1918-1955)

A “New Editor and Proprietor, C. Asher Kniss, Takes Charge” and was announced by this Headline, “Old Management of Telegraph Introduces Worthy Predecessor – Under Editor Kniss’ Management the Paper Will Be Devoted to Best Interest of the Community” (September 13, 1918).

Clarence Asher Kniss (more commonly known as C. Asher Kniss), his wife, Anna, and young son, Richard, moved from Herndon and settled in Mifflinburg. Asher Kniss had been the owner, publisher and editor of the *Herndon Star* in Northumberland County. In his first issue, he stated, “In moving into your midst I do so with an intense desire to be a help to the town and surrounding communities I foster no other policy except straightforward business dealings with my fellow man.”

From 1862 until 1918 the type was all set by hand. The building was then equipped with a linotype machine (The linotype machine became a standard for the printing of newspapers, magazines and posters), and it greatly increased the speed of printing.

Prior to 1918 “flat sheets were fed by hand into the press and were delivered flat to be turned over and printed on the reverse side.” After the printing was completed, the papers had to be folded by hand to go into the mail. The Telegraph was typically sixteen pages. The entire process took approximately 48 hours. With the new duplex press the run time was decreased to five hours.

In 1929, T. E. Grady of the *Montgomery Mirror* wrote this of the *Mifflinburg Telegraph* after taking a trip to Mifflinburg:

“Standing in one corner is the old Washington hand press, upon which was printed the first issue of the *Telegraph*, June 5, 1862, almost sixty-seven years ago. Publisher Kniss has given it a place of honor. It stands alone in its glory. For almost sixty-seven years, it has told the story of Mifflinburg, its tragedies, its successes and its failures, and even today it still is used to print sale bills and cards, and its work is equal to the most modern, if handled properly.”

During the closing months of World War I letters from overseas were printed, letters from men, such as, Frank Boyer, Wilbert Chambers, Grover Bierly, Robert Burns Rearick, and brothers, Ben and Donald Katherman. On Saturday, October 5, 1918, a war exhibit train came to Mifflinburg and other places in Union and Snyder counties. Part of the exhibit with three cars contained German weapons captured by Americans fighting in France, talks about war conditions were presented, and citizens were encouraged to subscribe to Liberty Bonds.

Private Raymond E. Harter was the first soldier from Mifflinburg to die. He died of pneumonia at Camp Lee, Virginia.

Peace was announced on the front page of the *Telegraph*, November 15, 1918. The citizens of Mifflinburg celebrated the signing of the Armistice. Kniss reported there was

...a full day of noise making and rejoicing, which started about four o'clock in the morning when several young men paraded the streets banging drums. Factory whistles blew, church bells rang, and the school bell rang all morning. About 3:00 in the afternoon a large parade began including soldiers, decorated baby carriages and automobiles, floats, school children and the mothers of the boys in service. The parade ended at the Hopp Hotel and then Rev. Rearick delivered a short address.

By 1929 the newspaper had outgrown its space in the borough building, and the office was then relocated to its current location at 358 Walnut Street. The building was purchased from the Mifflinburg Body Co.

The stock market crashed on October 29, 1929, and on November 21, the Telegraph printed a letter written by the president of the Bankers Industrial Services, Inc stated that the “financial disturbances will not affect prosperity.” Americans were encouraged to keep on working “to keep our ship of prosperity upon an even keel.” As Christmas came closer, Mifflinburg merchants prepared their stores for shopping. Kniss reported that “indications are that many of the wise folks have begun their Christmas buying early and there is a perceptible increase in the number of patrons in the stores every day.”

On October 29, 1929, work had begun on increasing the size of Mifflinburg’s silk mill, and by January 2, 1930 the Telegraph reported that the work had been completed. New machinery would soon be installed and ready for operation. In another article steady work was predicted for the coming year, and there was a building boom in Pennsylvania.

Kniss continued with an optimistic tone during “the current business depression.” Stock market values were increasing, and there was an upward trend in employment. In the issue of February 13, 1930 there was a special supplement on the automobile market that was expanding. There were photographs of automobiles with featured highlights. An “Automobile Show and Merchants Exhibit” would occur in Milton, February 19-22.

Smith’s Bottling Works, which bottled chocolate milk and soft drinks, moved to a new location on Walnut Street. The company was considering adding Moxie, Pepsi Cola, and pale dry ginger ale to its thirteen other flavors. A new fruit store, the Mifflinburg Fruit Co., opened on Chestnut Street. “J. D. S. Gast & Son Celebrate One Hundred Years of Successful Merchandising Service” was the headline on October 2, 1930. The store’s milestone received full-page coverage in the Telegraph. Henry Gast and John Wolfe founded the business in 1830 and the article gave their life’s story. Earlier in the year, in April, there was a big event at the store. Ladies fashions were shown including a dress from the Civil War time period.

There was little idleness in the county as industrial output had increased. Yet not all was well for everyone. The American Legion post and several Sunday Schools met in December 1930 and formed the Buffalo Valley Relief Association. Prof. Frank Boyer was elected president. The purpose was to help with the needs of various families. The main items needed were food and clothing.

The newly formed Chamber of Commerce of Mifflinburg was “primarily interested in helping home industries....and plans are underway to give this phase of the work attention in the near future” (November 5, 1931).

Another organization was formed on January 10, 1930, in the Buffalo Valley, named the “Buffalo Valley Good Roads Association.” The roads around Mifflinburg were in poor condition and needed to be improved. Guy Roush of Mifflinburg was named the chairman. Their goal was to work with road supervisors and the State Highway Department and to attain state aid for improving the roads. The work of the association was effective as the roads were improved. For example, by October, 1931, a newly improved highway between Winfield and New Berlin was completed. Readers will know this highway as Route 304. On Saturday, October 3, there was a large parade with three bands, the American Legion Drum Corps, and over 75 automobiles and floats. The event commemorated “the achievements of bringing this town (New Berlin) out of the mud.” After the parade speeches were given in the public square. “The event was broadcast over WJBU station of Bucknell University” [During the first years of the station’s existence in the early 1930s the radio station’s call letters, now WVBU, were WJBU].

To end the year, 1931, with some cheer, “Mifflinburg In Holiday Attire” appeared on the front page. “Each side of the street in the business district is festooned with strings of colored lights, presenting a colorful effect that is worth going miles to see.” Stores had elaborate window displays of Christmas merchandise.

Asher Kniss would continue as the editor until 1955, and others would follow him: Wilmer “Red” Harter, Harris Lemon, and John Stamm. Perhaps Kniss’ legacy was that he brought the Mifflinburg Telegraph into the 20th Century by streamlining and making the printing process more efficient and faster.

I conclude here with 1931 as no other paper copies of the Mifflinburg Telegraph could be obtained. However, I expect this will be a temporary matter, and in the future I expect to follow this article with Part 2, covering the years 1932 until the Telegraph ceased publication as a newspaper in 2014.

The reader is also invited to read the article following this one in the present issue, by Mary Lee Jensen, describing her experiences as editor of the Mifflinburg Telegraph in 1979-80.

Referring again to the words of T. E. Grady in 1929; these sum up much of the Telegraph’s past: “It has told the stories of three wars, numerous political battles, court trials, murders and suicides, and like Tennyson’s brook, bids fair to continue on telling the world of the coming farm sales and auctions throughout the Buffalo Valley.”



That Championship Season Baseball is Back and New Berlin is Best

**by
Tom Walker**

After the war, in '45 and '46, the boys—now men—returned home. They put down the tools of combat and picked up their lives. Some traded military khakis for baseball flannels.

In Union and surrounding counties, young men who had answered their country's call now answered the call of the diamond. Play in the West Branch Baseball League (WBBL) resumed in 1946.

Back then, most towns had a team that played serious hardball. West Branch League games were as close as many residents could get to big-time baseball. The nearest major league teams were in Philadelphia: the Phillies and the A's, who moved to Kansas City in 1955. You might say the WBBL teams flourished because they played the only game in town.



The banner honoring New Berlin's 1946 and 1948 championship teams is displayed proudly in the town's Heritage Museum

According to *The Standard Journal*, Milton, Pa., May 11, 2011, the West Branch Baseball League was founded in Milton in 1924. Dale E. Ranck, was the founding president and Harry Dyer was secretary. Clyde S. Krebs drew up the first rules and by-laws. The league, divided into the Lower Circuit and the Upper Circuit, grew to 12 teams by 1926: Milton, Lewisburg, Watsonstown, Mifflinburg, Hughesville, Selinsgrove, New Columbia, Picture Rocks, Turbotville, Montgomery, Sunbury and Northumberland.

The league played its first post-war regular season in 1946. Interest among the sporting public was considerable, so much so that *The Sunbury Daily Item* published the league's master schedule prior to opening day.



The Photo is displayed in the New Berlin Heritage Museum. It appeared in *The Item* on September 19, 1946. There was also a print among Spencer Walker's effects, indicating that the team members each received a photo. Rosedale Dairy sponsored the team, which explains the name on the player's uniforms.

New Berlin baseball lives on in the town's Heritage Museum, where visitors are greeted by a large red banner honoring New Berlin's 1946 and 1948 championships. A case beneath the banner is chock full of baseball memorabilia, including gloves, balls and scorebooks. Vintage New Berlin uniforms hang on a rack. The most interesting artifact on display is "The Photo": in stunning black and white, a picture of the 1946

New Berlin championship team that appeared in *The Item* on September 19. My father, Spencer “Billy” Walker, is in the front row.

The players’ names are enshrined on a hand-written note. And what names they are! Names of friends I heard my father talk about 50 years ago. Names of friends that peppered the letters he sent home in ’44 and ’45 from his Army Air Corps postings. There were the Solomons: Whitey, Donald and Stan. Kenny, Louie and John Sauers. Lew Sassaman. Donnie Kline. Kenny Crook.

Kenny Crook, Lou Sauers, Harold “Whitey” Soloman and Spencer Walker were members of Lewisburg High School’s Class of ’42. Other LHS grads on the New Berlin team included Lou Sassaman (‘42), Donnie Kline (‘44) and Kenny Sauers (‘45).

The story of the 1946 West Branch season is told on the pages of *The Item*, but never on Sunday. In those days, *The Item* was published Monday through Saturday. The newspapers from so long ago are preserved on microfilm stored at the Degenstein Community Library in Sunbury.

In 1946, the WBBL had 16 teams in two divisions. New Berlin played in the lower division, along with Freeburg, Herndon, Hummel’s Wharf, Lewisburg, the Middleburg Middies, the Mifflinburg Comets (Mifflinburg was known as the Senators before WWII)



The author displays a vintage New Berlin baseball jersey.

and the Selinsgrove Seals. The upper circuit included Milton, the Montandon Giants, the Montgomery Chiefs, Montoursville, Muncey, the Turbotville Cyclones, Picture Rocks and the Watsontown Millionaires. New Berlin completed the season with a record of 32-9-1 (5-1 in the playoffs and 3-1-1 in non-league games).

Non-League Games

In early May, New Berlin played two games against Bucknell University. New Berlin won the first game, 9-5; the second ended tied, 8-8. New Berlin played a home-and-home series against non-league McAlisterville, winning the away game, 9-3, on July 19 and losing at home, 7-6, on July 26.

On August 4, New Berlin defeated a team of inmates from the Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary, 14-10. I recall my father telling me that the Lewisburg Pen team played all its games at home. He also said the guards searched the New Berlin equipment bags before and after the game.

WBBL All-Star Game

The Lower Circuit All-Star game, played July 14 in Middleburg, pitted the league-leading Middies against a team of 23 players representing the seven other clubs. New Berlin's all-stars included Kenny Crook, pitcher-infielder; Johnny Sauers, shortstop; Earl Soloman, catcher; and Billy Walker, pitcher. Chappie Reidell, Mifflinburg, and Stan Soloman, New Berlin, were co-managers.

The game, played before an estimated 650 fans, proved to be a dispiriting affair for the All-Stars. They trailed 7-0 after five innings. An error-filled sixth inning led to eight Middleburg runs and a 15-0 lead. The Middies pounded out 12 hits in the 15-2 rout. Six All-Star errors led to 13 unearned runs. Only Walker and Reidell managed to escape with scoreless pitching performances for the All-Stars. Middleburg played errorless ball as three hurlers limited the All-Stars to four singles and two doubles.

Bad breaks

In the first game of a doubleheader against New Berlin on August 3, Charley Fasold, Selinsgrove's playing manager, fractured his left leg while sliding into first base in the sixth inning. He was taken to Community Hospital in Sunbury for treatment. New Berlin won the first game, 9-0, with the Seals taking the night-cap, 3-1. Hunter Osman, a Sunbury resident who played for Hummel's Wharf, also suffered a broken leg during the 1946 season.

Rotering's No-hitter

Mifflinburg clinched a playoff berth in grand style on August 14, when right-hander Bill Rotering pitched a no-hitter as the home-standing Cyclones downed Freeburg, 11-0. Rotering fanned three and hit two batsmen. Two other Freeburgers reached base on errors.

The Benefit that Wasn't

On August 17, The Item reported that officials of the lower circuit proposed a benefit game between all-star teams representing the two circuits. The game would raise money to help injured players, including Fasold and Osman, pay their medical expenses. The managers of the lower circuit teams favored the proposal. They were awaiting word from Paul "Baldy" Phillips, president of the upper circuit, who was seeking approval from the team managers in the upper circuit.

There was no report of the game being played.

The Middleburg Jinx

New Berlin dropped three of four regular season games to Middleburg. They lost a heart-breaking 11-inning game, 8-7, at Middleburg on May 25. Middleburg led 6-0 after two innings. New Berlin rallied with three runs in the fourth and two each in the fifth and sixth frames to take a 7-6 lead into the seventh. The Middies tied the game with a run in the ninth on doubles by Ramer and Snyder and took the victory with a two-out, bases-loaded 11th inning single by Bilger, making his only plate appearance of the game. Despite allowing 14 hits, Lefty Mitchel, Middleburg's ace hurler, pitched all 11 innings for the victory. He kept the 11th inning alive for the Middies with a two-out, two-on single, setting the table for Bilger's game-winning heroics. The Middies pounded 20 hits against the New Berlin pitching trio of Earl Soloman, Kenny Crook and Percy Benfer.

Middleburg swept a July 4 home-and away doubleheader, winning 6-4 at home and 8-3 in New Berlin.

New Berlin's lone win was a 3-1 home game on July 9. Kenny Crook pitched New Berlin to victory in the 7-inning tilt, allowing only three hits. New Berlin scored its runs in the 5th inning with singles by Johnny Sauers, Louie Sauers, Kenny Sauers and Jack

Soloman; New Berlin's base hits including three bunts. Middleburg's lone run came in the 3rd inning on doubles by Stetler and Lou Soloman, a former New Berlin player.

The Middies finished the regular season with a splendid 23-2 record.

The Playoffs—First Round

New Berlin opened the first playoff series against fourth-place Lewisburg, a team with a mediocre 14-14 record. The Middies faced a sterner challenge in Mifflinburg at 16-11. New Berlin won the best-of-three series easily, taking the first game 9-2 on August 21 before more than 500 fans at their home field. Spencer "Billy" Walker pitched a six-hit, six-strikeout complete game. He closed out the series on August 25 with a four-hit effort, New Berlin taking a 2-1 win and a 2-0 series sweep.

Mifflinburg surprised Middleburg in the first game with a 2-1 win, aided by six Middleburg errors. The Middies evened the series with a 6-1 game 2 victory. The Miffs could not hold back the Middleburg tide, falling 14-4 in the deciding game 3 on August 28. For some reason, the game was played in New Berlin. The Middies rode a 15-hit onslaught to the final series against New Berlin.

The Championship Series

The best-of-five championship featured traditional rivals New Berlin and Middleburg for the lower circuit crown and the Montandon Giants versus the Montgomery Chiefs in the upper circuit clash. To reach the finals Montandon (19-8) defeated Watsonstown (14-11) and Montgomery (16-11) ousted Muncey (14-13).

The Item published a preview on Friday, August 30, under the headline, "W-Branch Playoffs Expected to Draw Capacity Crowds."

From that August 30 article:

"Interest in the New Berlin-Middleburg series is running at a high peak in the two communities as well as in the other towns in the circuit. A record crowd is expected to be on hand when the [Stan] Soloman-coached team takes the field against the Middies, who led the league throughout the regular season.

"Lefty Mitchell, Middleburg ace and one-time Sunbury, Inter-State League flinger, will get the assignment against New Berlin, with right-hander Billy Walker likely to start for the home team. The Middies rule as

slight favorites to win the series, but records count for absolutely nothing when these two teams collide.”

New Berlin Wins Game 1

Mitchell did not face Walker in the first game, played August 31 at New Berlin. Lou Soloman, a former New Berlin resident and player, took the hill. Walker held the Middies to nine hits, pitching a complete game in the 5-3 New Berlin win. New Berlin trailed 3-1 but rallied for a run in the seventh inning and three in the eighth. Walker struck out three and walked one.



Top: New Berlin’s field where dreams came true as it appears today. In 1946, the infield was at the far end and today’s diamond would have been in deep center field.

Below: These grainy photos, taken from an 8mm home movie, show the New Berlin field as it appeared in 1958. The outfield fence and the ridge on the west side of town are clearly visible in the background.

A Doubleheader Split

The teams played a morning/afternoon doubleheader at Middleburg on Labor Day, September 2, before an estimated 1500 fans. With Lefty Mitchel holding New Berlin to five hits, the Middies took the first game, 6-2. New Berlin came back to win the afternoon tilt, 7-2.

New Berlin takes the title.

Here's the headline from Thursday, September 5: "New Berlin, Chiefs Win West Branch Loop Titles." New Berlin took the lower-circuit series with a 4-2 win on September 4, played in New Berlin before what The Item described as "650 wildly cheering fans." Not a bad turnout in a town of about 500 residents.

From The Item, September 5:

"At New Berlin, right-hander Billy Walker pitched New Berlin to the throne room with a neat 8-hit effort against the pre-tourney favorite Middleburg club. New Berlin took the game, 4-2, and the series, three games to one.

"Walker stopped Middleburg with eight scattered hits to gain his fourth pitching triumph in the Shaughnessy series. [Note: The name comes from Frank Shaughnessy, general manager of the Montreal Royals minor league baseball team, who in 1933 created a playoff scheme that pairs the first- and fourth-place teams and the second- and third-place teams in the first round. The winners then meet in the final round to determine the champion.] He bested three Middie flingers to cop the first game of the final play-offs, after grabbing a pair of decisions in the semi-final series with Mifflinburg." [This is in error; New Berlin played Lewisburg in the first round.]

"Singles by Cornelius, L. Sauers and Ken Crook accounted for a pair of tallies and gave New Berlin a 3-1 lead in the third frame. From this point, Walker settled down and, given brilliant support, held the Middies to four hits and only one run the rest of the way.

"J. Sauers caught a line drive at shortstop and turned it into a twin-killing in the ninth to end the game and the series. [First-baseman Kenny] Crook also came through with an unassisted double-play in the 5th frame. Two Middleburg runners were on the sacks when the brilliant individual efforts were executed.

"Walker whiffed five while southpaw Lou Soloman, one-time resident of New Berlin and member of the [Stan] Soloman-managed outfit, fanned two. L. Sauers, Cornelius and Crook had two hits apiece for the new champions, while Ramer collected a pair of singles for the Middies."

Oh, the Irony

The line drive that Johnny Sauers turned into a game-ending unassisted double play came off the bat of Lou Soloman, a former New Berlin resident and member of that town's team.

New Berlin overcame four errors in the clinching game win. The Middies could have cracked the game open in the sixth inning when the home team committed three errors, two by the third-sacker Lou Sassaman. They could plate only one unearned run, scored on a fielder's choice by R. Backman. The Middies stranded two when New Berlin's Walker ended the inning by whiffing Felker, the right fielder.

Walker's five strike-outs were well placed. He began the first and third innings with strike-outs and ended the fourth, fifth and sixth with strike-outs.

Thus ended the series but not this story.

Date Sept 4 / 46 Weather Fair + Warm

| No. | BATTING ORDER | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | AT BAT | RUNS | Base Hits | Errors Hits | Strikes Bases | PUT OUT | Asses | Errors |
|-------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----------|------|--------------|----------------|------------------|------------|-------|--------|
| 7 | Rilger | K | | K | | | 4-3 | | 4-3 | | | | | 4 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 1 |
| 4 | Gitt | F-6 | | 6-3 | | | E-5 | | | | | | | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 6 | Statter | F-6 | | | 2-4 | | 4-6 E-6 | | F-8 | | | | | 4 | 0 | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 8 | R. Backman | | 4-3 | | F-4 | | FC | | FC | | | | | 4 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | Snyder | | 3-3 | | K | | E-5 | | F-7 | | | | | 4 | 0 | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 7 | Felker | F-3 | | | | E-3 | K | | | | | | | 4 | 0 | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 3 | Ramer | | | F-9 | | F-4 | | 6-4 | | 6-6 | | | | 4 | 0 | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| 5 | W. Steinger | | | | | F-7 | | F-2 | | F-6 | | | | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 1 | Soloman | | | | | K | | 4-3 | | F-6 | | | | 4 | 0 | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Total | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 36 | 2 | 8 | | | | | 24 |

Wild Pitches..... Passed Balls..... Balks.....

DP-111

New Berlin vs. Middleburg of at New Berlin

| No. | BATING ORDER | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | AT. BAT | RUNS | Base Hits | Sacrifices | Stolen Bases | PUT OUT | Assist | Errors |
|--|--------------|-----|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----|----|----|-----------------------------------|------|--------------|------------|---------------|---------|--------|--------|
| 9 | Cornelius | K | | | | | | F-6 | | | | | | 4 | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| 6 | J. Sauer | | | E-2/5 FC | 5-3 | | | 5-3 | | | | | | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | 6 | | |
| 7 | H. Sauer | 5-6 | | | | F-6 | | | F-8 | | | | | 4 | 1 | 2 | | | 11 | | |
| 3 | Crook | | | | | 4-3 | | | F-8 | | | | | 4 | 0 | 2 | | | 17 | | 1 |
| 2 | E. Solomon | 1-3 | | 3-3 | | F-8 | | | 4-3 | | | | | 4 | 0 | 0 | | | 16 | | |
| 8 | H. Sauer | | 1-3 | 4-3 | | | | F-7 | | | | | | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | 1 | | |
| 5 | Sassaman | | | | F-7 | | 6-3 | | | | | | | 3 | 0 | 1 | | | | | 11 |
| 4 | J. Solomon | | 5-3 SH | | | | | 3-3 | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 11 | | 5 |
| 1 | Walker | | 6-3 | | 5-3 SH | | | 1-3 | | | | | | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| <p>Twin-Killings Help J. Sauer caught a line drive at shortstop and threw to the pitcher in a 3-1 lead in the third frame. In a 3-1 lead in the third frame, he batted three Middleburgers to down and given brilliant support, held the Middies to four hits and only one run the rest of the way.</p> <p>Walker whiffed the white ball in the eighth frame, while Crook and Sauer accounted for a pair of tallies and gave New Berlin a 3-1 lead in the third frame. In a 3-1 lead in the third frame, he batted three Middleburgers to down and given brilliant support, held the Middies to four hits and only one run the rest of the way.</p> <p>Middies Bugs, If 4 Stetler, ss 4 R. Bachman, cf 4 Fisher, rf 4 Ramer, lb 4 J. Solomon, p 4</p> <p>Totals 28 2 8 24 14 1</p> <p>New Berlin Cornelius, rf 4 J. Sauer, lf 4 Crook, lb 4 H. Sauer, cf 4 Sassaman, 3b 4 J. Solomon, p 2</p> <p>Totals 30 4 9 27 8 4</p> <p>Two base hits, Solomon; Sacrifices, Solomon, Walker; Stolen bases, Walker 5, by L. Soumister; J. Walker play; (unassisted); Umpires, Solomon, Dewire.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | <p>TIME Total 3 1/2</p> | | <p>30 49</p> | | <p>27 8 4</p> | | | |
| <p>Umpires: Herman J. Daniels</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The scorebook charts New Berlin's 1946 season. These two pages tell the story of the championship game, played September 4 at New Berlin. The game story from The Item is taped to the page. The players' statistics for the season are at the end of this article.

Soloman's Challenge

As reported in The Item on September 5, New Berlin's manager Stan Soloman

"...issued an open challenge to the Montgomery club of the upper division to play a best three-out-of-five 'Little World Series' to determine the overall champion of the amateur league.

"The manager said his boys wanted a crack at the Chiefs to demonstrate once and for all the superior caliber of ball played in the lower circuit. He made the challenge through Francis C. Hatton and E. R. Bolig, president and secretary-treasurer respectively of the lower division of the W-Branch loop.

"Baldy' Phillips, president of the upper circuit, said he would make an effort to contact player-manager Eddie Koziol, of Montgomery, regarding the matter of the final playoff series.

"He pointed out that many of the Montgomery players work in Williamsport during the week, and that the Chiefs may not wish to prolong their playing schedule into mid-September.

"Inter-league competition between leaders of both circuits used to draw record crowds prior to World War 2, and a 'Little World Series' this year would likely attract overflow crowds to both parks."

The Item reported no more about the challenge; it seems the games were not played. But that was not the end of the 1946 WBBL season.

On September 12, The Item published an article stating that the first of a five-game series between Middleburg and Montandon would begin that evening at Memorial Park in Sunbury.

“The Middies and Giants wound up first in the lower and upper circuits, respectively, at the end of the regular season but were eliminated in the playoffs. The clubs have agreed to split the \$600 light bill for the contests.”

Middleburg won the first two games, 7-1 and 5-4. Montandon came back to take games three and four by scores of 12-2 and 6-3. That’s as far as the series went. Game five, scheduled for Friday, September 20, was rained out. Because the teams were unable to agree on playing dates, and what with the lateness of the season, the teams’ managements ended the series. The announcement appeared in The Item on Monday, September 30.

New Berlin Double-Dips

New Berlin baseball players may have won two championships in 1946. Post-war Union Countians’ were starved for baseball, as was evident by the formation of the Community Baseball League, as reported in the weekly *Mifflinburg Telegraph*, July 18, 1946.

The new league encompassed one team from New Berlin and three from Mifflinburg: the Vets, the Business Men and the Scholastics. Only schoolboys were eligible for the Scholastics but all other players, except those regular members of West Branch League teams, were welcomed to join the other teams. The games were played on Monday and Thursday evenings at 6:15 in Mifflinburg and New Berlin. Each team was scheduled for six games between July 18 and August 8. August 15, 19 and 22 were reserved for playoff games.

The Telegraph mentioned a few participants in its Community League coverage. New Berlin players included Reigel, Don Kline and Jack Wetzel. There was a Don Kline on New Berlin’s West Branch team; he appeared in only four games, going 1 for 8 at the plate. This is curious because West Branch League players were prohibited from joining

Community League teams. The Vets had Roy Stahl, manager; the Business Men featured Fred Walter and Harry Haney, managers, Bob Ruhl, Tom Houghton and Virgil Yearick; while the Scholastics were managed by Earl Thomas and Theron Dersham and had Bob Boyer, a pitcher.

A Telegraph article of August 1 described the caliber of play as "...very interesting. The brand of play does not measure up to West Branch standards but the interest is just as keen." New Berlin won its first two games, 8-3 over the Scholastics, and 12-0 over the Business Men. The Scholastics and Vets played their first two games against one another, each game ending in a tie, 10-10 and 3-3.

From the Telegraph, August 8: On Monday, August 5, the Vets and Business Men tied, 3-3, while New Berlin, unbeaten in two games, lost to the Scholastics, 6-4, in New Berlin. New Berlin had two games remaining: August 8 against the Vets and August 12 against the Business Men. The best-of-three playoff series was scheduled for August 15, August 19 and, if required, August 22. The games were to be played at Mifflinburg's Memorial Field at 6:15.

From the Telegraph, August 15: The first of a best-of-three playoff was set to begin in New Berlin, which went 4-1, losing only to the Scholastics. The Scholastics and Vets tied for second place, but the Vets entered the playoffs because many of the Scholastics' players were set to begin high school football practice on August 19.

The Telegraph reported on August 22 that the relatively short Community Baseball League season ended on August 19, with New Berlin defeating the Business Men, 10-6. According to the article of August 8, the first playoff game was scheduled for August 15 but the Telegraph did not report a result for a game on this date.

The August 22 article is at odds with previous articles in the Telegraph which stated that New Berlin would face the Vets in the playoff series. No explanation was offered for why they played the Business Men. With no more Telegraph articles about the Community Baseball League in 1946, it appears that New Berlin won two baseball championships that year.

A Team Effort

I am fortunate that my father, Spencer "Billy" Walker, a member of the '46 New Berlin team, told many stories about West Branch League baseball. For some reason,

these tales of diamond derring-do stuck in my youthful brain, from which they emerged after 50 years of dormancy.

Special thanks to Jim Lenge, who provided access to documents in the New Berlin Heritage Museum and to the patron I met who helped me figure out how to use the microfilm reader at the Degenstein Community Library in Sunbury.

Sources

- *The Item*, Sunbury, Pa.: May 26 and 27; June 4, 6, 16, 23, 26 and 30; July 3, 45, 6, 10, 12, 14, 18, 28, 29 and 30; August 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 29 and 30; and September 5, 12, 19 and 30, all 1946.
- *The Mifflinburg Telegraph*: July 18, August 1, 8, 15 and 22, 1946.
- *The Standard Journal*, Milton, Pa.: May 11, 2011
- *The Oneida*, the 1942 Lewisburg High School yearbook
- New Berlin West Branch Baseball League 1946 scorebook preserved in the town's Heritage Museum.

New Berlin's 1946 Season

Results reported in the 1946 scorebook kept by John Spangler, the official scorekeeper. The book is in the New Berlin Heritage Museum.

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| May | New Berlin 9 Bucknell 5 | at Lewisburg | Cold and windy |
| May | New Berlin 8 Bucknell 8 | at Lewisburg | Sunny and windy |
| May 10 | Watsonstown 2 New Berlin 1 | at Watsonstown | Cloudy |
| May 11 | New Berlin 22 Mifflinburg 4 | at Mifflinburg | Cloudy and fair |
| May 13 | New Berlin 8 Lewisburg 4 | at Lewisburg | Cloudy |
| May 15 | New Berlin 10 Milton 1 | at Milton | Fair |
| May 25 | Middleburg 8 New Berlin 7 (11) | at Middleburg | Clear and warm |
| May 26 | New Berlin 10 Herndon 5 | at Herndon | Humid with showers |
| May 30 | New Berlin 18 Lewisburg 1 | at Lewisburg | Fair and warm |
| June 1 | New Berlin vs Mifflinburg | at Mifflinburg | rained out |
| June 3 | New Berlin 6 Lewisburg 4 | at Lewisburg | Cloudy |
| June 5 | New Berlin 7 Mifflinburg 6 | at Mifflinburg | Fair and sunny |

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| June 15 | New Berlin 9 Selinsgrove 0 | at Selinsgrove | Fair and warm |
| June 22 | New Berlin 5 Freeburg 3 | at Freeburg | Warm and overcast |
| June 23 | New Berlin 15 Freeburg 3 | at Freeburg | Fair and warm |
| June 25 | New Berlin 15 Mifflinburg 6 | at Mifflinburg | Fair and warm |
| June 29 | New Berlin 3 Herndon 0 | at New Berlin | Fair and warm |
| July 2 | New Berlin 8 Selinsgrove 7 | at Selinsgrove | Fair and warm |
| July 4 | Middleburg 6 New Berlin 4 | at New Berlin | Fair and warm |
| July 4 | Middleburg 8 New Berlin 3 | at Middleburg | Fair and warm |
| July 5 | New Berlin 15 Hummel's Wharf 4 | at Hummel's Wharf | Fair and warm |
| July 9 | New Berlin 3 Middleburg 1 | at New Berlin | Cloudy |
| July 10 | New Berlin 8 Lewisburg 0 | at Lewisburg | Fair and warm |
| July 11 | New Berlin 6 Hummel's Wharf 1 | at New Berlin | Fair and warm |
| July 13 | Lewisburg 8 New Berlin 4 | at New Berlin | Fair and warm |
| July 17 | Mifflinburg 9 New Berlin 8 | at Mifflinburg | Fair and warm |
| July 19 | New Berlin 9 Macallisterville 3 | at Macallisterville | Fair and warm ¹ |
| July 20 | New Berlin vs Mifflinburg | at New Berlin | rained out |
| July 26 | Macallisterville 7 New Berlin 6 | at New Berlin | Fair and warm |
| July 27 | New Berlin 5 Hummel's Wharf 1 | at New Berlin | Fair and warm |
| July 29 | New Berlin 16 Hummel's Wharf 0 | at Hummel's Wharf | Fair and warm |
| August 3 | New Berlin 9 Selinsgrove 0 | at New Berlin | Fair and warm |
| August 3 | Selinsgrove 3 New Berlin 1 | at New Berlin | Cloudy |
| August 4 | New Berlin 18 Lewisburg Pen 14 | at Lewisburg | Fair and warm |
| August 10 | New Berlin 20 Freeburg 2 | at New Berlin | Windy and warm |
| August 11 | New Berlin 17 Herndon 3 | at Herndon | Fair and warm |
| August 14 | New Berlin 9 Herndon 2 | at New Berlin | Fair and warm |
| August 17 | New Berlin 6 Mifflinburg 3 | at New Berlin | Warm and humid |

Play-Off Games

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| August 21 | New Berlin 9 Lewisburg 2 | at New Berlin | Fair and warm |
| August 24 | New Berlin 3 Lewisburg 1 | at New Berlin | Fair and warm |

¹ Correct spelling for the team name is McAlisterville.

New Berlin wins series, 2-0

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| August 31 | New Berlin 5 Middleburg 3 | at New Berlin | Fair and cool |
| Sept 2 | Middleburg 6 New Berlin 2 | at Middleburg | Cool and cloudy |
| Sept 2 | New Berlin 7 Middleburg 2 | at Middleburg | Cool and cloudy |
| Sept 4 | New Berlin 4 Middleburg 2 | at New Berlin | Fair and warm |

New Berlin wins series, 3-1

1946 Batting and Pitching Statistics, New Berlin

A notebook in the New Berlin Heritage Museum includes players' batting and pitching statistics from the 1946 championship team. The initials JMS appear on the pitching page. This is most likely John Spangler, who was identified as the official scorekeeper in *The Item*, September 19, 1946.

| NEW BERLIN BALL CLUB 1946 Final Batting Averages. | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|------|
| | G | Ab. | R. | H | 2b | 3b | HR | W | SO | Avg. |
| John Sauers | 27 | 114 | 31 | 48 | 14 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 6 | .421 |
| Perce Benfer | 11 | 29 | 7 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | .414 |
| Earl Solomon | 27 | 99 | 25 | 39 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 | .394 |
| Ken Sauers | 26 | 85 | 20 | 31 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 8 | .365 |
| Stan Solomon | 6 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .364 |
| Ken Crook | 27 | 104 | 29 | 37 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | .356 |
| Elwood King | 13 | 48 | 15 | 17 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 3 | .354 |
| Don Solomon | 22 | 52 | 10 | 18 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 7 | .346 |
| Betsker Chas. | 26 | 89 | 21 | 29 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 15 | .326 |
| Jack Solomon | 17 | 46 | 13 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 10 | .326 |
| Gene Solomon | 8 | 32 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | .313 |
| Bill Walker | 22 | 61 | 14 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 9 | .313 |
| Lou Sauers | 12 | 27 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | .296 |
| Bill Matters | 7 | 14 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .286 |
| Randolf Cornelius | 23 | 85 | 21 | 24 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 6 | .282 |
| Harold Solomon | 11 | 25 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 8 | .200 |
| Lou Sassaman | 6 | 16 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | .188 |
| Don Kline | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | .125 |
| Marlin Ritter | 4 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .125 |
| Frank Reigle | 6 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | .100 |
| Wen. Smith | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .500 |
| TOTALS | 306 | 965 | 238 | 327 | 55 | 26 | 13 | 80 | 111 | .339 |

-1946-

| | Pitcher Record | | | League Competition: | | |
|------------|----------------|---|----|---------------------|-------|---------------|
| | W | L | BB | SO | Avg. | |
| Crook | 10 | 1 | 23 | 58 | .909 | |
| Walker | 5 | 3 | 15 | 38 | .625 | |
| Benfer | 2 | 2 | 11 | 17 | .500 | |
| H. Solomon | 2 | 0 | 13 | 6 | 1.000 | |
| Reigle | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1.000 | |
| J. Sauers | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1.000 | |
| Totals | 21 | 6 | 70 | 128 | .778 | Total Avg. |

J.M.S.

✦ ACCOUNTS ✦

Helen Fairchild, White Deer Valley's Own

by

Nelle Fairchild Rote

An Essay on Helen Fairchild

I was pleased to be invited by ACCOUNTS to write about Helen Fairchild, her place in the Susquehanna Valley, and to tell of her short life as an Army Reserve Nurse in World War I, 1917-1918.

The hard working farm people of the Valley had more important work to do than keep diaries and write about themselves, so we must settle on observing their



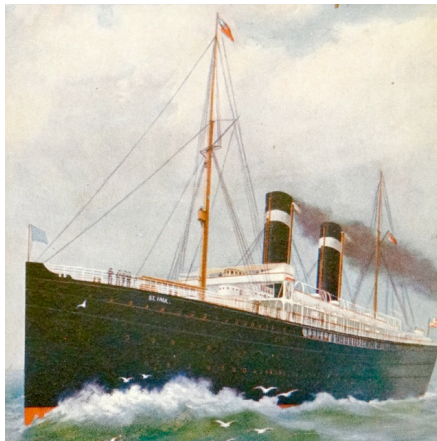
Helen Fairchild

lifestyle, and go from there. But this is what we know: Helen Fairchild was raised on what is now the Reaser farm on Route 44 in Union County. The longest number of her years as a farm girl left few records. The shortest part of her life, a nine-month period during WWI, was far different from life on the farm, but is recorded in many government documents, personal letters, and a few photos.

Here is a brief synopsis of Helen Fairchild's life which the rest of this article will describe. She was born November 21, 1885, and died in France on February 18, 1918. She had left the farm to study nursing at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia

and graduated in 1913. Before the United States joined our allies in World War I on April 6, 1917, Helen and her friends had enlisted in the newly formed US Army Reserve Nurses Corps.

In May 1917 while visiting her parents who had just moved from Allenwood to Watsontown, she received government orders giving her a few days to report for duty and to appear on the docks in Philadelphia to sail overseas to an unknown destination. She left immediately.



S.S. St. Paul transported Helen Fairchild and Base 10 to Europe

The Allenwood countryside was the place she loved, as she told how homesick she was in the letters she wrote to her family. She had exhibited signs of stomach problems while in nursing, but it did not deter her from setting forth on the great adventure that took her life.

This year, 2017, is the hundredth anniversary of the United States entrance in World War I. Stories are being remembered, the battles are being studied, and for Nurse Fairchild, impressive honors have come her way. The Helen Fairchild American Legion Nurses Post was organized in Philadelphia; and in 2001 her history was featured in the commemorative booklet at the opening of Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery; Nurse Fairchild's likeness is one of five nurses on a tall mural on its outside wall at the Institute of Fine Arts, Philadelphia; and on November 18, 2005, the Watsontown bridge was named the Nurse Helen Fairchild Memorial Bridge – a fitting tribute connecting the two counties, Union and Northumberland, the land she missed and appreciated to the end.

Family and Early Life

A small farm girl raised in the Valley left the area to study nursing in the city of Philadelphia. In 1916 she, Helen Fairchild, enlisted in the newly organized United States Army Reserve Corps, sailed overseas in 1917 to France, suffered in the Great War, and now lies in France in Somme American Military Cemetery so very, very far from Elimsport, Allenwood, and Watsontown.

Her father and mother were Ambrose and Adda Dunkle Fairchild. Ambrose and Adda's children were Sol, Hunter, Helen, Edwin (Ned), Christine, Blanche, and Donald. Christine married George McFarland and was the only child who lived to an old age. My father, Ned, was a big man, and he told me the only man heavier was Frank Allen, of Allenwood. My dad tried to enlist in World War One and was turned down due to an "athlete's heart." He died at age fifty-four. Frank Allen also died at age fifty-four.



Adda and Ambrose Fairchild, Helen's parents,
512 Main Street. Watsontown, Pa., c. 1917.

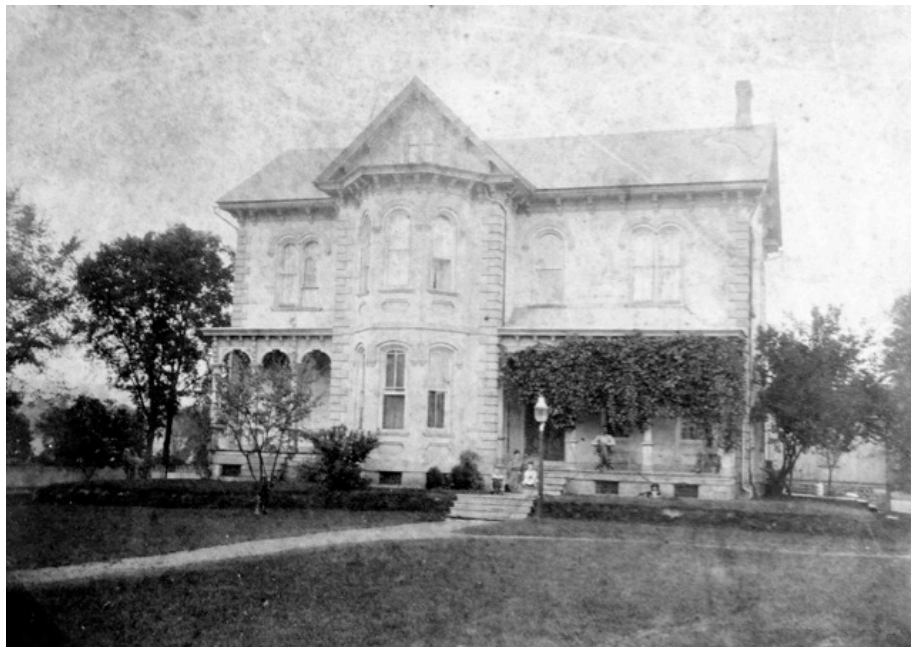
My father told me the family owned the first car in the valley. He said he and his brothers were given orders to let the car rest in the evening because it had been

driven during the day. He would smile when recalling how all the boys loved racing their horses on the straight stretch of road between Dewart and Watsonstown.

Christine told me that she and Helen worked hard on the farm, and had to lift heavy milk cans up on the milk wagon for its regular run to the creamery. Aunt Chris said Helen was not a big person, and I think Christine worried about her. In Helen's letters from overseas during the war, she noted how she had to rise early in the morning to get the farm work done. She also wrote that now so far from home, she was homesick for the sour cherries from the trees in the yard, and how she missed the chicken dinners on Sunday.

My dad told me the two front rooms of their home, where Helen grew up, were so big you could be able to drive a team of horses from one room to the other. He said an open staircase spiraled to the attic, and the ceilings were fifteen feet high in the rooms. He told tales on Ambrose, his father, saying he was so stingy he paid his nickel for the trolley and made Adda pay hers. She obviously had some money of her own. Adda's father, Hiram, was on the first board of directors and first treasurer of the Farmer's National Bank of Watsonstown. That fits in with the story Helen's sister, Christine, told about Aunt Helen and the egg money. One time their mother planned to go visiting, and told Helen if she took care of the chickens she could keep the money she got for the eggs. But, her father had different ideas. He took the egg money. Christine said that is when Helen decided to go to Philadelphia for nurse training, probably in order to become an independent woman. This was the Victorian era, with stirrings of suffrage and independence for young females.

The house where Helen grew up appeared a bit eerie. It was two and a half stories high, built of brick with a layer of smooth stucco. To me, the neighboring farmhouses made of wood with wrap-around porches looked much more approachable. In 1976 I suggested to Mr. McCool Snyder of the Union County Historical Society he might want to visit and evaluate the house for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He did, and the house was accepted by the Historical Society in 1978, due to its architectural design and the history of Benjamin Griffey, who built the home in 1886. Mr. Griffey built and operated the White Deer Woolen



“Milliner’s Mansion” with Helen, sister Blanche (on stairs) and parents Ambrose and Adda Dunkle Fairchild (on porch) about 1890.

Mills during 1848-1850, a six story wooden structure powered by an 85 horsepower overshot waterwheel. It housed a woolen cloth and felt hat operation which supplied blankets to the Union soldiers during the Civil War. Griffey lived only a short time in the house, dubbed the Milliner's Mansion. There was a fire in the woolen mills, and he had moved out of his new home by 1889. The photo of Helen and her parents and sister, Blanche, was taken around 1890, judging from the approximate age of the two little girls.

The Register application also names Nurse Helen's bravery in service in WW1, adding to the historical significance of the house where Helen spent her formative years. The house is three and one half miles west of Allenwood on Route 44. A fire destroyed the top floors in 1980, and the house was never rebuilt to its original splendor.

A group of Helen Fairchild's younger friends from Allenwood area went camping each year by the Susquehanna River. The photo below was taken around 1911, judging by the age of my mother, Phebe Fisher. Mother would have been



sixteen years old. Helen, born in 1885, would be 26. At this time she would be in nurse training in Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia. Helen's two future sisters-in-law are in the photo, Henrietta is fourth from the left, and Phebe is third in from the right. Phebe would marry Edwin Fairchild, and Henrietta McCarty would marry Hunter Fairchild. Hunter died in 1919, leaving her with baby Lawrence. She remarried, and as Mrs. George Childs, she was a beloved teacher in the Allenwood, Watsontown area. Phebe's sister, Nellie, is first in line with her long legs extended straight up in the air, while all the others demurely crossed their ankles. This was typical of the innocent pranks played on each other in this era. The gentleman in the background was the chaperone for the group. In the Victorian era, one must always have a chaperone!

It may well be it was on this camping trip at age sixteen that my mother, Phebe, accomplished one of her most satisfying feats. In spite of being lame, she swam the width of the Susquehanna River. When swimming, mother felt “normal,” she told me. She didn't feel handicapped in the water.

My mother was crippled from polio she contracted as a toddler. She became ill the day she had taken her first steps unassisted, and her older sisters, Martha and Marguerite, worried they had encouraged her to walk too much. But during her lifetime, she managed very well under all circumstances with humor and intelligence.

War Time Service

Helen Fairchild graduated as a nurse from Pennsylvania Hospital in 1913 at age twenty-eight. She remained there practicing nursing until May 18, 1917. In anticipation of the United States entering the drawn-out world war in Europe, an Army Reserve Nursing Corps unit was formed in October 1916. Helen joined, as did many nurses from surrounding hospitals. The nurses thought that the unit most likely would be deployed around the United States, but this was not to be.

Helen's story moves forward quickly from this point. The United States entered the war on April 6, 1917. Helen had planned to work in private duty nursing at Long Neck, New York, at eighty dollars a month, with expenses expected to cost no more than twenty dollars. With some free time, she visited her parents the first week of May, when they moved from Allenwood to 512 Main Street, Watsontown. It was the former home of her grandparents, Hiram and Christiana Dunkel Fairchild. Within days of arriving home Helen received a telegram ordering her to report to the docks of Philadelphia by May 12 for overseas duty. She left immediately and her letter writing began:

May 14: "Dear Ned and Phebe, [who now are living in Maine], Try and write to Mother often, for she worries when she doesn't hear from you often. Lovingly, Sis."

May 16: While waiting for her ship she wrote, "Dear Mother, I have had indigestion twice since I came down, and my legs don't ache as much as they did. Hope it lasts. I am going to stop the rheumatic medicine soon, but am going to keep up the blood tonic for a while. Heaps of love, Helen."

May 26: "Dear Mother, --we were on the water eight days, but I didn't waste much time getting sea sick, and I like to die all day Sunday and Mon., but Tuesday morn had to have para-typhoid vaccine. Everybody had to take it, and everybody had a severe reaction. Gee, most of our enlisted men are millionaires or millionaire's sons and as for our doctors, well, Philadelphia does not have men any finer, and I am one of the lucky ones to get in at the first call. Heaps of love, from your own, Helen."

May 28, Liverpool: "--tomorrow off to London."

June 8, London: "I really have not felt so good in ages. I am tanned and freckled and no trace of sea sickness now. Yesterday we had tea with Miss Emily Sargent, a sister of John [Singer] Sargent, who is considered America's most famous living artist, so you can see we are being well entertained, but for

all that, I am ready to go to work.”

June 8, same day: Headlines read **ALLIES EXPLODE 19 UNDERGROUND MINES BREAKING THROUGH THE HINDENBURG LINES**. The villages of Messines and Whitchete [Wyschaete] disappeared into oblivion ... Thousands lay beneath the ground to forever be entombed there. Some of the bomb craters were 300 feet across and 75 feet deep, now part of No Man's Land. At the time of the explosions, the ground shook in London at No 10 Downing Street, home of the Prime Minister. No doubt the nurses felt the tremor. What were their thoughts?

June 8, same day: Taking advantage of the distraction and destruction, General Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, crossed the English Channel into France.

June 9: The next day our nurses and doctors also crossed the English Channel, traveling by train up the coast of France to British Base Hospital No. 16, at Le Treport. It was north of Omaha Beach where our American troops landed in World War II, also in June, D-day, in 1944. Arriving tired, dirty, and hungry, the British nurses rolled out of their beds and our nurses gladly fell in. The Base hospital had temporary-looking accommodations, a huge, sprawling place of huts, tents with 500 beds, and duckboards for walkways. Canadian General Hospital No. 3, a permanent hospital, was located at the edge of the Base hospital grounds. The fishing village was in view from atop the high, white, cliffs. The Base was now designated American Base Hospital No. 10, and manned completely by our Americans.



Postcard photo of English nurses setting up tents

July 15, Sunday: “I have just come from the church service held in the little church here. This was a Presbyterian service held by the Scotch Padre. That is

the name they use here instead of Minister. The whole service is so familiar it made me homesick. I think I'll walk along the cliffs in time to watch the sun go down. The sunsets here are beautiful. I'll put my heavy dress on for it gets very cold in the evenings. We can only go out in our dark blue serge uniforms. Just as soon as I get home I am going to get dresses in all colors of the rainbow, but never again a blue serge one or a blue felt hat. Gee, I know now how the poor kids in orphan asylums must feel when they all have to wear the same clothes. Heaps of love and a kiss for each one of you, ever your own, Helen."

July 15, same day: Headlines screamed, "GERMANS USE MUSTARD GAS FOR FIRST TIME AT YPRES AND NIEUPOORT," which is just north of Helen's Base Hospital 10. The number of wounded that can be handled in event of a crisis is 2,000, with a maximum of 1,400 beds. This new gas, an oily substance with a smell of mustard, burnt the flesh down to the bone and dissolved the lining of the lungs.

Nurses and doctors were affected by the gas as they handled the patients, with eyes streaming and stomachs churning. Helen's hospital expanded to its full capacity and a call went out for more nurses, which had to be sent over by ship. On July 19 the British Medical Corps requested small surgical teams from Base 10. They would be close to the Front lines in preparation of the Third Battle of Ypres-Passchendaele. Helen went with Dr. Richard Harte as his surgical nurse. The team was made up of two doctors, a surgical nurse, and a sergeant-orderly. They took along their own operating room supplies and left for a 100 mile trip into Belgium. They had to travel the same narrow, rutted roads now occupied by wounded men coming back, and horses, wagons, and troops advancing forward. Dr. Harvey Cushing passed them on the way up and commented how dusty they all looked. The group arrived at British Casualty Clearing Station No. 4, a mobile surgical unit, but quite large, with over one hundred white tents. It had been given the name of Dozinghem, and to this day, its Dozinghem British Military Cemetery is a testament to the location of CCS 4. It is located on Luc Inion's grandfather's farm, not far from Poperinghe, Belgium.

July 22: The surgical team arrived under shell fire, but the main battle was to follow.

July 31, daylight: "A volcanic explosion of planetary proportions," described Dr. George Crile. "The operating rooms ran day and night, without ceasing. Teams worked steadily for twelve hours on and twelve hours off, relieving each like night and day shifts ... there passed through a group of CCSs over ten thousand wounded in the first forty-eight hours." Crile reported, "I had two hundred deaths in one night in my own service. Our dump ran as high as eighty waiting, and at one time we were thirty-six hours behind the list waiting on the stretchers for operations."

August 4: Helen wrote, "I see no end to this." Dr. Cushing wrote, "Around 30,000 were casualties, with no advance made." On this date General Haig called a halt to the general offensive because no ground was gained and tens of



Bottle stoppers and thermometer fragment recovered from the area of Casualty Clearing Station No. 4 in Belgium

thousands of his men were killed. Yet, Haig asked for more troops. Censorship was enforced. No cameras, no descriptive letters ... but the pathologist, Dr. Krumbhaar, and surgeon, Dr. Harvey Cushing, kept diaries, and as a hospital director, Nurse Julia Stimson, was able to bypass the censors. She wrote her mother, "It is a marvel that human beings can stand it at all."

August 17, night time: The CCS was marked with red crosses, but the German planes heavily bombed the location on two consecutive nights. Helen's team was operating the first night. Many soldiers and wounded German prisoners were rewounded and killed. Two sources said that Helen gave her gas mask to a soldier. It is probably that she put her mask on a soldier who was on the operating table or nearby, contrary to instructions and military orders. For unknown reasons, Helen and Dr. Harte left that night in an ambulance, according to a diary kept by Dr. Krumbhaar. They returned to Base 10, traveling again, the one hundred miles to the coast. Dr. Harte reported for duty the next day, but no record can be found of Helen. Her next letter home made no mention of her experience.

August 29: Helen wrote a cheery letter to her mother telling of ordering pretty things for herself and Christine – "beautiful hand embroidered nightgowns and an envelope chemise. I think I'll get us each one set made with hand made yokes. Some time when you want to send me something, send me some peppermint candy and a cake like that recipe of Henrietta's, the one with the nuts and raisins for that will keep well. I hope that if you are going to take that trip in a new car next summer, I will be there to go also. Send this letter to Henrietta, and I will write to Ned and Sol next week. I sure would like to see little Lawrence. Tell Christine I will write to her soon. Heaps and Heaps of

love, Your own, Helen.”

December 29: “Dear Mother, Did Henrietta get the letter I wrote thanking her for the good cake? I wrote her a long one. Please tell me what everyone seems to have heard concerning me at home. Of course, whatever it was, as you know, is not so, for as I told you often, anytime anything should happen you would be notified. With heaps of love and thanks from your own Helen.” Among the one hundred pages of letters Helen wrote, this was her last letter.

January 24, 1918: “OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL – It is with much regret to inform you of the death of your daughter, Helen Fairchild, on January 18, 1918 of yellow atrophy of the liver.”

Helen had had exploratory surgery three days earlier, and her autopsy reported she died from the effects of the chloroform anesthesia. She died a painful death, “not wanting to be touched due to the pain.”

She was given a military funeral with all available military representatives, medical personnel and organizations attending. Later she was moved from the Base cemetery at LeTreport to Somme American Military Cemetery, Bony, France. At that time her VA records show she was 5'2” tall, and approximately 122 pounds. That was too small to have been sent into harm’s way. Even soldiers had standards as to height and weight.



Fairchild grave marker, Somme American Military Cemetery, Bony, France

There was chlorine in mustard gas, chlorine in chloride-of-lime used to bathe wounds, and chlorine in the chloroform anesthesia. It was too much for her system to handle.

Her one hundred pages got moved from one place to another, always guarded by the little niece who had sat in the attic reading them so long ago. The letters are now safely kept in the American Army Medical Museum, San Antonio, Texas.

The Daughters of the American Revolution asked for her story to be written for their magazine. It was picked up and published online under Primary WWI documents. It was the start of a book and the naming of the Nurse Helen Fairchild Memorial Bridge, Watsonstown. The nurses of the Helen Fairchild American Legion Nurses Post in Philadelphia were proud as the internet spread her story around the world. One hundred years later, her image and story have become an icon, especially for little girls, nurses, and patriots everywhere.

Helen had written, “Oh, I’ll have books to tell when I get home.”

Further Sources on Helen Fairchild

For those interested in studying the life of Helen Fairchild in greater depth, the following sources can be useful:

1. One hundred pages of Helen's letters written to her family in 1917. Letters located in the American Army Medical Museum, San Antonio, Texas.
2. *Nurses of Passchendaele*, Caring for the wounded of the Ypres Campaign, 1914-1918 (Amazon.com), by Christine E. Hallett, PhD, in both nursing history and nursing. She is Professor of Nursing History at the University of Manchester, UK. Alongside an analysis of the intricacies of their wartime practice, Hallett traces the personal stories of these extraordinary women.
3. *Nurse Helen Fairchild World War I 1917-1918*, by Nelle Fairchild Hefty Rote, Lewisburg, Pa., 384 pages, with photos, maps and bibliography.
4. Conversations with Christine Fairchild McFarland and her son, G. Rich McFarland.
5. *Base Hospital 10 in the Great War*, by Paul Hoeber. Pages describing Helen's funeral.
6. *Finding Themselves*, by Julia Stimson, who went overseas on the ship, USS St. Paul, with Helen.
7. *From a Surgeon's Journal*, by Dr. Harvey Cushing, who mentioned crossing paths with Helen's surgical unit on way to Front, and then operated a few miles from Helen's location.
8. *The Way of the Eagle*, by Major Charles J. Biddle, in which he told of bombings August 17, 1917. This chapter has been edited out of the second printing.
9. Personal diary of Dr. E. B. Krumbhaar, pathologist at Base Hospital 10. Diary located at College of Physicians and Surgeons, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
10. Morning Report of Base Hospital No. 10 Medical Department dated August 3, 1917, Health Record of Helen Fairchild, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
11. Burial records, National Archives Trust, College Park, Maryland.
12. Post Mortem Report, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

I want to thank ACCOUNTS’ editor, Tom Greaves for inviting me to write this article on Helen Fairchild, and lending assistance as this project came together. NFR



Lewisburg's Nineteenth Century Heavy Industries

I: Canal Boats and Foundries

by

Richard A. Sauers

During the nineteenth century, Lewisburg was home to a number of businesses that can be classified as “heavy” industries—a canal boat building firm, several foundries, a nail works, several planing mills, grain mills, a knitting factory, woolen mill, and two furniture companies. Only a few of these businesses survived past 1900 and today, most of them are long forgotten by current residents of the Lewisburg area. This is the first in a series of articles designed to rectify this situation and bring to light a lot of information about these valued firms.

The Canal Boatyard

In 1845, William Frick and Eli Slifer opened a canal boat-building operation in Northumberland. They moved the business upriver in May 1849, still in Northumberland County on the east bank of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River a mile or so below the Lewisburg bridge. That year, the business built twenty canal boats for the Pennsylvania Coal Company. Slifer, born in Chester County in 1818, had come to Lewisburg years earlier but after both parents died, he was raised by relatives in Chester County. Slifer returned to Lewisburg in 1834, served as an apprentice hat maker and then entered the canal cargo business. He was Frick's brother-in-law, having married sister Catharine M. Frick in 1840. Frick's father, John III (born 1784) was involved in the canal business at Northumberland, so it apparently was natural for his son to also take an interest in the canal.¹

¹ On Slifer, see his concise biography on the PA State Senate website:
<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/BiosHistory/MemBio.cfm?ID=5478&body=S>.

Information on the Frick family can be accessed at

<http://files.usgarchives.net/pa/northumberland/famhist/brewboat.txt>.

Both of the above sites indicate that Frick & Slifer opened for business in 1845, as does I. H. Mauser,

In April 1850, Frick & Slifer relocated yet again, this time to the mouth of Buffalo Creek at the north edge of Lewisburg, then in 1852 moved south of the creek to “its present location.” By that time, the company had erected a wharf at the mouth of Buffalo Creek and had excavated a basin above the creek bridge to hold completed boats. In July 1852, Henry Frick (William’s son) entered the business at age 25, the name of the company changing to Frick, Slifer & Company to reflect the addition. Philip Billmeyer was added to the firm a year later in 1853.²



The Frick & Slifer canal boat business is shown on the 1857 map of Lewisburg, and is the earliest depiction of this business.

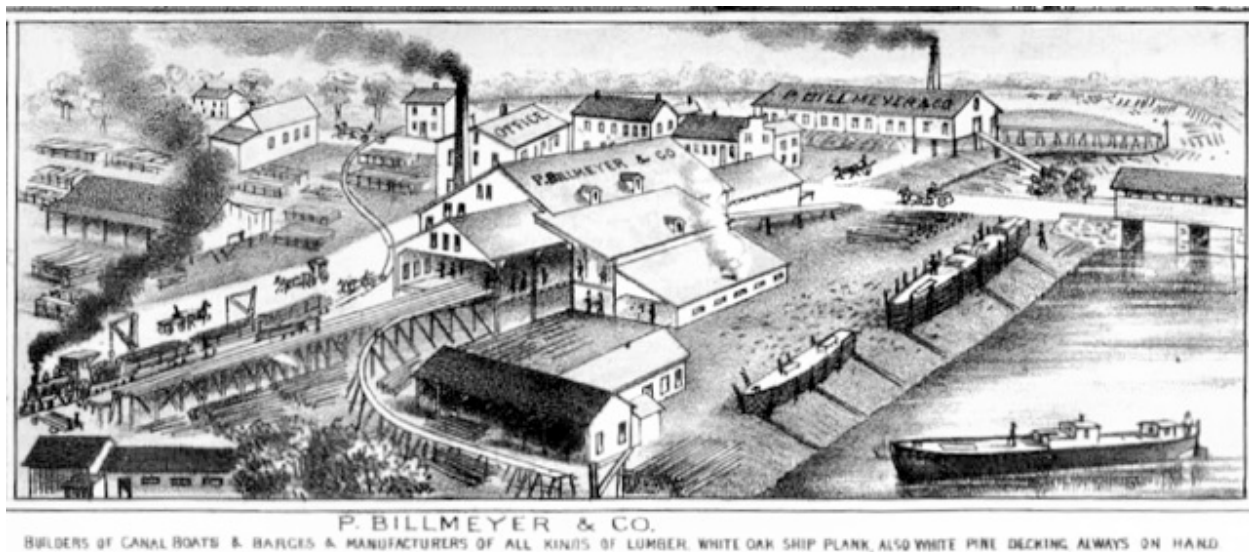
By the time the firm changed its name the employees were building 50-100 boats each year. An 1853 advertisement shows that the company was looking for 80 men to take boats from Lewisburg to New York City. In the 1850s, a story in a local newspaper

Centennial History of Lewisburg (Lewisburg: the author, 1886), 129. The May 1849 date is in “Frick, Slifer & Company,” *Home Gazette*, June 25, 1857.

² *Home Gazette*, June 25, 1857; Mauser, 129; John B. Linn, *Annals of Buffalo Valley, Pennsylvania, 1755-1855* (Harrisburg: Lane S. Hart, Printer & Binder, 1877), 551.

stated that the boats were being sold to the Pennsylvania Coal Company and the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. Each boat measured 98 feet in length, with a 15.5-inch beam and a 6.5-foot hold. A boat weighed about 40 tons yet could haul 120 tons of cargo. Each boat was valued at about \$1,400.³

In 1853, the company erected a steam sawmill that included a 40 horsepower engine to run the saws—a large circular saw, mulay saw, scroll saw, and edger. The company is said to have used four million feet of lumber during its first year in Lewisburg. Men were needed to build boats, cut timber, and perform other tasks associated with this construction business. An 1857 story specified that the company



This is how the canal boat yard appeared on the 1884 bird's-eye view map of Lewisburg.

regularly employed 75-140 men; they earned between \$1.12.5 and \$1.50 per day. The company's five acres included 400 feet of front along the river. In addition to the sawmill and associated smaller buildings, the property was used to store piles of cut timber ready for use, stored both in wooden sheds and outdoors. The company annually purchased 50-100 rafts of lumber that were floated down the West Branch from Pennsylvania's lumber regions west of Williamsport. During the winter, the firm used 4-6 teams hauling in timber from the surrounding area. There was always a need for

³ Home Gazette, June 25, 1857; Lewisburg Chronicle, February 25, 1853.

more lumber.⁴

In May 1858, William Slifer left the company, which was reorganized as William Frick & Company. William Frick left in 1860, selling the boatyard and sawmill to Henry Frick and Philip Billmeyer for \$18,300. The company was now Frick, Billmeyer & Company, having added A. H. Dill and William Nogel as partners. Henry Frick departed in July 1865 and the name was changed to Billmeyer, Nogel & Company. The company's name continued to change as partners came and went:

1870—M. R. Dill added as partner

1871—George S. Matlack added as a partner

1872—Nogel departed; new partners included William D. Himmelreich and H. C. Wolfe; company name is now Billmeyer, Dill & Company

1873—M. R. Dill departed, R. O. Learch added

1880—A. H. Dill departed, firm became Philip Billmeyer & Company

Billmeyer died in September 1885 but his estate continued to manage the company, which continued under the same name for some time. By 1892, the name had changed to Himmelreich & Company.⁵

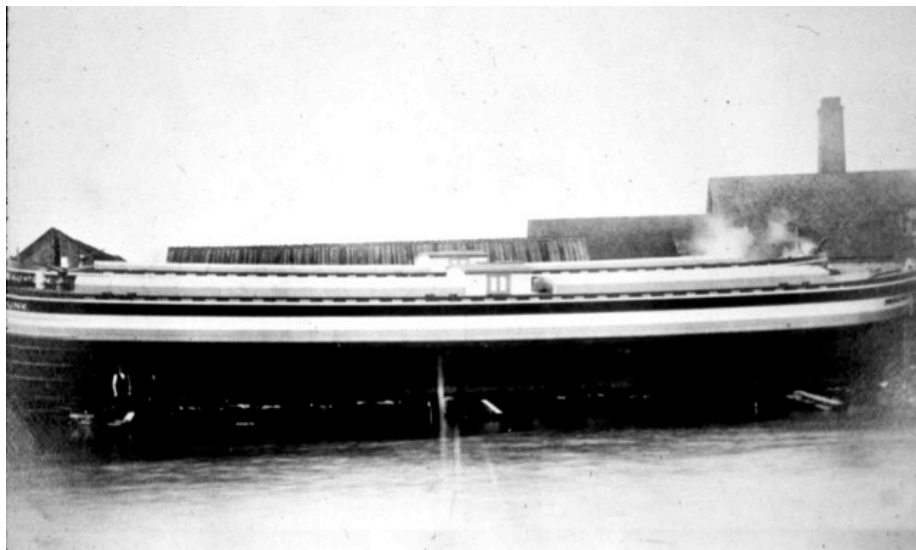
Over time, the company continued to improve its property. In 1870, a railroad spur was completed to connect the boatyard and sawmill with the Lewisburg & Tyrone Railroad. Two years later, the company was said to have produced a model of a

⁴ Home Gazette, June 25, 1857; Lewisburg Chronicle, November 19, 1852. See an advertisement for more lumber in the Union County Press, June 25, 1862, and an advertisement to buy 8-10,000 boat timbers in the Union County Star and Lewisburg Chronicle, March 29, 1864. A December 29, 1863, advertisement in the Chronicle wanted 100 men to work as wood chippers and heavers to lumber the Wrangler Tract, located some two miles from Lewisburg. The Wrangler Tract location may be a variant spelling of Rengler. The 1868 Atlas of Union & Snyder Counties Pennsylvania shows several Rangler properties between Buffalo Crossroads and Mazeppa.

⁵ Mauser, 129-30; Union County Star and Lewisburg Chronicle, July 6, 1860; July 14, 1865; May 20, 1870; April 19, 1872; March 31, 1892. Andrew H. Dill (1836-1891) was born in Baltimore, graduated from Dickinson College in 1855, then practiced law in Gettysburg and the state of Alabama before settling in Lewisburg in 1860. Dill was a member of the state legislature and an unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1880. Dill then went to Somerset County as an attorney, then was the United States Marshall for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania until his death. He is buried in the Lewisburg Cemetery. See his obituary in the Lewisburg Chronicle, January 15, 1891. William D. Himmelreich (1842-1897) was a Union County native, born in Kelly Township. He clerked in a Cowan store, worked in the Lewisburg post office, then in the Sunbury National Bank. After he went to work with the Billmeyer firm, Himmelreich's job "consists mostly in representing its interests away from home, and he is known far and wide for his sunny disposition, and his great popularity." Himmelreich was vice president of the Union National Bank and was involved with many other area businesses. He was also an avid reader and book collector. Upon his death, Himmelreich willed funds to the First Presbyterian Church for a Sunday School library, which opened in November 1902. See a biography in the Lewisburg Chronicle, March 23, 1893, and see Lois Kalp, *A Town on the Susquehanna*, 1769-1975, with an Epilogue, 1975-1980 (Lewisburg: Colonial

proposed steam canal boat, but since this is the only extant notice, a steam canal boat was most certainly never put in production. The mid-1870s also saw the opening of a new sawmill that connected to a second basin (west of the original basin) to hold yet more logs. As a result of the new mill, the company, in late 1874, purchased the low meadow land on the north side of St. Anthony Street so there was more storage space for lumber.⁶

Contemporary sources for the 1870s-1890s are largely silent about how many canal boats were being built each year. The only mention of boat building is from the March 31, 1892, issue of the *Chronicle*, which mentioned that the company had just launched two boats that were going to New York City. The lack of evidence may suggest



This is one of only known images of the canal boat yard known to the author. The boat in the foreground is named *Mauch Chunk*; the name of the next one is partially obscured but reads *-runton*. This photo is undated, but a *Saturday News* article in the May 21, 1892, issue noted that photographer J. W. Cornelius had on display a number of images of the boatyard before the April fire that destroyed the main sawmill. Credit: Packwood House Museum.

that the canal boat business was in a general decline, which is not surprising because of the rapid rise of railroads during this period. Certainly by 1896 the canal boat business had ceased entirely. An article in the January 18 issue of the *Chronicle* included the

Printing, 1980), 127-28, on his death.

⁶ *Lewisburg Chronicle*, May 20, 1870; April 26, 1872; November 13, 1874; January 1, 1875.

following description of the business: “Now to the Saw Mill, the ancient Boat Yard. No boats are built here now, but the circular and muley saws still make saw dust and W. D. Himmelreich & Co. are among the most extensive dealers in lumber on the Susquehanna River.”⁷

Indeed, smart business decisions by the company allowed it to morph into the lumber business as the canal boat income continued its decline. In the spring of 1885, Himmelreich purchased two tracts of woodland in Jefferson County, one of 500 acres and the second with 1,100 acres. In April 1892, the company’s large sawmill, located just south of St. Anthony Street, was destroyed by fire. The 1896 Sanborn Map for Lewisburg shows that this mill had not been rebuilt, which may indicate that the company was having financial issues and perhaps in serious trouble. The last notice about the company appeared in a January 1896 Chronicle issue as noted in the previous paragraph.⁸

The above paragraphs accurately provide a brief history of the business started by William Frick and Eli Slifer in 1845. As can be seen, there are a lot of questions yet to be solved. The prime question is when and why the business ceased operations. The last year that the business was included in the Mercantile Appraisal list for Union County is 1883, but there is a lot of evidence that clearly shows Himmelreich & Company was active through at least 1896. Research into tax records and other related material may yield an answer to this question. Another vexing issue is the lack of photographs of the company. The image of two canal boats is one of only two photographs of the company known to the author of this article. Do any others exist? And yet, in spite of these unknowns, it is well understood that the canal boat company was one of Lewisburg’s valuable nineteenth century industries and employers.

⁷ Lewisburg Chronicle, March 31, 1892; “The Bucket Brigade,” Chronicle, January 18, 1896. An untitled article in the July 23, 1887, issue of the Saturday News described the operations of the saw mills but failed to include any material about boat building. One may surmise that by the 1880s boats were only built upon request, and it appears that requests for new canal boats were now few and far between. Mauser, in his 1885 book about Lewisburg, wrote that he company “does a very extensive business in building boats and barges, and in manufacturing railroad timber.” (page 130)

⁸ Mauser, 130; Saturday News, April 18, 1885; Lewisburg Chronicle, April 21, 1892.

Lewisburg's Oldest Foundry

In 1834, Peter Nevius and Nathan Mitchell started a small foundry business after they purchased the site of the original Methodist Church in Lewisburg, near the intersection of South Water and St. Louis streets. By the time the foundry was purchased by Samuel Geddes and James S. Marsh in early 1848, it was known as the Lewisburg Foundry. The new owners promoted the Hathaway Stove, for which they had the authority to manufacture by the inventor. In February 1851, Marsh purchased Geddes's share of the foundry.⁹



James S. Marsh's Lewisburg Foundry and Agricultural Works placed this ad for a stove in the April 5, 1861, issue of the Union County Star and Lewisburg Chronicle.

In the spring of 1852, Marsh added several partners—Joseph W. Shriner, Elisha C. Marsh, and Frederick Marsh—and the firm became Geddes, Marsh & Company. The new firm switched production from stoves to agricultural implements, ornamental iron, railings, and mill gearings. The farm equipment included the Hussey reaper, Ross Patent Drill, Cumming's Feed Cutter as well as ploughs. In April 1855, Elisha Marsh withdrew from the firm, which now included Samuel Geddes, James S. Marsh, Joseph

⁹ Home Gazette, May 21, 1857; Lewisburg Chronicle and West Branch General Advertiser, March 24, 1848; February 26, 1851. The Methodist Church building was erected in 1818; the congregation built a more substantial church on Third Street in 1832 (Mauser, 88, 90). The 1851 Chronicle story cited states that Marsh bought out Geddes, yet the firm continued with Geddes's name until 1858, according to stories about the business printed in the Chronicle.

W. Shriner, and Frederick Marsh, as Geddes, Marsh & Shriner.¹⁰

The foundry was reorganized in September 1858, when Geddes, Marsh & Shriner was dissolved by mutual consent and renamed James S. Marsh & Company. The company continued its steady growth, enlarging its property in order to manufacture Valley Chief reapers. In June 1860, the firm's name became the Lewisburg Foundry and Agricultural Works. Marsh's partners included Elisha Shorkley, C. C. Shorkley, and Peter Beaver. The foundry continued its steady work, in spite of occasional accidents, the most serious of which took place on March 28, 1862. Sparks from the foundry's smokestack blew onto the roofs of the company's tin and pattern shops, which burned to the ground and had to be rebuilt.¹¹

In March 1872, Marsh purchased the foundry and became its sole owner. An employee of the *Lewisburg Chronicle*, which at the time was located a short distance to the west near the courthouse, visited the foundry in March 1878 and described it in detail as follows:

We found this establishment, in every department, running at the top of its speed, and piles upon piles of reaper sections in different stages of manufacture, stacked everywhere. The moulding room is one hundred feet square, and is one of the liveliest places in this neck of the woods. To get through that part safely, without getting sand in one's eyes, or having his shins burned, requires nice traveling, and a duly sober condition. This is, we believe, the largest moulding room in this section. Then there are the other adjuncts. The machine shop is a vast hive of wheels, belts, and the endless numbers of machines which they drive. Although this would seem amply large for an establishment of this character, the workmen have no extra room to indulge in a waltz, other than that which their duty requires. Above this shop is where the wood-work is constructed; and to keep up with the iron "butchers" below, these faithful artizans [sic], although quite numerous, have no time to throw away. The blacksmith shop conveniently located, has been recently enlarged, and here a large number of the disciples of Vulcan are also busy, breathing gentle zephyrs into their brilliant furnaces, and punishing their anvils at a fearful rate. Then come the paint shops, which are spacious and pleasant, and well stocked with men who understand how to put the finishing touches on the machinery sent to them. The pattern rooms are also ample, but they are not so lively, just now, as the energies of all hands are taxed to their utmost to manufacture articles over pattering [sic] already on hand.

¹⁰ Home Gazette, May 21, 1857; Lewisburg Democrat, May 18, 1852; Lewisburg Chronicle, April 13, 1855.

¹¹ Lewisburg Chronicle, October 1, 1858; November 5, 1859; June 15, 1860; April 1, 1862.

Across the street from the works are three very large sheds nearly filled with reapers and stacks of supplies, while more are constantly being added. And near by is the business office, where Mr. D. S. Kremer and several of Mr. Marsh's sons are apparently trying to beat each other in the "ruination" of white paper. The amount of stationery used up in this office is immense, as we have good reason to know.

On inquiry, we ascertained that Mr. Marsh now employs more men than he did since 1869. Five tons of metal are melted daily for the manufacture of reapers (this being the special business of this establishment). The stack of the boiler furnace has recently been raised, and a new and superior engine is in process of manufacture.

We understand that this manufactory will be compelled to work up to its utmost capacity to get out enough machines for the coming harvest. The western demand for them is great and increasing. In some sections, the farmers desire no other machine. This speaks well for Lewisburg, and more especially for our esteemed neighbor.¹²

The Marsh foundry was the height of its business when the end came suddenly on September 13, 1878. Early that morning, a fire broke out, and in spite of the exertions of the firemen, the blaze completely destroyed the moulding rooms, machine shop/woodworking shop building, blacksmith shop, and painting/woodworking shop. The second story of the office, located across St. Louis Street, also was destroyed, together with a small frame house belonging to a neighbor. The firm's loss was estimated at around \$100,000. About 200 reapers, stored in one of the wooden sheds, survived the flames. The payroll included the names of 180 men, who all lost their means of employment. Several men also lost their personal tools in the fire. Marsh immediately made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors to forestall any lawsuits against the company. It was probably the combination of paying off his debts, the inadequate insurance coverage (Marsh had \$10,500 in coverage), and the lack of capital that led to Marsh's decision not to rebuild the foundry.¹³

The Enigmatic Foundry

A second foundry in Lewisburg opened in 1847. Its owners were Levi B. Christ

¹² Lewisburg Chronicle, March 8, 1872; "What Neighbor Marsh is Doing," March 14, 1878.

¹³ "Disastrous Fire," Lewisburg Chronicle, September 19, 1878. Harry Marsh purchased the Marsh foundry site for \$2,445 at a sheriff's sale in December 1882 (Chronicle, December 14, 1882).

and D. S. Bogar. In August 1849, Bogar left the firm and was replaced by Jackson McFaddin a month later. McFaddin died in June 1851; George A. Frick became co-owner with Christ in July. The partnership was dissolved on June 24, 1853, and the foundry was advertised for sale later that summer.¹⁴

None of the articles reporting on the foundry included a location. A February 1851 article noted that Christ & McFaddin had added a large 2-story warehouse, but again no location was given. The sale notice listed a “large brick foundry built six years ago.” The size was 80x60 feet and two stories high. The warehouse was 40x30 feet in size, with an attached 16x20 office. Based on the fact that the firm established in 1860 (Slifer, Walls & Shriner) leased the Frick & Lilley foundry, the building was located on



Market Street - from Sixth Street - West.

This 1885 photo shows the foundry building located on the northwest corner of Market and Sixth streets. The structure was erected in 1847 by Christ & Bogar. It was open from 1847-1853, then reopened in 1860 by Slifer, Walls, Shriner & Company, who ran the foundry from 1860-1864 before moving to North Second Street. Afterwards, this building was home to a planing mill, served temporarily as the armory for the local national guard company, and then as home to the Lewisburg Novelty Works before burning to the ground in 1904. A new brick building replaced the old 1847 building in 1908 and today houses the Town Tavern. Credit: Packwood House Museum.

¹⁴ Lewisburg Chronicle and Union County General Advertiser, September 18, 1847; August 22, October 10, 1849; July 9, 1851; July 1, August 5, 1853.

the northwest corner of Market and Sixth. So now we know that the building that preceded the current Town Tavern structure was erected in 1847.¹⁵

The Short-Lived Foundry

In February 1857, William Frick and John Lilley formed a partnership and started a foundry business in the old Christ & Bogar building at Market and Sixth. Thirteen months later, the partnership dissolved when Frick withdrew and advertised that the foundry was for sale (he must have been the senior partner and owner). The *Chronicle* announced that Lilley would continue the business for “a while.” In November 1859, the *Chronicle* noted that the foundry would be sold at sheriff’s sale on December 19; since there seems to be no subsequent notice that a sale was successful, we may assume that there was no interest in the business. After all, any buyer would be competing with the James S. Marsh foundry across town. The inability to compete with Marsh may likely have been the cause of Frick and Lilley’s failure. The foundry building was leased in 1860 by yet another hopeful foundry enterprise.¹⁶

Slifer, Walls, Shriner & Company

In the fall of 1860, several prominent Lewisburg residents—Eli Slifer, Johnson Walls, Joseph W. Shriner, Samuel Geddes, Thomas Murray—formed a partnership and leased the Frick & Lilley foundry building at Market and Sixth streets. The new partnership was called Slifer, Walls, Shriner & Company and specialized in agricultural implements, a direct competitor with James S. Marsh’s foundry. The new business was called the Central Foundry and Machine Shop. The company secured the right to build the famous Buckeye Reaper and Mower, making it their chief specialty. In 1861, the firm produced about 100 of these machines, together with clover hullers, fodder cutters,

¹⁵ Lewisburg Chronicle, February 12, 1851; August 5, 1853; February 16, 1882.

¹⁶ Lewisburg Chronicle, February 6, 1857; March 5, 1858; November 28, 1859; Mauser, 130. The sources have various discrepancies. William Frick is listed as one of the founders of this business, but in the *Chronicle* of November 28, 1859, it is George A. Frick and John Lilley who are identified as the owners. This article also has the foundry building on South Sixth Street.

and other related implements. The firm's business doubled in 1862 and then again in 1863, severely crowding their limited space on Market Street.¹⁷

To remedy the lack of space, in 1864 the company purchased the Lewisburg Planing Mills property at the corner of St. John and North Second streets. This mill had opened in the later 1850s but was idle when it was sold to the foundry. A September 1865 article in the Chronicle detailed the business for its readers:

The front is on Second Street, extending 266 feet by 157 feet on St. John's St. . . . The foundry building, 80 by 30 feet, is capable of turning out the castings for ten Buckeyes per day. The cupalo is on an entirely new plan, and was designed by Mr. Stocker, the foreman of that department. Its peculiarity consists in its being square (instead of round) and in the

Buckeye Reaper & Mower,
Manufactured by
SLIFER, WALLS, SHRINER & CO.,
Central Foundry, Lewisburg, Pa.

THE Buckeye Reaper & Mower was introduced in 1854, and so perfectly was it adapted to the work designed that at the Greatest Practical Field Trial ever held in this country, in July of the same year, at Syracuse, it triumphantly carried off the

Grand Gold Medal and Diploma!

At the Indiana State Trial, held at Laporte, in 1858, nearly as many machines were represented and as thoroughly tested as at Syracuse, and the

Buckeye was again the Victor!

And so also at nearly all the field trials and exhibitions in 1858, '59 and '60, when it was a competitor. At a number of exhibitions it received the First Premium as a Mower, First Premium as a Reaper and First Premium as a Combined Machine. These numerous awards prove conclusively the correctness of the decision at Syracuse.

The combined opposition of the manufacturers of Mowing and Reaping Machines and their efforts to crush and to bring into disrepute the Buckeye, only served to prove its **SUPERIORITY**; and the tears they entertained of its final success and triumph were evidences of the real worth and merit of the machine.

The Machine has now passed through four harvests, and during the last three over Nine Thousand have been built and sold—and the farmer may judge of its reputation by the numerous awards made by committees both at field trials and at State and County Exhibitions, as well as from the numerous demands, which the manufacturers have never yet been able to supply.

Slifer, Walls, Shriner & Co.,
Manufacturers of Bullock's Patent Mower and Reaper, Buckeye Reaper & Mower, Darling's Patent Horse Power, Willson's Patent Fodder Cutter, Row's Patent Iron Plow, and Michigan Double Plow; also, Stoves and Castings of all kinds.
Central Foundry and Machine Shop, Corner Sixth and Market streets, Lewisburg, Union Co., Pa.
Nov. 9, 1860.

This ad for the Buckeye Reaper that was manufactured by the Central Foundry and Machine Shop appeared in the Union County Star and Lewisburg Chronicle issue of November 9, 1860.

manner in which the blast is applied, which not understanding, we shall

¹⁷ Union County Star and Lewisburg Chronicle, October 5, 1860; September 22, 1865; Mauser, 130.

not attempt to describe; suffice it to say, however, the cupalo works first rate, and the molten iron comes out of it in the best condition for filling the moulds or making a novice get out of its reach.

Passing from the foundry we enter the smith-shop, 40 by 25 feet, containing six fires, supplied with wind by a fan which never gets tired blowing. Here the brawny arms of the stalwart smiths make the sparks fly in such a manner that we cut our stay short.

Adjoining is the main shop, which is 70 by 57 feet, two storeys high, with a cellar under the whole. Entering the cellar first, we find the engine and boilers. The latter are supplied with Ashcroft's steam gauge, which shows at a glance how much pressure of steam is on the bellows. The engine drives a rotary pump capable of throwing one hundred gallons of water per minute, and fireing [sic] a three-quarter inch stream ninety feet away from the pump. In the cellar are stored the castings, each kind by itself, which are elevated to the floor above by steam, as they are required. Going up to the first floor, we find lathes, drill presses, planers for iron and wood, saw, both circular and scroll, boring machines, bolt cutters, punching and shearing machines, and small tools too numerous to mention, all to perfect and expedite their work. Many of these machines were designed and built in their shops, and with their automatic movements do their work very rapidly, and much more perfectly than can be done by hand. On the second floor Mr. Fore-Plane reigns supreme, for here the space is all devoted to the wood work. There is no machinery on this floor except one circular saw.

Descending we pass out into the paint shop, 52 by 35 feet. Here the admirable finish for which the Central Foundry is so noted is put on their machines. The machines pass out into the sheds, which are 24 feet wide by 400 feet long, and are stored until shipped.

We now find ourselves in the rear of the office and ware-room, 86 feet long by 16 wide and learn that from employing fifteen hands and building one hundred machines, this firm now employs on an average fifty-five hands, and can turn out from two to three thousand Buckeyes in a year. The foreman of this establishment, Mr. S. D. Bates, is a gentleman in every way qualified to conduct a business of this kind. He is a thorough machinest [sic], and has been eminently successful in the management of this establishment.¹⁸

In 1866, the company was incorporated as the Slifer, Walls & Shriner Manufacturing Company with capital stock worth \$75,000. The company was very financially successful; by 1867 the firm had paid \$32,000 in dividends in addition to the

¹⁸ Lewisburg Chronicle, September 22, 1865. The reporter misspelled "cupola." A cupola furnace is a vertical furnace used in foundries to melt iron. The traditional shape was round, not square, hence the reporter felt he had to comment on the unusual shape of the Central Foundry furnace.

original \$10,000 used to start the foundry. Shriner and Geddes left the company in 1867 and Johnson Walls died, leaving Eli Slifer the only original owner (Thomas Murray had left in 1863). W. C. Duncan, John Randolph, and Samuel D. Bates had come into the partnership in the 1860s. In 1880, the firm became the Central Manufacturing Company, a name chosen to honor the firm's original name. By that time, even though the improved Buckeye Reaper was still a best-seller, the company had begun to manufacture the Bates Harvester, in addition to stoves, ranges, and other agricultural implements.¹⁹

In 1880, A. H. Dill was the firm's president, Duncan was treasurer, Jonathan Wolfe superintendent of agencies, J. W. Zeller secretary, S. H. Slifer general agent. S. D. Bates was the mechanical superintendent. Although very little information about the company's growth was included in the local newspapers, it seems that there was steady growth in the 1870s and 1880s. The company motto was "the best material and careful workmanship." A variety of products were shipped far and wide; in February 1890, an order of cataract washing machines was bound for Australia.²⁰

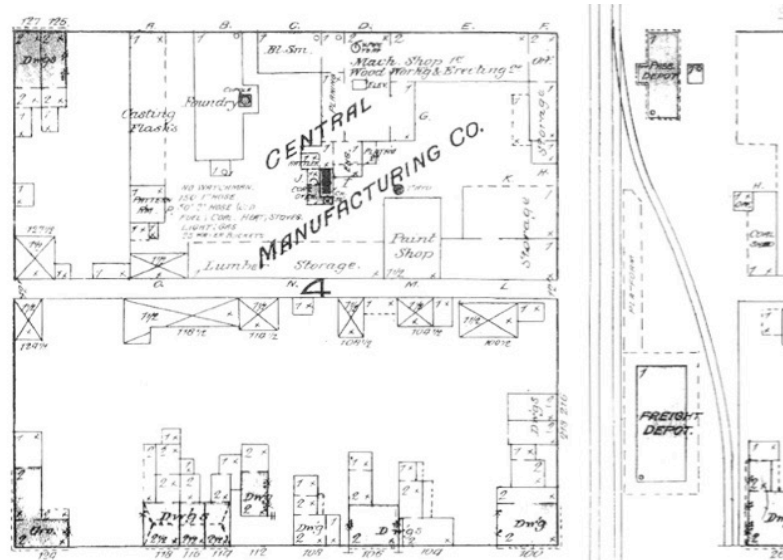
But there must have been some underlying problems that went unreported by the local press, for in July 1891 the foundry was closed by the Union County sheriff, who announced that the company's assets would be sold at public sale on August 4. S. D. Bates purchased most of the foundry's assets and reopened the business in January 1892. Although details are not forthcoming, it seems that by the time the foundry reopened, the manufacture of agricultural implements had become a thing of the past. A February 1892 advertisement informed readers of the Chronicle that the company was making terra cotta drainpipes, among other useful items.²¹

¹⁹ Mauser, 130-1; Lewisburg Chronicle, September 23, 1880; February 16, 1882. Samuel D. Bates (1833-1906) hailed from Vermont and was a machinist by trade. He relocated to Lewisburg at an unspecified date and went to work for Slifer, Walls & Shriner. Bates served in two Civil War militia units, was a member of the Lewisburg town council, a school director, and served on the boards of the Nail Works, Bridge Company, and was superintendent of the Water Works. Bates was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in 1889 and 1891. See his all too brief biography at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/BiosHistory/MemBio.cfm?ID=4678&body=S..> This biography wrongly credits Bates as the inventor of the Buckeye Reaper. The Lewisburg Chronicle of January 5, 1907, has an obituary.

²⁰ Lewisburg Chronicle, February 16, 1882; February 27, 1890.

²¹ Lewisburg Chronicle, July 30, August 5, 1891; January 20, February 18, 1892; Lewisburgh Saturday News, August 8, 1891.

Bates changed the name of the company to the Central Electric & Foundry to indicate the changes that were taking place as the company switched to the manufacture of dynamos to make the new-fangled electricity available to potential customers. By



This is the layout of the Central Manufacturing Company in 1885, as shown on that year's Sanborn Map.

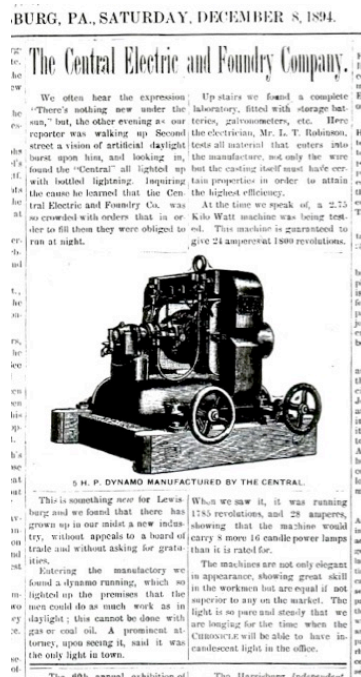
late 1894, a local reporter was able to write that the company was so busy that the men worked at night, the old foundry building aglow with its own dynamo. In 1896, Magee Carpet contracted with Central Electric & Foundry for a 600-light dynamo; the same news story reported that a 300-light dynamo had been delivered to a customer in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. The company was also building a three horsepower machine for the laboratory at Bucknell University.²²

However, just like Marsh's foundry, the Central Electric & Foundry met a sudden end when the cupola caught fire on Friday afternoon, April 6, 1900. A stiff wind from the north quickly fanned the flames; at one point, at least sixteen buildings in Lewisburg were on fire as sparks spread all the way to Market Street. Among the structures affected were the Baker House, parsonage of the Christian Church, the Music Hall, and the Beaver Block (northeast corner of Market and Third streets). Lewisburg's valiant fire fighters alerted neighboring departments. But the local men were able to contain the flames and only the foundry buildings and a barn on the Sheller estate were total

²² Lewisburg Chronicle, December 8, 1894; August 8, November 21, 1896; Lewisburg Journal, November

losses.²³ The connection with Elizabeth City, NC, is interesting. Some additional research might reveal an old central Pennsylvania connection. Palemon John, the Quaker owner/editor of the Bloomsburg Republican during the Civil War, sold the paper after the war and moved to Elizabeth City, where he encouraged northern investment in the battered northeastern corner of North Carolina. John sent copies of his North Carolinian newspaper that he founded across the Northeast to entice development money. There may be a link between John's efforts and a Carolinian manufacturing order to a distant Lewisburg foundry.²⁴

Even though the Central Electric & Foundry had insurance coverage, Bates did not rebuild. In May 1900, Cam Young, Ira Catherman, and Frank Dietrich purchased



The *Lewisburg Chronicle* issue of December 8, 1894, depicted a dynamo manufactured by the Central Electric & Foundry.

the pattern shop and patterns from the company and announced that they would move the foundry building to a vacant lot owned by R. A. Lawshe on the northeast corner of North Fifth and St. John streets, then add a blacksmith shop. The New Central Foundry

15, 1893; November 20, 1896.

²³ *Lewisburg Chronicle*, April 7, 1900; *Lewisburg Journal*, April 13, 1900.

²⁴ See Richard A. Sauers and Peter Tomasak, *The Fishing Creek Confederacy: A Story of Civil War Draft Resistance* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2012), 142, 208 n3, 213 n8.

opened in July, with S. D. Bates acting as secretary and treasurer of the new firm. “The shop is thoroughly equipped to do all kinds of machine work, and especial attention will be given to repair work.” The physical plant of the New Central Foundry was much smaller than its predecessor. A May 1902 advertisement in the Chronicle is the last notice about the company that this author has seen in local newspapers. The foundry appeared on both the 1906 and 1913 Sanborn maps. The 1913 map indicated that the blacksmith shop was closed. The next available Sanborn map is dated 1925; the foundry building was still standing but marked as “not used.”²⁵

The author hopes that the information presented in this article helps readers understand the histories of the five business firms included here. These firms ceased operations long before it became fashionable to preserve company archives and papers. As a result, there are no records that certainly would have provided much useful information about these businesses. The notes to this article show that much of the information was gleaned from local newspapers. These repositories of local history do not tell the entire story, for they were written and printed for readers who knew where buildings were located and did not print information that the editors assumed people took for granted. Over one hundred years later, these omissions force modern researchers to look for connections between widely-spaced articles and blurbs in an attempt to piece together the histories of businesses that were the backbone of local pride.

✧ **ACCOUNTS** ✧

ACCOUNTS Vol. 7, No. 2, 2017
Union County Historical Society

²⁵ Lewisburg Journal, July 13, 1900; Lewisburg Chronicle, May 31, 1902.

ACCOUNTS

Published by the Union County Historical Society, Lewisburg PA, 17837

About This Issue's Authors:

A native of Vicksburg, **Carl R. Catherman** is a graduate of Susquehanna University and Tulane University, now a retired mathematics teacher. In addition to local history his interests include genealogy and roots music. He sings at several country and bluegrass music open mic nights.

Mary Lee Jensen is originally from the Philadelphia area, but now resides in Ithaca, New York with her husband, Jon, and her two adult children. She has been an academic librarian for the past 30 years, focusing on the areas of reference and instruction, and has worked in a variety of college libraries in Michigan and Ohio. She is currently employed by Mann Library, Cornell University.

Albright College's Archivist, **Sidney Dreese** is a graduate of Drexel University and Penn State; a native of Mifflinburg with a lifelong interest in the history of Union County especially the Civil War era.

Tom Walker was born in Lewisburg. His family moved from Mifflinburg to Bucks County, Pa., in 1958. Retired from the pharmaceutical industry, he has lived in Reading since 1985. His interests include researching and writing the history of golf in Berks County.

Nelle Rote, a 60-year member of the DAR, has a strong interest in genealogy. A cousin, Cyrus McCormick, the inventor and promoter of the reaper, set an example in using "science, art and native cunning" to establish her aunt's place in history. Nelle named the Nurse Helen Fairchild Memorial Bridge in Watsonstown and is the author of the book, *Nurse Helen Fairchild, World War I, 1917-1918*.

Richard A. Sauers, a native of Lewisburg, earned a PhD at Penn State University and has been in the public history field for 30 years. He is currently the executive director of the Western Museum of Mining and Industry Museum in Colorado Springs, CO.

Index, Issue # 7-2, October, 2017

This index of ACCOUNTS articles includes place names and geographic features in Union County, the names of individuals associated with Union County, activities, institutions, and industries in the county, and events that transpired in the County. Groups, businesses, institutions and events are listed under the host towns, whereas the names of individuals are listed at the primary index level.

Allen, Frank 7-2:59
 Allen, R. Raymond 7-2:6,14
 Allenwood 7-2:58
 Backman, R. 7-2:49
 Barnett, Jacob 7-2:8
 Bates, Samuel D. 7-2:81,82,84,85
 Beaver, Peter 7-2:76
 Bell, David 7-2:11
 Benfer, Percy or Perce 7-2:45,56
 Bierly, Grover 7-2:23,37
 Billmeyer, Philip 7-2:70,72
 Bingaman, Bill 7-2:11
 Bingaman, Clarence 7-2:11
 Bingaman, Earl 7-2:6
 Bingaman, Lamar 7-2:11
 Bingaman Brothers and Blue Grass Valley Boys (band) 7-2:11,12
 Black Mountain Ramblers (band) 7-2:11
 Blue Hill 7-2:8
 Bogar, D.S. 7-2:78
 Botsker, Chas. 7-2:55
 Boyer, Bob 7-2:52
 Boyer, Frank 7-2:37
 Buffalo Creek Bogtrotters (band) 7-2:12
 Campbell, Linda 7-2:24
 Catherman, Carl (article author) 7-2:4-20
 Catherman, Ira 7-2:84
 Chambers, Wilbert 7-2:37
 Childs, Mrs. George (Henrietta McCarty) 7-2:62
 Christ, Levi B. 7-2:77,78
 Clark, Kenneth ("Tumbleweed") Old time music 7-2:4, 8,9
 Claar, Jane 7-2:8
 Claar, Jim 7-2:8
 Community Baseball League 7-2:51
 Cornelius, Randolph 7-2:48,55
 Crook, Kenny 7-2:43,44,45,48,56
 D'Addario, Harry 7-2:6,7,12,13,14
 D'Addario, Marty "Hi Ho" 7-2:6,12,14
 Degenstein Community Library, Sunbury 7-2:43
 Derr, Bob 7-2:22
 Dersham, Theron 7-2:52
 Dewart 7-2:60
 Dietrich, Frank 7-2:84
 Dill, A.H. 7-2:72,82
 Dill, M. R. 7-2:72
 Duncan, W. C. 7-2:82
 Dreese, Sidney (article author) 7-2:27-40

Elimsport 7-2:59
 Englehart, George 7-2:6
 Englehart, Lester 7-2:6
 Fairchild, Adda 7-2:59,60
 Fairchild, Ambrose 7-2:59,60
 Fairchild, Blanche 7-2:59
 Fairchild, Christiana Dunkle 7-2:63
 Fairchild, Christine 7-2:59,60,66
 Fairchild, Donald 7-2:59
 Fairchild, Edwin (Ned) 7-2:59,62,66
 Fairchild, Helen 7-2:57-68
 Fairchild, Hiram, 7-2:63
 Fairchild, Hunter 7-2:59,62
 Fairchild, Lawrence 7-2:62
 Fairchild, Sol 7-2:59,66
 Fisher, Nellie 7-2:62
 Fisher, Phebe 7-2:61,62
 Forest Hill 7-2:6
 Frick, Catherine M. 7-2:69
 Frick, George A. 7-2:78
 Frick, Henry 7-2:70,72
 Frick, John III 7-2:69
 Frick, William 7-2:69,70,72,74,79
 Gast, Henry 7-2:38
 Geddes, Samuel 7-2:75,79,82
 Gemberling, Renaldo 7-2:6
 German folk music 7-2:7,14
 Griffey, Benjamin 7-2:60
 Haire, Mrs. Samuel 7-2:23
 Haney, Harry 7-2:52
 Harter, Pvt. Raymond E. 7-2:37
 Harter, Wilmer "Red" 7-2:40
 Hassenplug, Johan Heinrich 7-2:29
 Hassenplug, Samuel 7-2:29
 Haus, Charles E. 7-2:27,28,29,30,32
 Haus, Benjamin 7-2:30
 Haus, Mary Ann 7-2:28
 Haus, Mary Ellen 7-2:30
 Haus, William Henry Harrison 7-2:31,33
 Helen Fairchild American Legion Nurses Post 7-2:58
 Heiss, Normal 7-2:25
 Heiss, William A. 7-2:26
 Herman, Ben 7-2:6
 Herr, Annetta 7-2:33
 Herr, David Joel 7-2:32
 Herr, James Edwin 7-2:31,33
 Herr, Jane 7-2:32
 Himmelreich, William D. 7-2:72,74
 Hoffman Jr., Alvin 7-2:21
 Houghton, Tom 7-2:52
 Hummel, Charles 7-2:6
 Jack's Mountain String Band 7-2:7
 Jack's Mountaineers (band) 7-2:12
 Jensen, Mary Lee (article author) 7-2:20-26,40
 Katherman, Ben 7-2:37
 Katherman, Don 7-2:37
 Kelly, Isabella Derr 7-2:35

Kelly Point 7-2:10
 King, Elwood 7-2:55
 Kline, Clyde 7-2:6
 Kline, Donnie or Don 7-2:43,51,55
 Klose, Tim 7-2:21
 Kniss, Anna 7-2:37
 Kniss, C. Asher 7-2:37,38,40
 Kniss, Richard 7-2:37
 Koons, Ethel M.'s shop 7-2:23
 Kratzer, Ralph 7-2:6
 Kremer, D.S. 7-2:77
 Kuhney, Jacob 7-2:30
 Laurelton
 Laurelton Girl Scouts 7-2:22
 Lawshe, R. A. 7-2:84
 Learch, R.O. 7-2:72
 Lemon, Harris (publisher) 7-2:20,21,40
 Lewisburg
 Argus newspaper 7-2:35
 Baker House 7-2:83
 Baseball team 7-2:43
 Bates Harvester 7-2:82
 Beaver block 7-2:83
 Billmeyer, Dill and Co. 7-2:72
 Billmeyer, Nogel and Co. 7-2:72
 Buckeye reaper and mower 7-2:79,80,81,82
 Bucknell University 7-2:83
 Canal boat building 7-2:69,70,71,72,73,74
 Central Electric and Foundry 7-2:83,84
 Central Foundry and Machine Shop 7-23:79,80
 Central Manufacturing Co. 7-2:82
 Christ and Bogar building 7-2:79
 Christ and McFadden Co. 7-2:78
 Christian Church parsonage 7-2:83
 Clover cutters 7-2:79
 Cummings feed cutter 7-2:75
 Del Marr Sound (recording) 7-2:12
 Dynamo manufacture 7-2:83
 Farm machinery manufacture 7-2:69-85
 Federal Penitentiary baseball team 7-2:44
 Fodder cutters 7-2:79
 Foundries 7-2:74-85
 Frick, Billmeyer and Co. 7-2:72
 Frick and Lilley foundry 7-2:78,79
 Frick, Slifer and Co. 7-2:70
 Geddes, Marsh and Shriner Co. 7-2:75,76
 Geddes, Marsh and Co. 7-2:75
 Hathaway Stove 7-2:75
 Heavy industries, 19th C. 7-2:69-85
 Himmelreich and Company 7-2:72,74
 Hussey reaper 7-2:75
 James S. Marsh and Co. 7-2:75,76,77,79
 Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad 7-2:72
 Lewisburg Chronicle newspaper 7-2:35
 Lewisburg Foundry 7-2:75
 Lewisburg Foundry and Agricultural Works 7-2:76
 Lewisburg Planing Mills 7-2:80

Log rafting 7-2:71
 Lumber/saw mills 7-2:69,70,71,72,73,74
 Logging 7-2:71,72
 Mercantile Appraisal 1883 7-2:74
 Methodist Church (original) 7-2:74
 Music Hall 7-2:83
 New Central Foundry 7-2:84,85
 Philip Billmeyer and Co. 7-2:72
 Plough manufacture 7-2:75
 Ross patent drill 7-2:75
 Sheller barn fire 7-2:83
 Slifer, Walls, Shriner and Co. 7-2:78,79
 Slifer, Walls and Shriner Manufacturing Co. 7-2:81
 Valley Chief reapers 7-2:76
 W.D. Himmelreich and Co. 7-2:72,74
 Lilley, John 7-2:79
 Marsh, Elisha C. 7-2:75
 Marsh, Frederick 7-2:75,76
 Marsh, James S. 7-2:75,76,77
 Matlack, George S. 7-2:72
 Matters, Bill 7-2:55
 McCarty, Henrietta 7-2:62
 McFadden, Jackson 7-2:78
 McFarland, George 7-2:59
 McNett, Bob 7-2:11
 McNett, Dean 7-2:11
 Middleburg
 Middleburg Middies baseball team 7-2:43,44-52
 Middleburg VFW 7-2:14
 square dances 7-2:14
 Mifflinburg
 4-H Club 7-2:22
 American Legion Drum Corps 7-2:39
 American Legion post 7-2:39
 Anti-tax sentiment 7-2:24
 Athenaeum Club 7-2:22
 Buffalo Valley Telephone Company 7-2:23
 Buffalo Valley Relief Association 7-2:39
 Central Counties Bank 7-2:24
 Copper Kettle restaurant 7-2:14
 FM radio station 7-2:11
 Future Farmers of America 7-2:22
 Grand Army of the Republic post 7-2:34
 Herr and Hayes building 7-2:31
 Herr Memorial Library 7-2:33
 Hopp Hotel 7-2:37
 J.D.S. Gast and Son 7-2:38
 Kiwanis 7-2:22
 Lutheran Church property purchase 7-2:29
 Memorial Field (park) 7-2:52
 Mifflinburg Body Company 7-2:37
 Mifflinburg buggy museum 7-2:26
 Mifflinburg Buggy Works 7-2:26
 Mifflinburg Comets baseball team 7-2:43
 Mifflinburg Community Ambulance Service 7-2:21
 Mifflinburg Firemen's Carnival 7-2:22
 Mifflinburg Motors 7-2:24

- Mifflinburg Fruit Company 7-2:38
- Mifflinburg High School wrestling team 7-2:20
- Mifflinburg Senators baseball team 7-2:43
- Mifflinburg String Band 7-2:7
- Mifflinburg Telegraph*
 - Civil War coverage 7-2:28, 29
 - editor reminiscences 1979-1980 7-2:20-26
 - Great Depression 7-2:38
 - history of the paper 7-2:27-40
 - Ownership 7-2:35
 - printing business 7-2:32,33
 - printing machinery 7-2:36
 - railroad authorization 7-2:32
 - Republican party 7-2:33
 - World War I coverage 7-2:37
 - World War II coverage 7-2:37
 - women, coverage of 7-2:29
- Parade 1931 7-2:39
- Post Office 7-2:33
- Republican Party 7-2:33
- Road improvement lobbying 7-2:39
- Sabbath School convention 7-2:32
- Scarlet D Tavern 7-2:26
- silk mill 7-2:38
- Smith's Bottling Works 7-2:38
- Spanish-American War 7-2:35
- Street name changes 7-2:32
- "The Businessmen" baseball team 7-2:51,52
- "The Scholastics" baseball team 7-2:51,52
- "The Vets" baseball team 7-2:51,52
- Turtle Race and Frog Jumping Contest 7-2:23
- Twentieth Century Club 7-2:22
- Union County Star* newspaper 7-2:35
- Young Farmer's Association 7-2:22
- Water works 7-2:34
- Milburn, Raymond ("Rawhide") 7-2:4,8,9
- Miller, Archie 7-2:6,7,8,12,14
- Miller, Earl 7-2:7,8
- Miller, Hank 7-2:10
- Miller, Paul 7-2:15
- Miller, Pete 7-2:7,8,12,13,14
- Mitchel, "Lefty" 7-2:45,48
- Mitchell, Nathan 7-2:75
- Moynihan, Mike 7-2:12,13,14
- Muncy
 - baseball team 7-2:9
- Murray, Thomas 7-2:79,82
- Nevius, Peter 7-2:75
- New Berlin
 - Baseball team 7-2:41-56
 - Championship baseball teams 1946,48 7-2:41,42,43
 - Highway from Winfield 7-2:39
 - New Berlin All Stars baseball team 7-2:44
 - New Berlin Heritage Association 7-2:12
 - New Berlin Heritage Days 7-2:13,22
 - New Berlin Heritage Museum 7-2:41,42,53
- Nogel, William 7-2:72

Nurse Helen Fairchild Memorial Bridge 7-2:58
 "Oh Mother It Hurts Me So" (LP) UCHS 7-2:13
Old Time Herald 7-2:4
 Old time music 7-2:4-19
 Orndorf, Keith 7-2:23
 Orwig, Jane 7-2:30
 Orwig, Joseph John Ray 7-2:27,28,29,30
 Orwig, Mary Ellen 7-2:30
 Orwig, Samuel 7-2:30
 Pennsylvania Reserve Corps 7-2:35
 Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Company A 7-2:30
 Radio Dot 7-2:9
 Randolph, John 7-2:82
 Rearick, Robert Burns 7-2:37
 Reaser Farm 7-2:57
 Reidell, "Chappie" 7-2:44
 Reigel or Reigle, Frank 7-2:51,55,56
 Reimensnyder, George 7-2:10
 Ritter, Marlan 7-2:55
 Rote, Nelle Fairchild (article author) 7-2:57-68
 Rotering, Bill 7-2:45
 Roush, Guy 7-2:39
 Ruhl, Bob 7-2:52
 Sassaman, Lew (Lou) 7-2:43,49,55
 Sauers, John 7-2:43,44,45,48,49,56
 Sauers, Kenny 7-2:43,45
 Sauers, Louie 7-2:43,45,48,55
 Sauers, Richard A. (article author) 7-2:69-85
 Schoch, G. Warley 7-2:35,36
 Schoch, George 7-2:35
 Schoch, George W. 7-2:33,34,35
 Schoch, Harriet 7-2:35
 Schoch, Milton M. 7-2:34
 Shorkley, C.C. 7-2:76
 Shorkley, Elisha 7-2:76
 Shover, Brian 7-2:14
 Shriner, Joseph W. 7-2:75,76,79,82
 Slifer, Catherine M. Frick 7-2:69
 Slifer, Eli 7-2:69,70,72,74,82
 Slifer, S. H. 7-2:82
 Slifer, William 7-2:72
 Smith, Frederick 7-2:30
 Smith, Wen 7-2:55
 Snook, Ellsworth 7-2:14
 Snyder, Charles F. 7-2:23
 Snyder, Charles McCool "Cool" 7-2:22,60
 Solomon, Donald 7-2:43,55
 Solomon, Earl 7-2:8,44,45
 Solomon, Harold "Whitey" 7-2:43,55,56
 Solomon, Jack 7-2:45,45,46,55
 Solomon, Gene 7-2:55
 Solomon, Lou 7-2:46,47,49
 Solomon, Stan 7-2:43,44,46,48,50
 Sprenkle, Isaac 7-2:6
 Stahl, Roy 7-2:52
 Stamm, John 7-2:40

Steese, Ted 7-2:21
 String bands 7-2:7
 Swan, Smokey 7-2:9
 Sugar Camp, dances 7-2:5,6
 Taylor, Prof. Robert (Bucknell) 7-2:12,13
 Thomas, Earl 7-2:52
 Throssel, John (orchestra) 7-2:12
 Tumbleweed Troubadors (band) 7-2:10
 Union County Fair 7-2:21
 Union County String Band 7-2:12,13
 United States Army Reserve Nurses Corps 7-2:58
 Vicksburg
 church 7-2:5
 dance 7-2: 5
 Wagonaires (band) 7-2:12
 Walker, Spencer "Billy" 7-2:43,44,46,48-56
 Walker, Tom (article author) 7-2:41-56
 Walls, Johnson 7-2:79,82
 Walter, Fred 7-2:52
 Walters, Calvin 7-2:6
 West Branch Baseball League (WBBL) 7-2:41-56
 Western Rangers (band) 7-2:9
 Western Vagabonds (band) 7-2:8
 Wetzel, Jack 7-2:51
 White Deer 7-2:6,57
 "Milliner's Mansion" 7-2:60,61
 White Deer Woolen Mills 7-2:60,61
 White Springs 7-2:6
 Winfield-New Berlin highway 7-2:39
 WKOK Sunbury 7-2:8
 Wolfe, H. C. 7-2:72
 Wolfe, Jonathan 7-2:82
 Wolfe, John 7-2:38
 WJBU Bucknell 7-2:39
 WVBU Bucknell 7-2:39
 WRAK Williamsport 7-2:8,9
 WNEP TV Scranton 7-2:12
 Yearick, Virgil 7-2:52
 Yoder, Don (scholar) 7-2:6
 Yoder, Ken 7-2:21
 Young, Cam 7-2:84
 Yost, John 7-2:21
 Zeller, J. W. 7-2:82
 Zimmerman, Jacob 7-2:6

A Note Regarding the Index in ACCOUNTS

As editor I regard the thoroughness of the index, issue by issue and in the cumulative 5-Year index, as a critically important part of ACCOUNTS. ACCOUNTS is the journal of an historical society, serving individuals who are frequently interested in particular individuals and families, often their own ancestors. Thus, virtually every identifiable Union County individual mentioned in the pages of ACCOUNTS – many hundreds of individuals - appears in the index.

Other readers are interested in the history of particular communities and institutions located in them. These, too, are extensively indexed, usually to be found as sub-topics under the host communities.

Thus ACCOUNTS' index is meant to serve the needs of our members and their neighbors. While producing the index is no small job, as departing editor I hope that the indexing will continue for each future issue, and a cumulative index of all issues every 5th year, building an ever larger and more valuable archive and resource for our community of readers and positioning ACCOUNTS ever more centrally to the history efforts of Union County.

Tom Greaves, Editor,

Pointers on Writing for ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTS is not your usual journal of local history. It isn't the preserve of trained historians and scholarly writers. Not that their contributions aren't welcome, but ACCOUNTS is a *community* resource, available to anyone who knows something about the history of Union County and wants to share. Our geographic focus is not only present-day Union County, but the county before the separation of Snyder County in 1855, and the County's neighboring areas to the north, east and west.

Guidelines

- ACCOUNTS is not primarily a journal of formal scholarship. Bibliography and footnotes need not accompany an essay, but are welcome if you provide them.
- Items will be fairly short: usually 1000 – 2500 words (a double-spaced page has about 250 words; so 4 to 10 pages of double-spaced text).
- A variety of items are being sought, such as:
 - Accounts of events in Union County's history
 - Accounts from family history
 - Accounts of the lives of persons associated with the County
 - Accounts of businesses, churches, communities and places
 - Descriptions of objects and their makers (furniture, buggies, rifles, etc.)
 - Accounts of buildings (homes, barns, churches, commercial buildings, bridges, etc.), monuments, public works

A "Letters Received" column may appear in forthcoming issues for those who wish to respond to or amplify a previously appearing item. To be published, such letters must be phrased collegially, in a collaborative spirit of improving what is known. The editor retains the right to decide whether to publish a letter received.

Advice to Contributors:

- Accuracy is paramount.
- Focus on what is relevant to Union County history.
- Write about what you know best.
- Accompanying images (photos, maps, illustrations) are encouraged.
- The editor is happy to work with an author to prepare the essay.

Technical Stipulations:

- Get consent of people and families mentioned; author bears sole responsibility if objections are raised.
- Photographs and other images are welcome provided author has clear permission to use them.
- Original material please; previously published work is usually not accepted.
- Existing documents and lists can be included within the article, but need to be explained and discussed by the author.
- Technical excavation reports of specific pre-contact archaeological sites and artifacts are usually not accepted.
- Copyright is held by the Union County Historical Society; the author may re-publish or reuse his/her item without restriction. We ask that a subsequently re-published item that has previously appeared in ACCOUNTS cite its prior publication by the Society.

Editorial Decisions:

- The Union County Historical Society does not take a position on the content of any item appearing in ACCOUNTS.
- Editor may seek advice from an editorial board regarding any submission.
- Decisions by the Editor will be final.

