

# ACCOUNTS

**Journal of the Union County Historical Society  
Union County, Pennsylvania**

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**Issue: 6-2**

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## What's in this Issue

We lead off with an article about a building in Allenwood that anyone driving through on Route 15 will have noticed: an ornate, two-story, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, red-brick building, obviously formerly a store. No other Allenwood building is like it. **Jean Hormell**, a descendant of same Allen family for whom the town is named, describes the store her great, great grandfather, HP Allen, founded, anchoring the town whose history he actively shaped. Think of how many county towns are centered around general merchandise stores. Here's a great case.

The central Susquehanna, very much including Old Union County, was re-known for its gunsmiths during Revolutionary War times and later. More than 100 smiths have been identified in what is now Union and Snyder Counties. Naming the gunsmiths, the years of their practice, the signature features of their work, and preserving the surviving guns that came from their hands have long been the passion of careful researchers in our region. **Richard Nornhold** presents a well-illustrated primer for readers of ACCOUNTS and a working list of the identified gunsmiths whose works are known.

One of the oldest houses in the county, dating from about 1800, is at 125 Stein Lane in Lewisburg. A farmhouse and tenant farm for its early owners, authors **Douglas and Mary Candland**, who have owned the house for nearly 50 years, recount the history of the deeded land and the house built upon it. ACCOUNTS readers, or their parents, may have been clients and patients of the Muffy veterinarian and Loughhead obstetrical practices based in the house during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The Candlands' article ends with the results of deed research that is a fine model for others to follow in researching their own properties.

**Tom Walker** was puzzled by the address on envelopes of letters written home to New Berlin by his father, Lt. Spencer Walker, during his World War II Air Force service. The letters and envelopes were saved by Tom Walker's mother and handed down. The envelopes' address, "104 Market Street," doesn't match the house number of the family home. Resolving the mystery leads his son on an odyssey that entails figuring out the location of the New Berlin post office during the war years, the postmasters for the town, New Berlin street addresses, and local postal practices. Along the way the author evokes recollections and assistance from various contemporary colleagues. Unravel this family mystery with Tom Walker as he follows the trail.

Mifflinburg hosted a short-lived newspaper, *The Union County Press*, during the Civil War that competed, for at least part of its short life, with *The Mifflinburg Telegraph*. Founded in 1850s, **Sidney Dreese** tells us its story – who founded and published it, its press policies and content, and the events of Mifflinburg during wartime. In the course of doing so, the author shows us how the civil war was reported in Mifflinburg, the ways in which the War impacted Mifflinburg, and the careers of the paper's owners. Dreese shows us the wealth of historical information to be learned from preserved newspapers.

This issue also publishes updated lists, compiled by **Jeannette Lasansky** and **Richard Sauers**, of businesses operating in Union County and Lewisburg.

Less complete lists appeared in ACCOUNTS a year ago as appendices of an article, “A Sense of Place,” by Lasansky. Now augmented and up-dated to 2016, these lists are benchmark sources on the business fabric of Union County, past and present, underpinning future research on its commercial and economic history. See how many businesses you recognize and marvel at how common it is that family-owned businesses have operated for generations here.

## **Write for ACCOUNTS**

If you’re new to ACCOUNTS, you may wonder whether you, yourself, might be suited to contribute an article to ACCOUNTS. Scanning this issue’s authors (and the “About this Issue’s Authors” section at the back), you won’t see a pattern. Some authors are ordinary neighbors of yours, not known for essay writing, and others are seasoned writers about local history. What’s the right profile?

There is no profile other than having knowledge, interest, and curiosity about some facet of our county’s history, and the desire to write it down. ACCOUNTS is a community enterprise, not just the preserve of professional historians; ACCOUNTS is the vehicle by which we all share what we know and add it to the knowledge base of our county’s history. I stand ready to be helpful, to work with you on a first draft, and will be your support during the process of preparing it for an issue of ACCOUNTS.

Don’t figure you should wait until you have thoroughly researched the topic. There’s nothing final about history. We go with what we think we know and welcome others to later add to or refine the story. If we leave the writing of our history to when it’s finally “ready,” much of our county’s history will disappear, because many of us waited too long and never got around to writing it down.

What topics are right for ACCOUNTS? Gravitate toward the specific. It could be the story of a bridge, or a barn, or a festival or a park. It could be of a family – perhaps yours – that has lived a couple of generations or more in our county. It could be about a business, a church congregation, a voluntary organization; or a political leader or an ordinary farmer, working the soil the way it used to be done. It could be about a dramatic event, like a flood or a fire, or the dedication of a new post office. It could be about an artifact you have that has a story behind it. Our county’s history is the product of the lives and labor of all who have lived in Union County and been part of its daily life.

So, write about what you know. I’ll assist in helping you see how it fits into the story of this county. I’m happy to discuss your idea and to suggest how you might deal with it in an essay for ACCOUNTS. Write me:  
<greaves@bucknell.edu>.

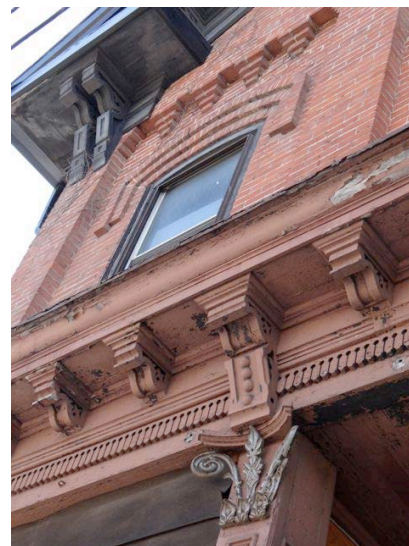
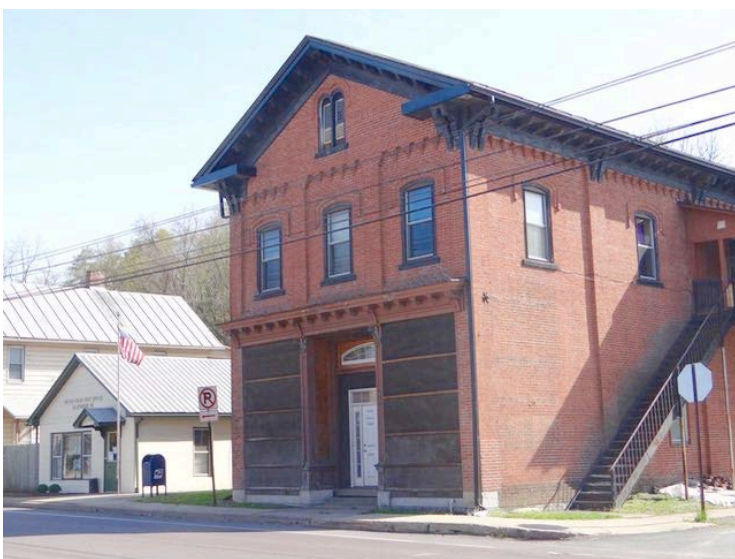
Tom Greaves, Editor

Further guidance on writing for ACCOUNTS is found on pages 76-78 of this issue.

## **The Allens of Allenwood and Allen's General Store**

**by**  
**Jean Claire LeVan Hormell**

I write this essay as the great-great-granddaughter of Isaac and Jane Piatt Allen. Like others and their late attention to family history, my earnest interest in this has increased since the passing of my mother Lina Mary Allen LeVan. (“I am sorry, Mom, that I didn’t listen more closely back then to the history you shared with me.”) But fortunately, she had accrued much information about her family’s history that I can share with you here.

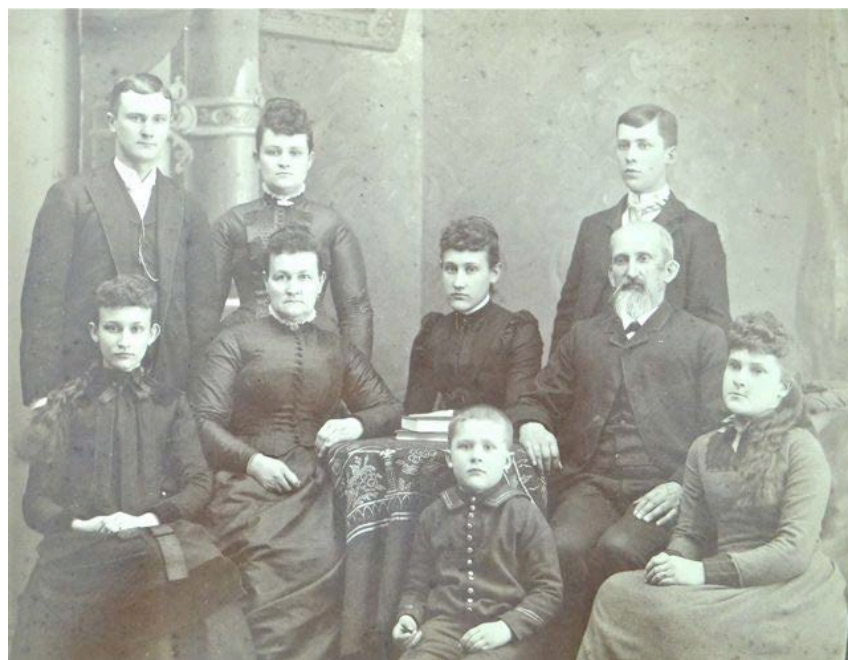


On Rt. 15 in Allenwood this Italianate brick building was the site of Allen's General Store from 1880 to the late 1930's. Fancy brick and eave work marking the style are still preserved today.

Mention the name “Allenwood” to many today and their context is the Allenwood Prison Complex, carved out of farmland “up the valley” (as my mother would say) acquired by the government just outside the town of Allenwood in WWII. But locals know of a long history.....before it was cut in half by a three lane highway, before railroad access was discontinued and the depot abandoned, before it was near the center of a heated landfill battle.

In 1815 John McCurdy laid out the town under the name of Uniontown. Within 15 years of McCurdy, the Allens, Isaac and Jane Piatt, moved to the town from Linden, near Williamsport. Isaac engaged in lumbering, purchased a part of the present site of the town and conducted a hotel in the town. He died in 1845 at the age of 45, his wife in 1871. Their children, Julia, Herman P., Henrietta, William P., Jennie, Isaac and Helen who died in infancy, and Charles were born there. In fact, during the Civil War, Charles served in the 53rd PA regiment of the Union Army, and died in 1865 after a nine-month imprisonment by the Confederates in Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia.

Their son Herman Piatt Allen (“HP,” my great-grandfather) remained in the village, married Elizabeth Jane Armstrong, and in 1861 became a storekeeper at a site on the main street where previous storekeepers had conducted business. Their children



Circa 1886, the family of Herman Piatt Allen and wife Elizabeth Jane Armstrong Allen. Left top, Charles W., Lina, Drew. Left bottom, Blanche, mother Elizabeth, Helen, young Frank, father Herman, Henrietta.

were Angeline (Lina), Charles W., Helen Jane, Andrew (Drew), Blanche, Henrietta, twins Herman and Elizabeth who died at birth, and my grandfather Frank Levan Allen born in 1882.

With Allen’s General Store, HP gained recognition. He soon gave to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company the right-of-way through Allen land and a plot of ground 56 x 175 feet on which to build a station. He then laid out an addition to



This original Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company depot was placed on land given by HP Allen for the building of a station resulting in the town being officially named Allenwood.

the town of 80 lots. The railroad company placed the name “Allenwood” on the depot.

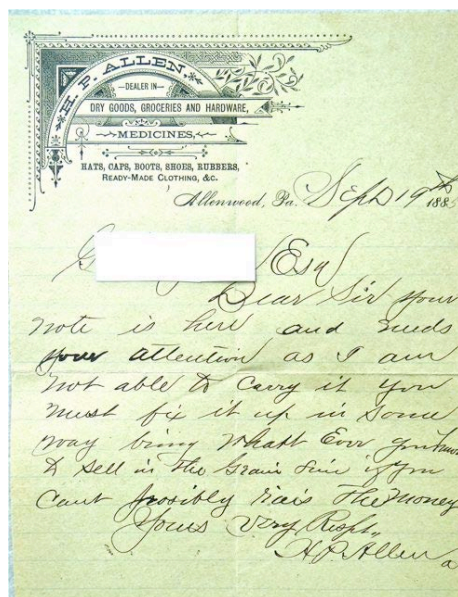
The village post office had gone through a variety of names - White Deer, Slifer, Cairo - but in 1871 the post office assumed the name of Allenwood as well, in honor of Herman Piatt Allen, securing the final name of the village. In 1880 Allen’s General Store took a step into the future when HP built a handsome two-story brick Italianate store building. What was for sale? Choice dry goods, groceries, hardware, medicines, hats, caps, boots, shoes, rubbers, ready-made clothes, etc. His advertising calling card said, “You are invited to the Opening of H.P. Allen’s New Store-Room, Allenwood, Pa, on or after May 1st, 1880.”



In the December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1882, *West Branch Star* a reporter gave a glowing review: “The front is a model of beauty, and is composed of two large show windows, the French plate glass in which are possibly the largest in this section.” “Naturally the attractiveness and completeness of the store and contents are appreciated by the good people of that

section, and Mr. Allen's business is second to none. His reputation for honest dealing is unquestioned and he is one of the most popular men in Union County."

In addition he wrote, "The second floor of the building is used as a public hall, and was occupied last week by Prof. Glenn's Musical Convention. It is handsomely finished and fitted to accommodate all ordinary demands for public meetings and entertainments."



HP Allen wrote this 1885 letter to a debtor (name obscured), urging him to bring to the store whatever he had to sell, if he could not otherwise raise the money owed. Storekeepers often played the role of mini-banker, issuing credit and trusting that they would be repaid.

According to the June 4, 1890 *Watson town Record and Star* newspaper, the ownership stayed in the family but changed hands at that time. "The general store of H.P. Allen at Allenwood, was purchased by C. W. Allen (Charles W.), on the 19th of May, and the business will be continued at the old stand, which is one of the best and handsomest in Union County." At this time HP's son's name, "C. W. Allen," began to appear on store advertising. However, Charles died in 1899 in an accident on the railroad, and unfortunately, a year later, his father died as well.

HP's February 9, 1900, *Lewisburg Journal* obituary cites that "In the death of Herman Piatt Allen of Allenwood, PA, Union County has lost one of her best and most enterprising citizens. Mr. Allen was known as the pioneer merchant of Allenwood, and

all the large wholesale stores of Philadelphia and New York knew him personally.”<sup>1</sup> Beyond being the storekeeper of a “very handsome and commodious store,” he was “a lifelong Democrat, who was too busy with his own affairs to seek office for himself.”



Frank L. Allen and Mary Elizabeth Ault

We know that he was recognized for the energy and money he put into every enterprise that came to the town. He was a director of the Allenwood Planing-Mill Company and had been instrumental in the corporation that financed the building and the re-building of the Allenwood bridge. According to *Juniata and Susquehanna Valleys of Pennsylvania*, he served as treasurer of the board responsible for the 1852 building of the bridge after 1049 shares at \$25 per share were sold to finance the cost of \$26,225. Swept away in 1865, the bridge was then re-built for \$13,112.<sup>2</sup>

Living along the west branch of the Susquehanna River had its advantages and disadvantages. H. P. Allen owned property along the river near the Allenwood bridge. Subsequently, in the great flood of June 1, 1889, the *Watson town Record and Star* reported that about the middle of the afternoon one or two sections of the Allenwood bridge passed down, then two more spans, and by 7:30 “the last span, in one solid piece, floated past, and darkness closed the scene, with the water still rising slowly.” Even though damage in Allenwood was not nearly as great as in most other river towns, it was reported that at the west end of the Allenwood bridge, “the house of H.P. Allen was

<sup>1</sup> *Lewisburg Journal*, Feb. 9, 1900.

<sup>2</sup> *Juniata and Susquehanna Valleys in Pennsylvania*, p. 1420.



flooded up to the second floor. A fine piano was ruined, and the house badly damaged. Mr. Allen seriously contemplates moving his house back on the hill near the barn. Mr. Allen was in town (Watson town) on Tuesday, making arrangements for material and fixtures to put up a rope ferry.”

With his death, HP’s wife Elizabeth Jane and her two remaining sons, Drew and Frank, took over the store. On a 1904 calendar “E. J. Allen” was advertised as a “Dealer in General Merchandise, Hard and Soft Coal” with F. L. Allen, at the age of 18, as the Manager. By 1910, the store stationary said, “Allen Brothers, General Merchandise, F.L. Allen and D.A. Allen, Successors to E.J. Allen” so transition was underway.

During that decade and beyond, the original Allen advertising reveals the services of the store: General Merchandise, “Everything for the use of a farmer and other homes;” Hard and Soft Coal, “We always have a stock of egg, stove, nut, pea and a good grade of soft for steaming and smithing purposes;” “Weight Right and Prices Right,” vehicles, sleighs & harness, farming implements, “Everything in the line and a special effort on repairs for any make of machinery;” and agents for “The Delaval Cream Separators, the world’s standard.”

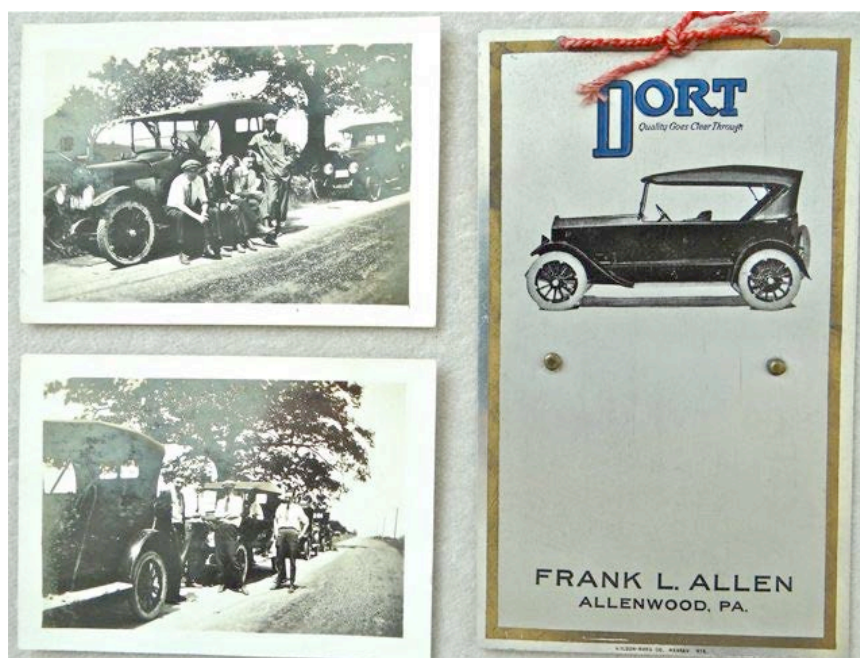


The site at side of Allen’s Store for the sale of tractors, cars, farming machinery, plus repair shop.

Gradually a garage and warehousing space were added to the store, especially as the sale of cars and heavy equipment was added. You could buy a model T for \$440 from the Allen Brothers in 1915. They also sold the upgraded Dort - in 1917, a sedan for

\$1065, a convertible sedan for \$815, a tourer for \$695, and a Dort roadster for \$695. Dorts were made in Flint, Michigan, and used a Lycoming engine made in Williamsport.

Before Frank's mother died in 1913, Frank had married Clara Griffey Hain in 1910 and they became parents to Frank L. Allen Jr. in 1915. But within a year Clara died and Frank's sister Helen Jane, "Aunt Daisy" to the family, moved in and kept house for her brother and nephew above the store.



The Dort automobiles, built in Flint, Michigan from 1915 - 1924 by the Dort Motor Car Company, were delivered by car crews to Allen's Store.

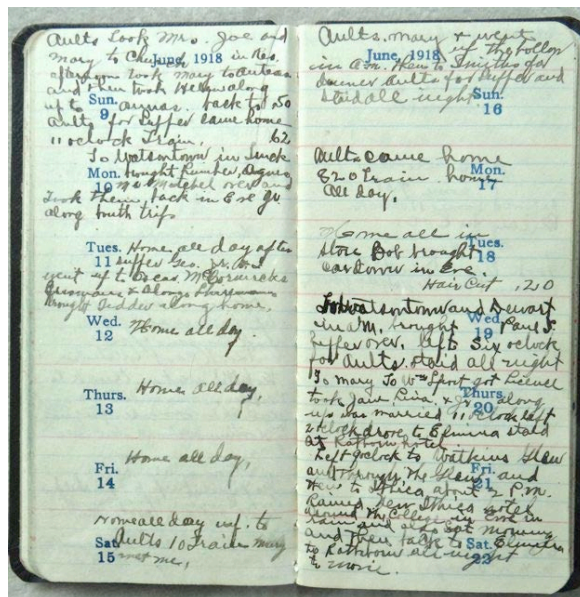
From the tiny handwriting in my grandfather's 1918 Plankenhorn diary,<sup>3</sup> I have gleaned what life was like as a storekeeper in Allenwood. His daily entries focused strongly on his comings and goings and the forms of transportation he used. I was struck by his reliance on the frequent daily trains that stopped in Allenwood, traveling north and south. He often took the train early in the morning and returned later in the day for business or pleasure. "Was home in AM. To Montgomery on noon train. Home 5:43 train."

He chronicled the local news by the day - "Ollie Jones shot himself today, Albert Confer's barn burned, Rained all day. Snowed. Heatless pipes froze up. Stuck in the mud on Penny Hill. To Newberry with sleighing party. Old Corner Hotel for dinner.

<sup>3</sup> Daily calendar book compliments of F. W. Plankenhorn Co., Wholesale Grocers, Williamsport, PA.

Visited John Ravert.” But very frequently, the only notation for the day would be - “Home in store all day, very busy.”

His diary also reveals his courting in early 1918 of my grandmother-to-be, Mary Elizabeth Ault. She was an English teacher at Williamsport High School, a 1913 Cornell University graduate who lived with her parents in Linden. “Home all day. Went to Newberry on 10:00 train. Mary met me.” “At Aults all day. Came home 11 o’clock train.”



Daily account entries for June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1918 by Frank Allen, his wedding day.

Eventually, things got serious with marriage and honeymoon reported! His diary for June 20: “haircut 20 cents. On June 19, “got license.” On June 20, “Took Lina, Jane and Frank Jr. along. Was married 11 o’clock, left two o’clock, drove to Elmira, stayed at Rathbun hotel.” June 21: “Left nine o’clock to Watkins Glen and through Glen, went to Ithaca about 2 pm. Rained. New Ithaca Hotel around the college.” June 22: “went back to Elmira to Rathbun, to movie.” June 23: “left Elmira 11 o’clock, arrived at Aults 4 pm, stayed all night.” On June 24, they return home with a “belling in the eve.”<sup>4</sup> The next day, “delivered feed.” Life was back to normal.

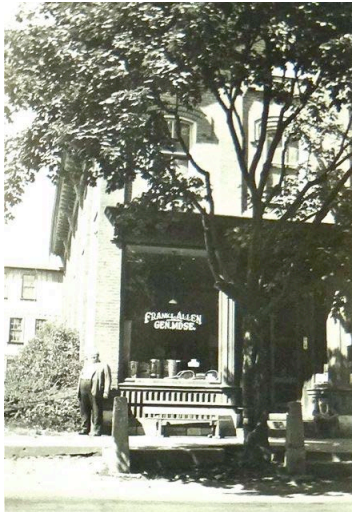
Children followed with son John Ault Allen born 1919, twins who died at birth in 1920, and the birth of my mother Lina Mary Allen in 1922. But in 1924, sadly their

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A noisy mock serenade made by banging pots and pans to a newly married couple.

mother Mary Elizabeth passed away and their father Frank was now left with 3 children. Luckily “Aunt Daisy,” kept house and cared for them all in their home on the second floor of the store building.

In 1916, with the death of Frank’s brother, Drew, at 45, only one Allen brother was left. From then on, the store notices listed Frank L. Allen as the sole proprietor. His 1926 calendar calls the store the “Universal Provider” proclaiming “Star Brand Shoes are Better - Solid Leather Throughout.” He married his 3rd wife Caroline Nicely in 1926 and she became stepmother to the three Allen children.



Left: Frank Allen beside his store. “FRANK L. ALLEN, GEN. MDSE.” on the window, 1920. Right: the store in 1907, before the road through Allenwood was paved and before the second floor balcony was constructed.

Ten years later, in May of 1936 and three months before his death at 54, the *Lycoming Automobile Club Newsletter* published an article about Allen citing him for recently being appointed the Allenwood postmaster. It said, “The Allen business today is one of the leading enterprises of the Allenwood district. In addition to the store, Mr. Allen operates the agency for Dodge and Plymouth automobiles, International trucks and tractors, Philco radios, Kelvinators, and Maytag washers.”

Over 700 people attended his funeral Sept. 6, 1936, at the Washington Presbyterian Church in Allenwood. Within several years, Allen’s General Store, a landmark in the community for over 75 years, closed due to bankruptcy. The original two-story brick building and warehouse still stand in Allenwood a block northwest of the traffic light.

At the top of the hill behind the store lies the Allenwood Cemetery where members of five Allen generations are buried. On one side of the drive are memorials to the family of my great-great-grandfather Isaac and to the family of my great-grandfather Herman Piatt. The earliest Allen grave (1841) is that of Isaac W. Allen, son of Isaac and Jane Piatt Allen, who lived just two months. The father Isaac died just 4 years later at the age of 45, while the mother Jane lived 40 more years.



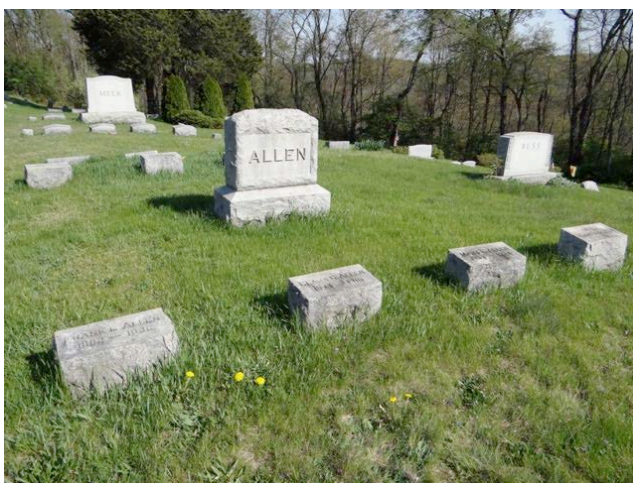
September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1936, announcement in *The Milton Standard* of the Washington Presbyterian Church funeral service of Frank L. Allen at the age of 54.

Across the drive is a large memorial commemorating the family of my grandfather Frank L. Allen which includes his grave, two of his wives including my grandmother, three of his children, and two of his grandchildren. His grandson Frank L. Allen III was buried there in 1981, I suspect the last Allen to be buried in that family plot. Particularly poignant about the graves of each of these five generations was the incidence of child death, either at birth or in childhood.

Of note during this early time in Allenwood was the development of Devitt's Camp in 1912 as a tuberculosis sanitarium outside town. After WWI, veterans who had

been gassed comprised more than half of the patients there for rehabilitation. We can surmise that the Allenwood train station played a large part in the transfer of patients during that time. My mother Lina Mary later worked there after high school graduation in 1939. I remember going there with her as a child in the '50's to visit a friend who was an employee living in a small white cottage on site. Devitt's Camp remained a sanitarium until the late 1960's. It is now White Deer Run Treatment Center.

Moving forward with the Allen legacy, Frank L. Allen Jr. became a railroad engineer, had 3 children, Jane Kay, James, and Frank L. Allen III (all deceased), and died in 1974. Sadly Jane Kay died at a young age of a fall from the second floor balcony of the Allen store building. John A. Allen married Rita Cromis, had 2 children, Nelson Allen (deceased) and Susan Allen, was the owner of Boice Builders Supply of Pontiac, Michigan, and died in 1994. Susan is responsible for much helpful research into the Allen family and Allenwood. Lina Mary Allen married Clair LeVan of Watsonstown and had 4 children, John Allen LeVan, Thomas Vincent LeVan, Mary Elizabeth LeVan (Hagerman), and myself. She returned to her Allen roots in the store business as the owner of LeVan's News Store in Watsonstown for many years, and died in 2009 at the age of 87, the longest living family member of any of her Allen ancestors.



ALLEN monument in the Allenwood Cemetery commemorating the family of Frank L. Allen.

If you have knowledge of history related to this subject, I invite you to contact me through ACCOUNTS at [greaves@bucknell.edu](mailto:greaves@bucknell.edu). The editor will relay your message to me.

## **Acknowledgment**

The author expresses her thanks to Mr. Anthony Mike, current owner of the Allen store building, for hosting a tour of the building and sharing information on its history since the closure of the store.

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Union County Historical Society

## **Union County Gunsmiths and the Development of the Upper Susquehanna School**

**By**

**Richard Nornhold**

Probably few craftsmen required more skills than the early gunsmiths. They had to be both a blacksmith and a woodworker and many also rivaled the finest silver smiths and carvers in the creation of what is often today seen more as an object of art than a weapon. The role that old Union County (Union County before Snyder County was created from it in 1855) played in this industry has seldom been recognized by many residents of the area, but one that is well known to numerous collectors across the U.S. More than 100 gunsmiths worked in every part of the old county producing some of the finest specimens of what is often referred to as the “Kentucky Rifle” while creating a unique style known today as the “Upper Susquehanna School.”



Rifle signed “I. M.” attributed to Jacob Markley ca. 1780. In the 18th Century “I” and “J” were interchangeable.



Who were the most influential of these “smiths” and where did they live? These questions haven long been a subject of debate and conjecture among numerous students of this trade, and while this essay is not meant to be the final word on a topic that clearly needs more research, it is an attempt to bring some clarity to the development of this School.

The earliest gunsmiths to ply their craft in central Pennsylvania seem to have been associated with Fort Augusta. William Antes, his son-in-law Jacob Markley, and a few others fall into this category and their efforts were most commonly directed at the repair of weapons for Indians, soldiers, and local settlers. The few pieces known by these early artisans show little or no resemblance to the “school” that would develop in the 1790-1830 period. Therefore, it is the period after the Revolutionary War, when more inhabitants settled in this area and a greater need was created for a tool necessary to put food on the table, that a style that has come to be associated with central Pennsylvania began to develop.

Various regions of Pennsylvania created guns that had characteristics of their particular area, and guns created in York, Lancaster, or Berks Counties, or the Lehigh Valley all have distinguishing characteristics which make them quite different from each other. These differences place them in their respective “schools”, and makes their area of origin easily recognizable to collectors. The characteristics of the school of gunsmithing that developed in old Union County are readily apparent to students of this craft, but these quantifying features have not been nearly as well identified and publicized as other Pennsylvania regions. Among the features important to Upper Susquehanna guns are the shape of the stock, if a patchbox exists, the mechanism by which it is opened, the method by which many gunsmiths made the rear ramrod pipe, and often the use of inlays and carving. It is the totality of these features that forms the “Upper Susquehanna School.”

Since it was within the Pennsylvania German community that the gunsmithing trade was most commonly found, it is no surprise that most of Union County’s earliest smiths were of German extraction. Much of the migration into

the center of the state came from the southeastern German-speaking counties, and Berks County in particular has generally been cited as the region having the greatest influence on the Union County style. However, of the three earliest artisans cited as the most influential, only two have connections to Berks County while the other came from the county of Bucks. Those three are Peter Shmidt from White Deer (husband of Widow Catherine Shmidt) whose name was later anglicized to Smith, John Dreisbach from the Mifflinburg area, and Samuel Baum of New Berlin who had connections to Bucks County. All three had descendants who were accomplished gunsmiths and all three undoubtedly trained many apprentices in their shops. It is from this training that the unique Upper Susquehanna style developed.



Birth certificate of gunsmith Adam Specht – great-grandson of Widow Catharina Shmidt

The earliest of these was the Shmidt/Smith family who had settled in the White Deer area by the time of the Revolutionary War. While no rifles produced by Peter Smith have been observed by the author and little is known about him personally, his descendants include gunsmiths Jacob Smith, probably George Smith, three members of the Specht family, and numerous others, some of whom

relocated to the Huntingdon County area. The members of this family who remained in the area produced rifles that clearly showed the Upper Susquehanna style. Interestingly, this family is seldom credited with being an important influence on the creation of this school. Jacob Smith was for a time living in New Berlin and later in Beavertown where his daughter, Catharina, married gunsmith Adam Specht and gave birth to three who became gunsmiths – Adam, Moses, and Elias. The Shmidt/Smith family should not be ignored when looking at the connections to the development of local rifle style.

All of the earliest gunsmiths have a connection to New Berlin, which seems to be the epicenter of the gunsmithing trade for the Upper Susquehanna School. Jacob Smith, John Dreisbach (or perhaps his son – John, Jr.), and Samuel Baum all lived in New Berlin at some point and probably trained many apprentices there during their time of residence. No other community in the old county has a greater claim to this trade than New Berlin and it would be difficult to find another community that has more gunsmiths that lived or trained there.



Obverse of this rifle is on the following page



Rifle by George Kolpitzer of New Berlin showing strong influences of the Smith Family under whom he probably apprenticed.

Linn's *Annals of the Buffalo Valley* states that John Dreisbach, Sr. was living in the Buffalo Valley by 1789 where he had moved with his father, Martin, also a gunsmith, from Alsace Township, Berks County. He married Catherine Youngman the daughter of Elias Youngman, the founder of Mifflinburg, and according to the census of 1810 he was living in West Buffalo Township and had perhaps as many as six sons and three daughters. Dreisbach is found living in various places at different times and this movement seems to fit a pattern that many gunsmiths followed, living in various communities and even other states throughout their life.

According to Linn, Dreisbach was in West Buffalo Township in 1796 where he had a "hewed log house, stable, brick kitchen and a frame shop." In 1802 he was in



Rifle signed "J.D." for John Dreisbach ca. 1800

East Buffalo Township and by 1810 he was back in West Buffalo Township. In all of these locations however, he was always identified as a gunsmith. The importance of Dreisbach to the development of the Upper Susquehanna School should not be underestimated. His earliest identified guns show a strong styling that changed little throughout the years and, like the early Smith rifles, his features seem to have been copied by ensuing gunsmiths. His work exhibited a fine selection of wood, well executed incised carving, and excellent craftsmanship. He was clearly one of the finest gunsmiths to live in the area. He had two sons, John Jr. and Samuel, who also produced nice rifles although not as fine as those produced by their father. John Jr., lived in East Buffalo Township while his

brother Samuel set up shop in Mifflinburg where he worked for a number of years before moving to Ohio. John Senior's daughter, Mary, married Isaac Beck from Mifflinburg who was also part of a large gunsmithing family in that community.



Rifle signed "J.D." and attributed to John Dreisbach, Jr. ca. 1835

Samuel Baum, Sr., the third of the early gunsmiths, is considered by some to be the most influential of the Upper Susquehanna gunsmiths. This acclaim may be the result of the number of apprentices and journeymen he had working in his shops rather than his contributions to the development of the Upper Susquehanna style. Like Dreisbach he is believed to have moved to what is now Union County about 1789 and over the years he had a shop in New Berlin and later a second shop, operated by his son, near Danville in what is today Montour County. He is believed to have trained and employed more gunsmiths than anyone else in the area and while many rifles are known that are signed "S.B.", most were probably made by one of his apprentices or journeymen and are only the product of his shops. Baum's earliest pieces do not show the characteristic features of what would later become common in Union County. Instead his early production showed a style more common to the Lehigh Valley which was near to where he probably learned the trade in Bucks County. His style did change to more closely resemble the work of the Smiths and the Dreisbachs and none of the

smiths that are believed to have worked in Baum's shops are known to have made pieces reflecting his earliest work.



Early Samuel Baum Rifle showing a strong Lehigh Valley influence ca. 1800. Notice how the stock differs from the Dreisbach and Kolpitzer rifles shown

From these pioneers of old Union County gunsmithing, a plethora of gunsmiths spread into many local communities and indeed to many other counties and states. Thus the legacy of their training spread far beyond the shops where they plied their trade. In an effort to show the scope of their importance, the following list of local communities and smiths known to have worked in each is shown. Note that some smiths worked at various times in different communities and therefore show up multiple times on the lists. No attempt is made to identify who trained them, but it must be assumed that many learned their trade from the smiths already identified or from a second generation

smith who learned the trade from these earliest craftsmen. At the very least, most were influenced by the Smiths, Dreisbach, or Baum. This list is compiled from census and tax records, and the following books: *The Pennsylvania/Kentucky Rifle* by Henry Kauffman, *Arms Makers of Pennsylvania* by James Whisker, *American Gun Makers* by Arcadi Gluckman, *Early Riflemakers of Snyder and Union Counties, Pennsylvania*, by Dalas Ewing published in the *Snyder County Historical Society Bulletin*, Vol. IV, Number 7, and family information and research provided by Mark Loudenslager. In order to more clearly show regions within the old county, often several towns and townships are grouped together. As there are Upper Susquehanna guns known with initials from as yet unidentified smiths, this list is incomplete and will surely grow in the future as more research leads to their identification.

### **Currently Known Gunsmiths of Old Union County**

#### **Adam, Beaver, and Spring Townships:**

Amos Benfer, Arnig Benfer, Moses Benfer, Jacob Grimm, Isaiah Kuhns, George Long, James Long, Jesse Long, Joseph Long, Josiah B. Long, William Long, Edward Rothrock, Jacob Shmidt (Smith), Adam Specht, Jr., Adam Specht, Sr., Elias Specht, John Specht, Moses Specht, John Try, Isaac Unagst, and John Worley

#### **Buffalo Townships (ALL of the Buffalo Townships):**

George Betzer Sr., Christian Derr, John Dreisbach Jr., John Dreisbach Sr., John Ehrenhart, Jacob Frock, Isaac Hanna, Amos Kauffman, Samuel Kauffman, Levi Kaup, George Kolpitzer, Levi Long, Joseph Shaffer, and George Smith

#### **Hartley Township:**

Jacob Barnet, Henry Hunsicker, David Kline, George Sheesley, William Weirick, and Adam Wiker

#### **Kratzerville and Jackson and Middlecreek Townships:**

George Boyer, Perry Fetter, Samuel St. Clair, Jonathan Wetzel, and Henry Wetzel

#### **Lewisburg:**

David Angstadt, Gideon Angstadt, Frederick Beerstecher, Frederick Dreisbach, Johan Albright, Samuel Frederick, and Philip Kockler

#### **Limestone Township:**

George Boyer and Peter Bowman



**Middleburg and Centre Township:**

Alexander Bishop, Edward Bishop, George Kolpitzer, George Kain (Keen), William Lloyd, John Siefred, Jonathan Wetzell, A. Young, and David Young

**Mifflinburg:**

David Angstadt, Isaac Beck, Henry Doebler, John Dreisbach Jr., John Dreisbach Sr., George Dreisbach, Henry Beck, Jacob Barnett, Samuel Dreisbach, Thomas Dreisbach, John Ehrenhart, and Henry Lapkeler

**Monroe Township:**

Jacob Baum, George Kain (Keen), John Straub, and John George Ulrich

**New Berlin:**

John Baker Jr., Charles Baum, Samuel Baum Jr., Samuel Baum Sr., George Kolpitzer, Henry Doebler, John Dreisbach Jr., Henry Maize, Joseph Shaffer, Franklin Slauffer, Jacob Smith, George Smith, Peter Smith Jr., Peter Smith Sr., and Adam Specht Sr.

**Perry and Washington Townships:**

Isaac Hanna, John Siefred, and David Roush

**Selinsgrove and Penn Township:**

Nicholas Gaugler, John Ehrenhart, John Jacob Hummel, George Kain (Keen), Henry Laudenslager, Jacob Laudenslager, John Laudenslager, Samuel Laudenslager, William Laudenslager, John Parks Jr., John Parks Sr., Edward Row, Elias Row, Jacob Row, John Row, and Alexander Siefried

**Union Township (Union County):**

Charles Gross, Henry Gross Jr., Henry Gross Sr., Samuel Gross, George Kolpitzer, and Isaac Hanna

**White Deer and Gregg Townships:**

John Jacob Hummel, Paul Fisher, Daniel Fisher, Joseph Long, Jacob Rate, and Catharine Shmidt (Smith)

**Unknown:**

J.P. Beck, Adam Daniels, Samuel Morrison, and Jacob Bates

All photos in this article are by the author



## 125 Stein Lane, Lewisburg

by

**Douglas and Mary Candland<sup>1</sup>**

We moved into our home in 1968. Over the nearly half century since then it has been our family homestead and center of our personal and professional lives. The house dates to the very late 18th century or, perhaps, very early 19th century.

The present house is, both by legend and supportive documents, a two-story, four-room structure of log construction based on a foundation of stone first recognized in the tax rolls of 1796. The ownership of the property changed hands



125 Stein Lane, north side

several times through 1805 leaving uncertainty as to who lived on the property, exactly when a dwelling was constructed, and the name of the builder. (The Appendix traces the deeds, owners, and tax rolls.)

It appears that the home was built for two families, as the rooms on each side are symmetrical to the other side in size, stair construction,<sup>2</sup> and fireplace

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<sup>1</sup> With gratitude to Sally Smith and Margaret Loughead who knew the house and its reconstructions well and who were interviewed for this project.

placement. Enclosed stairs curve from the first to second floor on each side. Remnants of a wall can be seen on the floorboards between the two units. Two front doors face north from a porch built under the roof in the Maryland style, as opposed to the porch being added to the house. Each room had a large fireplace and plank floors. A summer kitchen, built 20 feet from the house, contained an eight-foot fireplace, a design characteristic of homes built from 1790 onward, a warming bin embedded in the fireplace brickwork, and meat curing closets on either side.



Original cooking hearth, Summer Kitchen

The area between the house and summer kitchen, now the dining room, was enclosed, probably around 1860-1870, and included an indoor kitchen and pantry. A third enclosed stairway goes to a beamed room above the summer kitchen, now a bedroom, but perhaps an early hayloft, as suggested by a picture taken c. 1860-1870.

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<sup>2</sup> At a time unknown, one fireplace was closed in order to make room for a straightforward stairway between the two floors. Tax rolls describe a fire damaging the area in the early 1800s and some slight smoke damage can be seen in a closet formed under the stairway.

In the 1920s, a garage was added on the south side of the house. In time this garage area became a surgery for a veterinarian and, later, an obstetrician. In the 1990s, a kitchen, dining area, and a sitting area and fireplace (gas) were added on the west side, providing a clear view of the landscaping and patio. The landscaping includes a red oak whose size suggests that it dates to the time of the civil war. What was originally a porch on the east side was closed in with large windows in 1960.

The chief archaic features of the house include 6 x 9 paned windows (which also appear in an 1860-1870s picture of the house), exposed beamed ceilings in the original rooms and the summer kitchen, and original fireplaces, one of which shows signs of reconstruction.<sup>3 4 5</sup> In the late 18th century, the tax rolls refer to the structure as a “cabin.”

Critical to understanding when and by whom the two-story, four-room home was constructed is the supposition that the “cabin” was built with great architectural and structural care, as if the house was intended to serve several present and succeeding generations. The choice of woods, window construction, door design, and symmetry suggest that the house was not regarded as a temporary shelter.

These data suggest the naming and describing of three periods of ownership. During the first, the Revolutionary War period, deeds to the land were given to Philadelphia residents. Was this for service during the war? In any

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<sup>3</sup> A photograph, taken evidently in the 1860s-1870s, shows male members of what is probably the Stein family seated on the north porch. The photo shows the house much as it is today with the major exception that the original summer kitchen and room above looks as if the room above was used as a hayloft. The background shows modern-day Linntown as an apple orchard. The Steins were apple farmers and, during the civil war, raised pigs for the Union military.

Modern-day Stein Lane (or, to older residents, Steins's Lane) separated the house from the barn. The Lane featured rows of walnut trees, four of which exist today. The home and barn were separated by the plan to develop Linntown in the 1930s known as the Harrison addition.

<sup>4</sup> See also Union County Planning Commission, Historic Site Survey, 1976, p 167 for photo and background. Also listed as Stein-Muffly-Loughead-Candland historical site in an undated report, "Cultivating Community---historical and cultural resources" report to Union County Commissioners.

<sup>5</sup> The beams are all original except those in the present-day living room, this the first floor of the old house, which were cantilevered in place during the reconstruction done by Margaret and John (Jack) Loughead in the 1950s. The beams in the new kitchen were taken from a barn undergoing deconstruction by Charles (Chip) Cower, who, with his father, Charlie, built the addition in 2000.

event, there is no evidence that the deed holders lived on the land or, perhaps, ever saw it.

The second period dates from 1805 to the 1930s when the property was owned, in turn, by two long-time Lewisburg families, the Wilsons and Camerons. In the early 1930s through early 1960s the property was owned by the Muffly and Loughhead families who used it both as office and residence. After a brief residency by the Purnells, the property has been the Candland family home.

### **Construction and Murky History, c. 1774 to the 1830s**

Any possible reconstruction of the history of the home relies on the lack of clear evidence. We know that the first mention of ownership of the land was in 1774 to a Philadelphia resident who seems never to have lived on the property; then sections were sold off to another Philadelphian who likewise offers no evidence of having lived on the property. The first clear evidence of a two-story, four-room cabin is from 1796. (An oval, wood, plaque of recent design is placed on the exterior second floor citing 1792, but the evidence for this date and the origin of the sign are unknown.)

The presumptions regarding the 18th century date are based on the assumption that the cabin mentioned in the tax rolls and deeds is what we know as 125 Stein Lane. But there is one corroborating piece of evidence: During reconstruction carried out in the 1980s, a portion of the house was exposed revealing a beam in which '1796' had been carved. (Before boarding up we placed in the area a time capsule, a tennis-ball can with timely documents.)

### **A Tenant Farm, 1830-1930s.**

The family names of Wilson and Cameron appear and re-appear as owners throughout the century between 1830 and the 1930s in which the property was a farm. There is no evidence that members of either the Wilsons or the Camerons actually lived on the property, leading to the supposition that the property was a tenant farm.



The people depicted may be the Stein family in this 1860s-70s photograph

The Stein family, who never owned the property, nonetheless gave the property its address, because the lane between house and barn is called Stein Lane. The lane is the longest road in the county. A photograph from around 1860-1870 shows mature apple trees, and the tax rolls mention cows and horses.

In the 1930s, the home had become derelict, but was restored by both the Muffly and Loughead families. In addition to adding modern electricity and



Holiday card from the Muffly family. 1947

plumbing, we are told that the green paint that once modernized the woodwork was removed, leaving the gleam of the original wood. A significant change in the

property that will confuse anyone trying to re-imagine the original design was the removal, at an uncertain date, of the western fireplaces. The chimney is cut off at the attic, allowing a stairway from the second floor to the attic and a formal stairway from the first to second floor.

Mrs. Sally Smith, now 96 years of age and living in Lewisburg, graciously spent time with us describing the house as she knew it during her twenty-two



Sally Smith, at the Muffly  
veterinary practice, 1957

years of working as Dr. Muffly's assistant and anesthesiologist. She generously gave us photos taken during those years. One shows the Muffly's 1947 Christmas card which shows them in the living room in front of the fireplace: only decorations have changed. Another shows the surrounding area as viewed from the house. The landscape reveals no buildings other than the distant smoke stack of Pennsylvania House Furniture. That area is now a mall.

### **1930s to the Present**

It is due to the families of Dr. Muffly, a veterinarian, and Dr. Loughead, an obstetrician, that the present home achieved its current livable condition. Both used the garage, reconditioned, as waiting and examining rooms. Indeed, almost any Lewisburg baby born in the late 50s and 60s had its



Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Muffly in 125 Stein Lane living room, 1947.

presence confirmed in that waiting room. The handprints of the Loughead children grace the cement pathway that once encircled the property so the Lougheads' children could ride their tricycles. The magnificent tree house that encircled the red oak, also build by the Lougheads, has finished its tour of duty, alas.

We who moved in with our three sons in 1968 converted the waiting room to a playroom and used the small surgery rooms as bedrooms for the children. In addition to both exterior and interior maintenance and landscaping, we reconstructed the north porch so that it matches the porch as shown in the mid-19th century photograph adding a railing on the first floor matching that already on the second. We also added a 20 x 30-foot living space with kitchen, dining area, fireplace, and a sitting and entertainment area.

Our thanks to Margaret Loughead, the late John (Jack) Loughead, and to Sally Smith for sharing their recollections and to Sally Smith for several of the photographs illustrating this essay.

## **Appendix**

A history of 125 Stein Lane was assembled by Douglas Candland and dated August 1979. Sources consulted were deeds and tax rolls found in the Union and Northumberland County



Courthouses. Note that these records were incomplete, folios inserted in the wrong years, and sometimes with information redacted.

- 16 Dec. 1774 Land deeded (by whom?) to David Kennedy of Philadelphia. Patent Book AA, v.15, p. 528.
- 1780 David Kennedy listed as owning 300 acres. (Northumberland County tax roll.) Portions if not all of the remaining 2,400 acres deeded to Abel Reese at intervals through 1805 according to 1805 below. Kennedy paid no taxes and is listed as a nonresident.<sup>6</sup>
- 1793 Abel Reese is taxed on 135 acres and one still.
- 1794 Taxed on one still.
- 1795 Daniel Reese listed as owner of 130 acres.
- 1796-1798 "Cabin" listed as belonging to Daniel and his brother, Thomas. 1796. First mention of cabin on property.
- 1799 Mention of cabin
- 1802 Mention of cabin and barn
- 1803 Listed as 103 acres (130 is stated in several places elsewhere)
- 1805 No further mention of Daniel
- 1805 Deeded by Kennedy to Wilson (Northumberland County, A108). There is evidence during this period of two sheriff sales and an additional foreclosing in 1800.
- 1805 Kennedy dies in Philadelphia. His widow (his 'relic' according to the deed) deeds property to Hugh Wilson. Property consists of 130 acres, a log house and barn (Northumberland County tax rolls, 1814, p. 58.)
- 1815 Hugh Wilson became judge of the county in 1815. He owned two farms, of which this is one.
- 1823 A stable is mentioned as on the property.
- 1814-1938 Property used as a farm and remained in the Wilson family until sold to the Camerons. William Wilson to Frances Wilson May 7, 1848, for \$5,200 (Union County Courthouse, p. 731); Frances Wilson to Joseph Bucher and John Smith 7 June, 1866 for \$3750, Pages S 396-398; Joseph Bucher to William Cameron June 9, 1875

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<sup>6</sup> An essential question is whether the present house and property is, in fact, that listed on the early deeds and tax rolls. From 1815 forward, the descriptions match. With the outline of the Harrison addition, they are exact. Nonetheless, the question remains as to how to determine if the 19th Century deeds match the present. These deeds used perches as measures, a tree as a starting point, and a brook as a boundary. (The brook is still here but it is covered by the paving of Stein Lane, as can be confirmed from time to time by the flooding that occurs at Stein Lane and Washington Avenue.

for \$4,500 p. 309. Tenants are listed as living on property for most years. This would explain the lack of mention of the Stein family with whom the house is associated because of local references to Stein's Lane, the lane separated house from barn.

- 1932 William Cameron left the property to his daughter, Jane. She married Frances Harrison, thus becoming Mrs. Jane Harrison. This became the Harrison Addition (v 63, 409 Union County Courthouse). (Harrison St. is not named for either President William Henry Harrison or President Benjamin Harrison, as many assume because of the use of presidential names elsewhere in the Addition. It was named by and for Jane and her husband.)
- 1938 Dr. J. A. Muffly and wife purchased lots on the Harrison Addition on March 8, 1938 for \$2,650 (Lots 66, 67, and 68 and on May 4, 1939 purchased Lots 69, 70, and 71 for \$1.00.)
- 1959 Dr. Muffly used the property as his veterinarian surgery. He and his wife sold the property to John and Margaret Loughead on November 27, 1959 for \$25,000. The property was used as Dr. Loughead's home, office, and surgery. The Lougheads undertook significant restoration and improvement of the property.
- 1966 The Lougheads sold the property to Karl Purnell and wife Jane Burnreuder on April 29, 1966 for \$41,500. The property was purchased from them for \$45,000 by the present owners and occupants, Douglas and Mary Candland. They moved in with their children on November 9, 1968, election-day.

### ✧ ACCOUNTS ✧

**Letters Home,  
Unraveling a Mystery about Postal  
Addresses in 1940s New Berlin**

**By  
Thomas Walker**

A quest often starts with a simple question: Why? So it began with my quest to find out why my father addressed his letters home in 1944 to “104 Market Street, New Berlin, Penna.” At that time, his family lived at 519 Market Street.

A bit of background: I am writing a book about my father’s time in the United States Army Air Corp in 1943, ’44 and ’45. His mother—my grandmother—saved her son’s letters, all 164 of them, in two scrapbooks. The scrapbooks survive and I have them.



Lt. Spencer William Walker, USAF 1945

Dad wrote about his daily activities in the letters from San Marcos, Texas, and March Field, Riverside, Calif., while he was in navigation school. He described training flights and his classroom work. He wrote about the movies and shows he

attended. On September 17, 1944, he wrote from California that he chatted with Abbott and Costello and Spencer Tracy in the Officers' Club following a show. When he was stationed in India, from November 1944 to July 1945, he wrote very little about his 25 missions, no doubt following orders to secure information lest the mail be intercepted by the enemy. A recurring theme from India was, "Please send me something to eat!" He requested candy most often. On November 27, 1944, he asked his mother to send him curtains for the barracks, providing precise measurements. He was also eager for news about his friends who were serving in the military and those who remained at home.

Some people say don't open doors to the past because you might not like what you find. Maybe. But in this instance, I was happy to throw open the door and rush in, not as a fool but as an explorer. And what did I find? Wonderful things! Solving the mystery became secondary. These little slices of family history and the people I met along the way turned out to be the gold in this quest.

Dad—Spencer William Walker—was born in his parents' New Berlin house at 644 Market Street on January 13, 1925. The family moved to 519 Market Street in 1930.

Dad died in August 2013. About 15 years prior, he and my mother wrote the story of his years in the service. My mother, Grace Wagner Walker, was from Mifflinburg. She died in 2007.

In November 2015, I read Dad's story for the first time in, well, about 15 years. He wrote about the letters in his story but that knowledge didn't stick in my memory. Turns out, my sister Nancy had the scrapbooks. I recognized the makings of a book and set out to complete Dad's story.

That's when I noticed that the mailing address he used to send letters to New Berlin didn't match the street address. I also found his pilot's rating book from 1943 on which he wrote his home address as 104 Market Street. Here are two envelopes from the tattered scrapbook:



In March 2013, my wife, Maureen, and I were with Dad in Union County for his sister June's funeral. We took a tour though New Berlin. We know this was his second-to-last visit home. His final trip home was in September 2013 for his burial.

We drove the streets slowly. He pointed out the two houses on Market Street where he lived, including the house where he was born, the house his grandparents lived in and houses where his friends lived. We visited the cemetery. That's where he is now with his grandparents, parents and his beloved Gracie. That day was fun and it was sad. I took pictures. We left New Berlin for a drive through Mifflinburg and then Lewisburg. We visited his sister Kate in Watsontown. Next day, I took Dad took for one last drive through New Berlin. This was the long way home to Bucks County.



Grace and Spence Walker with only remaining airworthy B24, Mercer County NJ Airport, 2003 (author photo)

Back to the mystery of 104. I searched online and found that today's 104 Market Street is at the opposite end of town from where Dad's family lived. It doesn't look like a former post office but who knows what was there in the 1940s. Thus began my quest to unlock the secret of 104 Market Street. Here is the chronology.

January 13 – Maureen and I visit my Aunt Kate (Dad's sister, Catherine Walker Stoudt Livingston, born in New Berlin, January 25, 1928). Aunt Kate has lived in Watsontown since the mid-1950s, first with her husband Bob Stoudt, who died in January 2000, and currently with her husband Bill Livingston. Aunt Kate remembers her New Berlin days fondly. She remembers walking to the post office for the mail but she does not recall the post office at the far end of town.

January 15 – I called the New Berlin post office and spoke with Pat Witmer. She said the post office has been at its current location since the 1980s. It was in an adjacent building prior to that, but Pat does not know for how long. She also told me that some New Berlin residents still do not have curbside delivery as they prefer to use a post office box for mail. Pat suggested I call Jim Lengle of the New Berlin Heritage Association.

January 16 – I received a reply to my email message to my cousin, Bob Stoudt, who is one of Aunt Kate's sons. Bob is a retired UCC minister who wrote a three-volume family history that he completed in 2011. Bob recently moved from Harrisburg to Milton. My message found Bob in Pelenque, Mexico, where he was photographing ruins. I assumed he meant old buildings. Bob had no explanation for 104 Market Street, but then that was not part of his research. He suggested I contact the Union County Historical Society.

January 17 – I has a pleasant conversation with Jim Lengle. He explained that he is a New Berlin newbie – only 11 years in town – but he would ask around.

January 18 – I visited the Union County Historical Society web site where I found the name Tom Greaves, editor of *ACCOUNTS of Union County History*. I sent email messages to Tom and the UCHS.

January 18 – Tom Greaves replies. The sources he checked indicate that the post office was in the center of town, but he found no street address. Apparently, houses were not numbered until only recently. Mail was delivered to the post office where the residents picked it up.

January 19 – I heard from the Union County Historical Society. They have nothing specific to the New Berlin post office.

January 19 – I received a reply to an inquiry I sent to my Aunt Suzanne (Dad's sister, Suzanne Walker Meachum, born in New Berlin, March 22, 1938). She has lived in Florida with her husband, Dave, since the early 1970s. She was but six years old when the family moved from New Berlin to RD#2 Mifflinburg, so her New Berlin memories are of later years when she visited her grandparents.

January 19 – I received an email message from John Showers. I didn't know it at the time, but John is a Union County commissioner. He told me that his parents owned a store in New Berlin that they purchased from the Seebold family in 1946.

My parents, Harlan and Jean Showers owned and operated Showers Store in New Berlin at the corner of Front and Vine...401 Front to be exact. They bought their residence and business in 1946 following the close of the war from Joseph and Nettie Seebold. The Seebolds had operated the store for many years and Joe was Postmaster running the Post Office out of the back of the store. When my parents took over the business in 1946, Joe was permitted under the terms of the contract to continue operating the Post Office from the rear of the store. It was isolated in a separate room that adjoined the store and that door was simply sealed. Joe Seebold bought the building in 1924 and I assume was appointed Postmaster prior to the Roosevelt election in 1933 as the Seebolds were staunch Republicans (Roosevelt would have never appointed Joe Seebold Postmaster). Therefore, I think it is safe to assume that New Berlin's Post Office from 1933 to 1960 was at 401 Front Street, with a side-door entrance from Vine Street.

I owned this building until 2006 and had later transformed it into part of The Inn at New Berlin. Today, it is a bed and breakfast (The Samuel Aurand) and The Emporium gift shop. I have many fond memories of the post office in the back of the store as a child. There are certain parts of that post office that remained, I believe, untouched from those days: oiled wooden floors, caramel brown woodwork, old wall paper, and an old summer kitchen fireplace.

[Note: The article "A Sense of Place" by Jeannette Lasansky, (ACCOUNTS, Issue 5-2, October 2015, page 70) includes a photo of Harlan, Jean, and John Showers standing in front of the New Berlin store.]

January 20 – Email message from Diane Lengle of the New Berlin Heritage Society, who writes, "This is what we learned.... before the 1950s there were no street numbers in New Berlin, so it [104] probably was the postal box."

Back to the Google. I unlocked the mystery with a page 1 article from the *Mifflinburg Telegraph*, January 24, 1946, headlined "Seebold Store at New Berlin Sold". Here's the article:



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### *Seebold Store at New Berlin Sold*

Joseph Seebold, who has conducted a general store at New Berlin for a period of 23 years, has sold the business, storeroom and dwelling to John Showers of Penns Creek who will be given possession of the store next week. Mr. Showers has operated a similar store in Penn's Creek for a number of years. The New Berlin store will be operated by his two sons, John and Harlan Showers.

In addition to operating the New Berlin store, Mr. Seebold served as postmaster at that place for the past 16½ years.

Mr. and Mrs. Seebold will remain in the dwelling, adjoining the storeroom for the present. They expect to construct a home, which they will occupy when finished, on their lot near New Berlin which is located across the Penn's Creek Bridge at that place.

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*Mifflinburg Telegraph*, Jan. 24, 1946, p. 1

Clearly, the post office was at this location in 1944. That's the "where," but what about the "why"? Why 104? The number 104 no doubt represented a post office box, not a street address (street addresses were not used in New Berlin in the 1940s), but how was it assigned? A map of New Berlin from 1868 shows the lot numbers for each property. Assigning a postal box number corresponding to the lot number makes sense. But that's not how it was done. Lot 104 is on Water Street, between Cherry and Hazel. My grandparent's house was on lot 169, which is now 513 Market Street. Perhaps the post office assigned box numbers first come, first served.

I consider the mystery solved and the case closed. But there's more to the story. There always is.

My Aunt Suzanne, the one in Florida, remembered that John Shower's wife, Nancy Ross at the time, was their babysitter in Lewisburg. I send this information to John in a how-about-that note. John wrote back thusly:

Oh my, it is a small world. I believe Dave Wagner would be your first cousin (son of June I believe?). Dave was a [Mifflinburg] high school classmate of mine.

Small world, indeed, and Dave Wagner, son of June, is my cousin.



These three individuals are standing in front of the door that Lt. Walker's mother would have used in 1944 to pick up her son's letters. The entrance to the New Berlin post office was on Vine Street in Seebold's Store, which became Showers' Store in 1946. In the photo, taken April 12, 2016, are Jim Lengle, New Berlin resident and member of the New Berlin Heritage Association (left), Maureen Walker, Reading PA., Lt. Walker's daughter-in-law, and John Smith, who purchased the building in 2013 and is innkeeper of The Samuel Aurand House and Proprietor of The Emporium craft and antiques shop.

My online search turned up a series of articles about the New Berlin post office from the *Sunbury Daily Item*. In 2008, the Postal Service wanted to begin curbside delivery in New Berlin. A large number of residents attended a public meeting to voice their opposition. Here are two comments from the article of December 10:

The post office is more than a just a place to collect our mail, it's a gathering place that strengthens New Berlin's sense of community," said Chris Wysocki, a councilman. "New Berliners have been gathering at a post office for more than 100 years."

Mayor Craig Egli said the post office serves as a hub for residents to learn of community events and borough notices, such as the leaf pickup schedule and when the water lines will be flushed.

"For a town our size, New Berlin is very active," Egli said. "Our community organizations host events throughout the year, from the Community Harvest Table in late summer -- just outside the post office - - to the New Berlin Talent Show in winter to the community egg hunt, and we learn about them during our regular visits to the post office."

I can imagine my grandmother trekking to the post office every day in anticipation of a letter from her son. I am sure she shared her joys and disappointments with her New Berlin friends who gathered in the back of Seebolds' Store. Did they share the letters from their loved ones? I'd like to think they did.



Spencer W. Walker was born in this house at 644 Market Street, New Berlin, in 1925 . Ninety years later, there is still no mail box. (Tom Walker photo, March 2013.)

That's a tradition worth keeping and one that lives on even in our wireless 21<sup>st</sup> century world. On November 9, 2012, the *Daily Item* reported that the postmaster from Selinsgrove assured New Berlin resident that their post office would remain open, albeit with reduced hours. Near as I can tell, there are no mailboxes on Market Street.

One final note on post offices. For me, the story of the New Berlin post office represents a fascinating look at not only the town's history and traditions, but of my family history as well. A post office connects people. My search for the 1940s New Berlin post office connected me with a previously unknown link to my family's past.

Along the way, I also met a number of friendly, helpful people in Union County who are now my friends.

Note: The author thanks John Helwig, publisher of the *Mifflinburg Telegraph*, for permission to reproduce the news article reporting the 1946 sale of the Seebold Store in New Berlin.

✧ **ACCOUNTS** ✧

ACCOUNTS of Union County History  
Vol. 6, No. 2, 2016  
Union County Historical Society

## Mifflinburg's Union County Press

By

Sidney Dreese

"Firm, United, Let us be, Rallying round our Liberty" was the motto of Mifflinburg's newspaper, *Union County Press*. The newspaper, aligned with the Republican Party, began publication a few years prior to the publication of the *Mifflinburg Telegraph* by Joseph Orwig and Charles Haus. The *Telegraph's* first issue appeared on June 10, 1862.<sup>1</sup> The first issue of the *Union County Press* was printed on March 7, 1858 with Frederick Smith as the proprietor and publisher, and Jacob Kuhney as the printer.<sup>2</sup> The paper was printed every Wednesday, and, if paid in advance, subscriptions were \$1.00 annually. Money was not the only means of payment. Autumn, 1860, Frederick Smith made a plea, "WOOD WANTED: we are very much in need of the article." Subscribers "will please bring it in immediately."

**THE UNION COUNTY PRESS.**

"Firm, United, Let us be, Rallying round our Liberty."

Vol. 2.) MIFFLINBURG, UNION COUNTY, PA., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1860. (No. 31.)

**Union County Press.**  
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY SMITH & KUHNEY.

**TERMS.**  
IN ADVANCE \$1 00  
WITHIN SIX MONTHS 1 50  
WITHIN THE YEAR 2 00

**RATES OF ADVERTISING.**  
One square (12 lines) 3 insertions, 1 00  
Every subsequent insertion, 25  
Our square 3 months, 5 00  
One square 6 months, 8 00  
One square 1 year, 12 00  
One half a column 6 months, 12 00  
One half a column 1 year, 20 00  
One column 6 months, 20 00  
One column 1 year, 30 00

Business cards, not exceeding eight lines, inserted for five dollars per year. Advertisements not marked with the number of insertions desired, will be published 'til' and charged accordingly, except legal advertisements, which will be published the number of times required by law.

**POETRY.**  
For the Press.  
**MY COUNTRY.**  
BY AMERICAN, JR.

My dear native country, bright home of

Charley did very well when you had no other string to your bow, but Mr. Moss has a thousand dollars where Charley has a cent. Young folks shouldn't let romance stand in the way of solid common sense, my child.

Mrs. Waters paused here, to concentrate her attention on the threading of a needle, and May, sweeping her flowers into the fire, replaced the half-arranged vase on the piano, and gilded out of the room with a bright dew shining in her blue, lustrous eyes. She had a 'real good cry,' when she got to her own room, with no witnesses but the red glowing fire and the golden-winged canary bird, and that certainly was a relief, to say nothing of the sly little note she wrote to Charley to tell him all her troubles.

'You needn't put on any more coals, Betty,' said Mr. Moss to his housekeeper, 'It's only a waste of fuel. And Betty, don't light the gas so high in the hall; people must look after their pennies if they don't expect to go to the poor-house. Oh dear,' he muttered, as Betty flounced

Waters. You know her, don't you? 'Yes,' said Charley, wincing. 'I don't suppose it will be any more expensive to keep two than one, will it?' observed the old gentleman, a little uneasily, as though the question still bothered him. 'O, no,' said Charley, in an off hand way. 'Of course you'll have to take her to Newport or Saratoga every year, but that won't be much—a thousand or two dollars will cover the annual expense entirely—and she'll expect her box at the opera and her carriage and her balls and parties, but you are so rich you will never feel the outlay.'

Mr. Moss sat upright, and instinctively clapped a hand on either pocket. 'I—I couldn't possibly afford it!' he exclaimed. 'She won't expect it, will she?'

'To be sure—all women do. They are expensive luxuries, Mr. Moss.—You will of course dress your wife richly—Miss Waters is accustomed to such things?'

'I—suppose—so!' faltered the old gentleman. 'Does it cost very much

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM.

The following sketch of an event or two in real life should be read by every one. It contains a moral worth treasuring in the memory:

'I'll never forgive him—never!'

'Never is a hard word, John,' said the sweet-faced wife of John Locke as she looked up for a moment from her sewing.

'He is a mean dastardly coward, and upon this Holy Bible I—'

'Stop, husband, John, remember he is my brother, and by the love you bear me, forbear to curse him.—He has done you wrong, I allow, but oh! John, he is very young and very sorry. The momentary shame you felt yesterday, will hardly be wiped out with a curse. It will only injure yourself, John. Oh, please don't say anything dreadful!'

The sweet-faced woman preailed; the curse that hung upon the lips of the angry man was not spoken; but still he said, 'I'll never forgive him—he has done me a dreadful wrong.'

The young man who had provoked his bitterness, humbled and repent

he walked forth once more among the living.

'Oh! if he had died with my unkindness clouding his soul, never should I have dared to hope for mercy from my Father in Heaven!' said John Locke to his wife, as they sat talking over the solemn event that had threatened their lives with a living trouble. 'Never—now I have tasted the sweetness of forgiveness—never again will I cherish revenge or unkindness towards the erring; for there is new meaning to my soul in the words of our daily prayer, and I see that I have only been calling judgements upon myself, while I have impiously asked, 'Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

**LOOK BEFORE YOU KICK.**

A minister recently, while on his way to preach a funeral sermon in the country, called to see one of his members, an old widow lady, who lived near the road where he was traveling. The old lady had just been making sausages, and she felt

**STRANGE OCCURRENCE.**

A man named Samuel Stanly, who had been according to his own story, a wanderer for the last six years, has voluntarily surrendered himself to the sheriff at St. Paul, Minnesota, and desires to be sent back to Cabel county, Va., where he says he is charged with the homicide of a man named Peyton. The murder took place six years ago. He tacitly confessed his guilt, in stating that the homicide was caused by his having discovered Peyton in criminal connection with his wife, and by saying that he did not think his punishment would exceed a short term in the penitentiary. For the past three years Stanly (who is a native of Ohio) has worked in Minnesota, and previously in Wisconsin. He recently returned from a visit to Pembina, on the Red River. The editor of the St. Paul Pioneer, who had an interview with him in jail says:

—Without manifesting much contrition for the crime, or fear of punishment, he imagined, wherever he lived, that everybody looked upon him

An 1860 issue of the newspaper depicting its masthead

<sup>1</sup> *The Union County Press* was not Mifflinburg's first newspaper. The first known newspaper there was the short-lived *The Union*, which appeared in 1813.

<sup>2</sup> No surviving photographs of Smith or Kuhney have thus far been located.

There is a perpetual fallacy that has continued from one publication to another over the years stating that the newspaper ended in 1862; however, the author has seen copies from 1863. It might also be assumed that the Union County Press was the forerunner of the Mifflinburg Telegraph, but it is known that the Telegraph began in the summer of 1862. Indeed they were two separate serials. When the Press ceased publication is unknown, and it is possible that it had too much competition with the Telegraph and then folded. No extant *paper* copies of the Union County Press have been located.



The masthead and upper part of the first page of the first issue of the Mifflinburg Telegraph

The citizens were anxious to hear war news, especially of Union victories, so Smith prominently printed such news on the first and second pages. Of even more

importance were letters—also printed in the newspaper--received from the local boys who were serving in the army. The people of Mifflinburg wanted to hear that the soldiers from Union County were doing well. Not only were letters encouraging to those at home, but when a soldier came home on furlough, the visit was newsworthy. For instance, in the June 25, 1862 issue, it was reported that J. H. W. Lawrence, a resident of Mifflinburg who had been married to Miss Catherine Bair on June 22, stopped into the Press office. He was in camp at Manassas Junction and stated that “the Mifflinburg boys were in fine spirits,” and he left some relics that he had found on the Bull Run battlefield.

Some other war-related news included the following: The sheriff, L. H. Albright, offered a \$5 reward for bringing back an escapee from the Lewisburg jail. Elias Edinger was a deserter from the Army and was wearing a cavalry uniform. Early in the war, men who had enlisted for three months service in 1861, and had returned to Harrisburg to be mustered out were angry. They had not been paid and riots broke out in Harrisburg. In the spring of 1862 it was reported that all of the sick soldiers at the hospital in Camp Curtin, Harrisburg were sent to the United States general hospital in Philadelphia. Governor Curtin was authorized to keep a roll of honor of all Pennsylvania volunteers. The names would appear annually in the report of the Adjutant General.

To bolster patriotism and nationalism, poetry and fictional stories with a patriotic tone, appeared on the front page. One event occurred in Wolf's Hall in Mifflinburg: for 15¢ a person could see a “grand panoramic view of the battles, skirmishes and encampments of the present war.” Men were needed, not only as soldiers; Army teamsters were needed and men could earn \$25 a month if they could drive four horses.

On the home front the readers were reminded not to forget about the families of the soldiers; the wives and children needed to be cared for with food and clothing. Also, the ladies of Lewisburg were paid \$79.65 by the county for providing housing for soldiers, and Ann M'Gregor and others were paid \$18.75 for scrubbing the court house. Other items of interest to women were advertisements for toilet powders, perfumes and jewelry. In the lost and found department, a woman had lost a black lace veil on the road between Mifflinburg and Hartleton. One article was on advice to women seeking a beau, and one on how to make good butter. A gallon of cider vinegar could be purchased for 25¢ from Charles Stees. A warning was issued to ladies and children to be

very careful around fire and handling lamps, as many deaths occurred when clothing is accidentally caught on fire. Also, “ladies purchasing hoop skirts will need to pay a tax.” As early as May 11, 1859 William Ranck in Mifflinburg had “a room ... fitted up for the special accommodation of ladies.” He had a Ladies Saloon where no gentlemen were allowed, and women could drink the best Reading Ale. William R. Sechler in 1860 had a new boot and shoe shop where he would make boots and shoes to order. His wife, Priscilla née Loudenslager, in 1859, was the proprietress of the Traveler’s Hotel. Both businesses were located at the east end of Main Street in Mifflinburg.

While the men, far from home, were sick, wounded and dying on the battlefield, there were hardships and tragedies at home. Businesses caught fire and burned, there were drownings including a 2 year old little girl, Sarah A. Leiby, and in two separate incidents two men, Jacob Klose and John Taylor, were both severely injured when their horses fell on them. George Charles, a drover from Hartleton, while driving a lot of sheep, shot off part of a finger, when his pistol accidentally discharged. Someone broke into the home of Mr. Francis Wilson and stole \$50, a watch, silver spoons and a set of artificial teeth, and Mr. A. R. Clemmens was robbed of his pocket book containing \$75 in currency and a \$25 promissory note.

Yet, also, there were signs of prosperity as many double-eagle coins were being produced at the Philadelphia mint. In April, 1859, Jeremiah Harman was the new proprietor of the Selinsgrove and Mifflinburg stage line. Passengers in Mifflinburg could board the stage—“a splendid covered carriage able to carry up to six persons”—at Crotzer’s Hotel, Main Street. Franklin Crouse, a year later, took over the stage line—a two horse carriage—ran every Tuesday and Saturday.

Employment could be had at the White Deer Mills which was in need of 25-30 wood choppers, and 40¢ per cord could be earned. The courthouse was in need of a stable and the Union County Commissioners were seeking proposals. In contrast in June 1862, the price for corn in Mifflinburg was 44¢ per bushel and in Philadelphia the price was 50¢ per bushel.

Education was not neglected as both the Mifflinburg Academy and Mifflinburg High School were accepting new students. The Mifflinburg singing class was to give a concert, but those attending had to give the exact amount--15¢ for an individual and 50¢ for a family—no change would be given. A music school was conducted in Deckard’s



Union House where C. Hess gave instruction on the piano and the melodian [melodeon?], and in singing and in harmony.

An advertisement appeared in the April 2, 1862 issue which had been running since October 19, 1859, was for a Mifflinburg hotel, the Union House, also known as the Deckard Hotel, which had “facilities to keep horses, carriages, buggies and sulkies.” Persons could also board the stagecoach at the hotel. In Vicksburg, the Great Western Hotel was “one of the happiest places of resort in this part of the state.” Thomas Tunes had recently purchased the building. (In 1862 a Union Celebration of the Fourth of July was to be held in John Benner’s orchard, next to the Great Western Hotel. The Mifflinburg Brass Band was to play and several speakers were to deliver addresses. Several men from Mifflinburg were on the committee including the Union County Press’ Frederick Smith.) Henry Strunk, “a fashionable tailor,” was seeking business and “payment could be made with country produce.” Edward Smith, Frederick Smith’s brother, in New Berlin had a drugstore and had new drugs for purchase, and the post office was also located in the drugstore. The store was located “one door west of the old jail.”

Words of advice were given on being a good parent and young people needed to be cautious of the company they kept. Also, there were practical articles, such as, a remedy for diphtheria, and a cure for diarrhea.

Frederick Smith wrote in 1862, two months prior to the first issue of the Mifflinburg Telegraph – the author not having seen any issues from the 1850s, it might be implied the Press was filled with the same content – the paper “will make its appearance regularly every Wednesday, filled with a choice of reading matter, containing historical sketches, dialogues, wit and humor, all the interesting war news, local items &c. Now is the time to subscribe.” In the next issue, April 9, he noted that an anonymous gentleman encouraged 32 new subscribers to the Press. “Come along, there is room for more.” By October, 1862, the paper was having financial difficulty as indicated by this notice, “subscribers and advertisers need to settle their accounts.” Probably, for purely economic reasons, by 1863 the Union County Press was reduced to two pages, and from 1858 until 1862, it was four pages.

Frederick Smith, proprietor and publisher, was born in Union County in 1820 to Frederick and Sarah Smith. On May 12, 1846 he and Mary Ann Harrison were married

in Mifflinburg by Lutheran minister, Rev. J. G. Anspach. The couple resided in New Berlin with his in-laws and the 1850 census reveals that he was a printer. By 1851 in New Berlin Frederick Smith and his younger brother, Edward, were printing a German language newspaper, *Der Volksfreund und allgemeine Neuigkeits-Bote*, [the people's friend and general news]. About 1855 the Smith brothers sold their interests to Andrew J. Peters who then moved the newspaper to Middleburg, PA. His business interests then changed to an English language newspaper, as stated above, the Union County Press beginning in the spring of 1858. It is unknown what became of Frederick Smith. He, however, paid tribute to his wife, Mary Ann née Harrison Smith, upon her death, in the March 12, 1862 issue of The Union County Press. He wrote:

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February in Mifflinburg (of lung fever), Mary Ann, wife of F. Smith, Proprietor of this paper, aged 49 years, 5 months and 12 days.

The deceased bore her illness with great fortitude for more than two weeks; she was a kind and affectionate mother, and dutiful wife. She died in the full triumph of faith, confidence and trust in her Lord and Redeemer, and has left behind her the evidence that her spirit is now in the full enjoyment of that rest that remains for the people of God.

The remains of the deceased were taken to New Berlin and interred on Sabbath morning the 2d inst. Mr. Smith returns his thanks to the neighbors for their numerous acts of kindness, and to the citizens of New Berlin for their kindly acts of condolences.

Two others in the Smith family were also newspapermen, Edward and Winfield. Edward Smith (September 23, 1830-January 14, 1883) Frederick's brother lived in New Berlin much of his life. His wife was Anna Catherine Sanders (June 19, 1839-February 11, 1916). In addition to being a printer, Edward managed a drugstore in New Berlin, and also served as the postmaster for the town. The two of them are buried in the New Berlin cemetery.

Winfield Scott Smith (1847-1902), Frederick's son, continued in his father's footsteps in the newspaper industry. About the age of 17 during the Civil War, he became a soldier in Company D, 51<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry. He and several other soldiers were captured and were held prisoner in Andersonville for nearly a year. After

his release and honorable discharge, he returned to live in Mifflinburg. In New Berlin in 1868 he married Sarah Catherine Breyman, and shortly after, they made a new life in Ohio. He worked for several newspapers: Niles Weekly Register, Youngstown Register & Tribune, and the Youngstown Vindicator.

Jacob Kuhney, the Press' printer, was the son of Peter and Elizabeth Kuhney (the 1850 Union County Census spelled the surname, Koony; the name no matter how spelled is a variation of Cooney), and was born on March 9, 1834 and he had an older brother, David, born on March 23, 1828. Jacob Kuhney began in the printer's trade in 1853 at the age of 19. On March 16, 1856 Susan Leitzel became his bride.

During the Civil War the *Union County Star and Lewisburg Chronicle* noted, "We learn that Mr. Kuhney, late in the Mifflinburg Press office, also joined a Snyder Company" (November 21, 1862). Indeed Jacob Kuhney was mustered into Company F of the 172<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Detached Militia on November 5, 1862, and he enrolled at Camp Curtin, Harrisburg. He began his military service as a corporal and later was promoted to sergeant on January 28, 1863. After being mustered out on July 31, 1863, then a few months later, he went back into the service having enlisted at New Berlin. He was recruited by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant David Mitchell. He was mustered into Company D, 208<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry, on September 1, 1864 at Camp Curtin. He retained the rank of Sergeant and was mustered out of the service on June 1, 1865. He then returned to Union County to be with his wife and children. Around 1870 both he and his brother, David, and their families, migrated to Cedar County, Iowa where they were farmers.

Jacob and Susan were married for 51 years and lived most of their lives near Clarence, Iowa. They had six daughters, some born in Union County, the rest born in Iowa. She passed away on March 17, 1907, and he, June 6, 1917. Both are buried in the Dayton Valley Cemetery, and their farm was nearby. His obituary printed in *The Clarence Sun* on June 14, 1914 stated, "Mr. Kuhney was a man highly respected by all. He was a great reader and kept himself well posted on current topics."

Mifflinburg's Union County Press, although short lived, provided the news to the residents of Mifflinburg, and the surrounding area. The readers learned of national news and local news. They read about war news, both victories and losses, and about the local men who were serving to preserve the Union. The people were informed of weddings and deaths, mishaps and tragedies, election results, businesses, such as,

saloons (restaurants), hotels, stores to purchase clothing, boots and shoes, or perfumes, stage coach lines to transport travelers, and schools to educate the young people, and “help wanted” advertisements.

✧ **ACCOUNTS** ✧

ACCOUNTS of Union County History  
Vol. 6, No. 2, 2016  
Union County Historical Society

**Union County Local Businesses  
Outside the Lewisburg Borough**  
**by**  
**Jeannette Lasansky**

The list that follows reflects those businesses in Union County that have been in operation for 25 years or more. Please note that the list restricts itself to those businesses that are still operating with only a few exceptions (so noted with \*\*\*). The list is also restricted to local businesses not franchises.

The list was compiled from searching advertising inserts or pieces that sometimes state “anniversary dates,” local telephone books, and our collective memories and knowledge that was solicited by the author. The businesses listed are located outside the Lewisburg borough lines: on the west side of Route 15 and along the boundary lines of Kelly, East Buffalo, and Union townships.

The author has worked closely with Rick Sauers, the author of the list that follows this one. The second list focuses on the businesses located within the Borough of Lewisburg. We have tried to indicate relocation of those businesses that are long lived within both in the Lewisburg borough and outside the borough. This has been happening more frequently than in the past as shopping plazas are established and expand.

These lists are being published in this issue of ACCOUNTS and so the end date of 2016 was chosen. Not included in this list are service and fraternal organizations, attorneys and physicians.

Both appendix authors acknowledge that this is a work in progress and welcome additions and corrections of any sort being sent to the editor of ACCOUNTS, Tom Greaves, at [greaves@bucknell.edu](mailto:greaves@bucknell.edu).

**Spanning UC Communities:**

These businesses are examples of local businesses there were in two county locations at one time or another. They illustrate the complexity sometimes in pinning down the “where” and “when” of local businesses:

\*\*\***Ethel/Mary Koons 1927-2006 in Mifflinburg** while a second shop in the borough of Lewisburg (run alone by Mary Koons from 1945-1961) 79 years

\*\*\***H. A. Cook & Sons 1900-1955 in Vicksburg** was purchased by Stanley Sones and renamed **Sones Department Store** or **Sones Dry Goods** in Vicksburg until 1984. (An iteration of Sones, called **The Blue Jay** operated in Lewisburg and was later incorporated by the **Childrens' Center** — located next door.) 84 years

\*\*\***Burrey and Smucker's General Store 1894-1928 in Vicksburg/Burrey's 1928-1958/continued operation in Lewisburg as Burrey's Warehouse** (coal, fuel oil, seeds, fertilizer) until 1973 79 years

**Burrey's Warehouse** (coal, fuel oil, seeds, fertilizer) in the borough of Lewisburg 1928-(1971+) 43 years+

**Route 15 South of Rte. 45 (aka West Branch Highway) in East Buffalo and Union townships**

**Rose Swimming Pools** since 1958; moved from Lewisburg borough in 1992 to below Winfield on Rte 15 58 years

**River Edge Camp and Marina** since 1963 53 years

**Colonial Candlecrafters** since 1967; re-located to Brook Park Farm in 2014 49 years

**Colonial Crest Motel/Econolodge/Rodeway Inn** since 1974 42 years

**Doug W. Smith Concrete** (3067 West Branch Highway) since 1981 35 years

**Oberdorf's Carpet One** (4446 West Branch Highway) since 1982 34 years

**Fogarty Homes** since 1984 32 years

**Orchard Pump & Supply** since 1987 29 years

**WGRC** since 1989 27 years

**Regency Finance Company** since 1990 26 years

**Route 15 north of Rte. 45 in East Buffalo and Kelly townships:**

**Evangelical Home/Lewisburg United Methodist Homes/Riverwoods Senior Living Community/Albright Healthcare, RiverWoods** since 1916 100 years

**Weis Markets** since 1924 in Lewisburg; relocated to Kelly in 1974 92 years

**J&F/Red Star/Doebler's Station** since 1935; **Bison Beverage** since 1980 81 years

**Steese's/Hummel's/Meecham's** beer distributors since mid-1930s/**The Beer Barn**  
since 1976 80 years

**Marlin B. Sauers & Sons** (Pioneer Seed Corn) 1936-2016 80 years

\*\*\***Union Motors** (1922-1963/**Walters Oldsmobile** (1963-1987)/ **Lewisburg Motors**  
(1987-1990)/ **Anchor Motors** (1990-1996) 75 years

**Lewisburg Builders Supply** since 1941; relocated to Kelly Twp. in 1979 75 years

**BZ Motors** since 1947 on Rte. 45; relocated to former JPM site on Rote 15 N. in 2005 69  
years

**Evangelical Hospital** since 1953 63 years

\*\*\***JPM Company** (1949-2002) in East Buffalo Township; moved in 1952 to North  
6th/7<sup>th</sup>; in 1960 moved to Route 15 North then North 15<sup>th</sup> Street 53 years

**University Motor Inn/Days Inn University** since 1966 50 years

**Lewisburg Car Wash/University Car Wash** since 1969 47 years

**Robert Brubaker** since 1971 in Lewisburg; relocated to Route 15 N in 2001 45 years

**PA State Liquor Store** since 1970 in Lewisburg; relocated to Route 15 N in 2016 as  
Fine Wine & Spirits 45 years

**Washtubs Laundries** since 1972 44 years

**Country Cupboard** since 1973 43 years

**Colonial Village Construction/CVC Heating and Cooling** since 1974 42 years

**Moyer Crane Service** since 1975; relocated to Laurelton 41 years

**Animal Care** since 1977 39 years

**Broadt Computers** since 1978 in Lewisburg; relocated to Kelly in 2002 38 years

**Crate & Freight Plus** since 1989 37 years

**Warren's Sew-Vac Center** since 1980 36 years

**Lee A. Cross Painting Contractor** since 1980 36 years (288 Smoketown Road)

**Cromley's Septic** since 1981 35 years

**A Cut Above** (beauty salon) since 1982 34 years

**Bittner Landscaping** since 1983 33 years (361 Manning Road)

**Hackenberg Apiaries** since 1983 33 years (1466 Crossroads Drive)

**Roger L. Knauss Plumbing** since 1983 33 years (706 Judy Road)

**West Branch Rental** since 1984 32 years

**Bonnie Jones Beauty Shop** since 1984 32 years (521 Judy Road)

**Keiser's Plumbing & Heating** since 1984 32 years (370 Beagle Road)

**Jerry Bavero Financial Service** since 1984 32 years

**Longenecker's Photography** since 1985 31 years (2702 Crossroads Drive)

**Runner's Gazette** and **Outdoor Gazette** since 1987 29 years (67 W Jupiter Lane)

**Dollar General** since 1986 relocated to Kelly Township in 1998 30 years

**Ken's Garage** since 1987 29 years (1201 Buffalo Road)

**Peking Garden** since 1989 (relocated to Penn Commons) 27 years

**Glenn E. Troup Construction** since 1989 27 years (6486 Col John Kelly Road)

**Unico Sealing** since 1990-present 26 years (1824 Salem Church Road)

\*\*\***Stone Villa Haven** overnight cottages 1946-(1971+) 26 years

\*\*\***Traveler's Inn (restaurant)** 1941-1966 25 years

**Route 45 and vicinity west of Lewisburg:**

\*\*\***Lewisburg Chair/Pennsylvania House Furniture** (1886-2004) 118 years

**Citizens' Electric** since 1911 in Lewisburg; relocated to East Buffalo in 1982  
105 years

**The Auction/Farmers' Market** 1936-present 80 years

**V&H Ford** since 1937/**Lewisburg Ford** since 2004/**Alexander Ford** since 2009  
79 years

**Swirl Shop** (beauty parlor) since 1938 in Lewisburg; relocated to Brook Park in 1992 78  
years

**Lewisburg Animal Hospital** since 1957 59 years

\*\*\***(Samuel) Baker's Scrap Yard** (metal scrap yard) 1915-(1971+) 56 years

**Moore Business Forms** (now is Moore North America) since 1960 56 years

**Dor-Day's Sub Shop** since 1961 55 years

**Hedricks Mobil Service** (1961-1981); **Dunkle's Mobil Service** (1981-1986);  
**Smeltz Mobil/Automotive Service** since 1986 55 years

**Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village** since 1968 48 years

**Twin Kiss** (1969-?)/ **Bingaman II/Bresslers** (1985-2000)/**Purple Cow** 2000  
47 years



**Mid-Penn Engineering Corporation** since 1969 47 years

**The Sholley Agency** since 1969 in Lewisburg; relocated to Rte 45 W in 1996 47 years

**Time Markets (1968-1991)/Coastal Mart (1991-1995)/Sunoco A Plus (present)** since 1968 38 years

**Computer Support Services** since 1978 38 years

**Kalin Financial Services** since 1983 33 years

**A-1 Lock & Key** since 1985 31 years

**Century 21 (Mertz & Associates)** since 1985 31 years

**Pursel Development** since 1985 31 years (32 Whisper Creek Drive)

**Rug Outlet** since 1986-present 30 years

**New Images Hair Design** since 1986 30 years

**George Pardoe's Upholstery Shop** since 1986 30 years (Hafer Road)

**Towncraft (kitchenwares)** since 1988 28 years

**Lamprinos** (started in Milton 1954) since 1990 26 years

**Allenwood:**

**Purity Candy** since 1907 in Lewisburg where it has a retail store; since 1991 an additional location and where candy is made 109 years

**Devitt's Camp** (tubercular treatment center) since 1912/**White Deer Run Treatment Center** since 1970 104 years

**Reptiland** since 1964 52 years

**Forest Hill:**

**Forest Hill Store** since 1847 169 years

**Forest House** since 1866 160 years

**Raymond B. Winter State Park** since 1942 74 years

**Hidden Valley Camping Resort** since 1960s 56 years

**Laurelton:**

**Union County Fair/West End Fair** since 1857 (first in Lewisburg until 1937; then in Laurelton) 159 years

**Laurel Market** since 1908 108 years

**Mazeppa area:**

**Bear/Chamberlin/VanValzah/Hoffa/Witmer/ and Grove's Mill** since 1784 232 years

**Sampsell's Roofing** since 1950s or earlier 66 years

**Kuhns Brothers Lumber Company** since 1964 52 years

**Mifflinburg:**

**The Mifflinburg Hotel/Scarlet D** since 1858 157 years

\*\*\***The Mifflinburg Telegraph** (1862-2014) 152 years

**Mifflinburg Bank & Trust** since 1872 144 years

**Mifflinburg Waterworks** since 1898 118 years

**Mifflinburg Fire Company** since 1898 118 years

**Mifflinburg Farmers' Exchange** since 1918 98 years

**H.L. Klose Heating** since 1938 78 years

**Shiveley's (1953-88)/B&K (1988-1992)/Rishel's Meat Market** since 1993 63 years

**Wehr's Beveridge** since 1960 or earlier 56 years

**Ritzcraft** since 1976 40 years

**Alvin Reiff's Woodworking** since 1977 39 years

**Martin's Small Engine Repair** since 1979 36 years

**Buggy Town (1982-86)/ Carriage Corner** since 1988 32 years

**Buffalo Valley Produce Auction** since 1988 28 years

**Decorating Center** since 1988 28 years

**Lawton Insurance Agency** in Mifflinburg and in Reitz Park, Lewisburg since 1990 26 years

**Millmont:**

**Shirk's Store** since 1885 131 years

**Zimmerman's Harness Shop/Zimmerman Supply** since 1969 47 years

**New Berlin:**

\*\*\***Shower's Store** (early 1900s-1998) 98 years

**New Berlin Fire Company** since 1932 84 years

**QE Manufacturing** since 1952 64 years

**SUN VO-TECH school** since 1971 45 years

**Playworld Systems** since 1986; relocated to Rte 192 in 1999 30 years

**New Columbia:**

**Nittany Mountain Campground** since 1972 54 years

**Ron Kerstetter Floor Sanding & Finishing** since 1987 29 years

**Buffalo Valley Christian Counseling Center** since 1990 26 years

**Red Bank:**

**Reiff's Poultry** since 1980 36 years

**Verna's Fabrics** since 1980 36 years

**Vicksburg:**

**Johnson's Auto Body** since 1972 43 years (on Furnace Road)

**Boop's Sporting Goods** since 1977 39 years

**Vicksburg Harness Shop** since 1978 38 years

**Earl Hoover's Tractors** since 1981 35 years

**The Tack Room** since 1982 34

**White Springs:**

**Hoover's Bernina** since 1987 29 years

**West Milton:**

**Central Oak Heights** since 1909 107 years

**Byerly's Meats** since 1910; relocated to Rte 15 below West Milton 106 years

**West Milton Bank** since 1920 96 years

**Kelly Mobile Homes** since 1958 57 years

**Boss Insulation and Roofing** since 1976 50 years

**White Deer:**

**Weaver's Sunset Ice Cream** since 1985 31 year

## **Long-Lived Businesses in Lewisburg**

**by**

**Richard A. Sauers**

This list of businesses in the Borough of Lewisburg began as my unpublished Directory of Lewisburg Businesses, 1785-1952, an ongoing project I began several years ago. In response to Jeannette Lasansky's invitation to include the list as an appendix to her article, A Sense of Place (ACCOUNTS, Vol 5, No. 2, Oct. 2015) I updated the list to include business data from 1952 to 2010, a laborious process. When the Lasansky article went to press there still remained the research to do to bring the list entirely to the present, 2016. The Editor's invitation to the two of us to re-publish the list in the fall of 2016 as stand-alone sources on business history is included below.

The research sources that resulted in this list include the many newspapers published in Lewisburg since the 1820s, mercantile appraisement lists (until 1943), books, magazines, advertising objects, maps, and manuscript material. I have included information drawn from the 1944-2004 telephone books, an ongoing project that I working on currently and will complete sometime in 2017. Any errors are the compiler's alone. Not included in this list are service and fraternal organizations, attorneys and physicians. All listed businesses have been in Lewisburg for at least 25 years.

Each entry includes beginning and ending years in business (first column), total years in business (second column), and a third column that includes names of owners and/or business name changes, years in parentheses if more than one owner, and type of business if not readily apparent in the title. In the first column, dates in parentheses indicate years that are supposed and not known for certain. A beginning year followed by a question mark indicates an unknown ending year. Years followed by a plus sign indicate that the business continued past the listed ending year and ended in a year unknown to this compiler. Businesses still in existence have plus signs after the total years to indicate the total years in business as of 2016.

1770-1919	149	Derr's Mill (1770-1785) George Derr (1785-1797) Tobias Lehman (1797-1809) John Freedley (1809-1815) Elizabeth Freedley (1815-1821) John Brown (1821-1845) John Brown, Jr. (1845-1869) Jonas A. Fry (1869-1892) Harry Mathers (1892-1900) Levi Arbogast (1901-1904, rental) Edward & William H. Peters (1904-?) Albert W. Johnson (1917-1919)
1791-1833+	42	John Moore (blacksmith shop)
1796-1839	43	Hugh McLaughlin (tailor)
1798-(1827)	29	Hugh Wilson (1798-1804) (general merchandise) William Hayes (1804-1827)
1799-1886	87	John Pollock (1799-1806 unknown tavern names) Andrew Shearer (1807-1823 unknown tavern names) William Joyce (1823-1837 unknown tavern names) Washington House (1838-1840) (hotel) Spread Eagle House (1840-1847) American House (1848-1886)
1813-(1838)	25	James Geddes (saddles)
1813-(1841)	28	Alexander Graham (dry goods)
1814-(1944)	130	Lewisburg Bridge Company
1829-1885	56	Jacob Zentmeyer (1829-1882) (blacksmith shop) R. W. Hoffman (1882-1885)
(1829)-1854	25	William Armstrong (cabinetmaking)
(1829-1863)	34	John Houghton (boots and shoes)
1830-1883	53	Jonathan Spyker & Son (1830-1857) (hats) J. L. Hawn (1857-1883)
1830-present	186+	Valiant Fire Company (1830-?) Lewisburg Fire Department (?-1874) William Cameron Engine Company (1874-present)
1831-1893	62	David Ginter (furniture, undertaking)
1831-present	185+	Schaffle Drug Store (1831-1886) T. D. Baker (1886-1931) Rea & Derick (1931-1992)

		CVS (1992-present) moved outside the borough in 2015
1831-1923	92	Walls & Company (general merchandise)
1832-(1872)	40	James B. Pross (boots and shoes, leather goods)
1834-1916	82	Washington House (1834-1858) (hotel) Riviere House (1858-1874) Cameron House (1874-1916)
1835-1865	40	Charles H. Cook (carriage making)
1836-(1870)	34	Solomon Ritter (marble yard)
1838-1863	25	H. Snyder (1838) (drug store) Jonathan Zellers (1838-1846) C. A. Wyeth (1846-1849) T. A. H. Thornton & Josiah Baker (1849-1855) T. S. Christ & F. S. Caldwell (1855-1857) F. S. Caldwell (1858-1863)
1838-(1877)	39	Joel C. Kelly (boots & shoes)
1841-1992	151	C. Jonathan Wolfe (1841-1882) (drug store) J. Bordner (1882-1885) C. Jonathan Wolfe (1885-1919) Richard C. Hill (1919-1922) Robert M. Heddings (1922-1930) Charles A. Smith (1930-1945) Paul J. Lentz (1945-1968) Troutman's Pharmacy (1968-1990) Lewisburg Apothecary (1990-1992)
(1843-1880)	37	Abner M. Lawshe (boots & shoes)
1843-1902	59	Augustus Stoughton (stoves & tinware)
1843-1912	69	Lewisburg Chronicle (1843-1847) LC and Union County General Advertiser (1847) LC and West Branch General Advertiser (1848) LC and the West Branch Farmer (1849) LC and West Branch Farmer (1850) Lewisburg Chronicle (1850-1859) Union County Star and Lewisburg Chronicle (1859-1864) Lewisburg Chronicle (1865-1912)
1844-(1872)	28	John B. Miller (tailor)
1845-1983	138	Daniel Shaffer (1845-1898) (marble yard, memorials) R. D. Lance & Sons (1898-1904) William D. Lance (1904-1938) Lewisburg Memorial Works (1938-1955) Thomas D. Ritter (1955-1983)
1847-1878	31	Geddes & Marsh (1847-1858) (foundry) James S. Marsh & Company (1858-1860) Lewisburg Foundry & Agricultural Works (1860-1878)

1848-present	168+	Lewisburg Cemetery Association
1850-1877	27	Josiah Baker (drugstore)
1850-(1892)	42	Frick & Slifer (1850-1852) (canal boat building) Frick, Slifer & Company (1852-1858) William Frick & Company (1858-1860) Frick, Billmeyer & Company (1860-1865) Billmeyer, Nogel & Company (1865-1872) Billmeyer, Dill & Company (1872-1880) P. Billmeyer & Company (1880-1892?)
1850-1889	39	William T. Reitmeyer (1850-1887) (boots & shoes) Edward L. Angstadt (1887-1888) John George (1888-1889)
1851-1980	129	Western Union
1853-1883	30	Joseph L. Hawn (tailor, dry goods)
1853-1890	37	Reber & Poeth (brick yard)
1853-1898	45	Peter H. Beaver (1853-1859) (saddles & harnesses) O. P. Shively (1859-1898) (leather, buffalo robes)
1853-present	163+	Lewisburg Savings Institution Lewisburg National Bank Northern Central Bank (1980-1999) Keystone Bank (1999-2000) M & T Bank (2000-present)
1853-1966	113	T. A. H. Thornton (1853-1864) (drugstore) S. G. & W. A. Bennett (1864-1865) S. G. Bennett (1865-1882) E. S. Heiser & Brother (1882-1883) W. D. Heiser (1883-1889) E. S. Heiser (1889-1927) Robert M. Heddings (1927-1932) Hartz Cut Rate (1932-1945) Bennett-Moyer Cut Rate (1945-1949) Bennett's Pharmacy (1949-1953) Bennett's (1953-1966)
1856-1911	55	T. Frank Russell & Company (1856-1879) (dry goods) Russell & Lawshe (1879-1909) Clark & Potter (1909-1911)
1856-1997	141	Lewisburg Gas Company (1856-1980) Central PA Gas Company – Lewisburg District (1980-1995) Penn Fuel Gas (1995-1997)
1858-1903	45	William Fegley (1858-1885) (coal yard) P. L. Clingan (1885-1893) Newman & Wagner (1893-1903)
1858-1983	125	A. E. Bower (1858-1914) (jewelers) Grenoble Brothers (1914-1983)

1861-(1912)	51	Union Hotel
1864-1911	47	George W. Procter (1864-1909) (hardware) H. C. Hyatt (1909-1911)
1865-1896	31	James Houghton (1865-1873) (photography) J. W. Cornelius (1873-1896)
1865-1897	32	Jacob P. Brooke (1865-1882) (jeweler) C. J. Sturgis (1882-1897)
1865-(1926)	61	John Pross (barber)
1865-2003	138	Lewisburg Journal (1865-1946) Lewisburg Journal and the Lewisburgh Saturday News (1946-1947) Lewisburg Journal-News (1947-1953) Union County Standard and Lewisburg Journal-News (1953) Union County Standard-Journal (1953-1961) Union County Journal (1961-1987) Lewisburg Daily Journal (1987-2003)
1865-present	151+	Union National Bank (1865-1979) Central Counties Bank (1979-1984) Mellon Bank(1984-2001) Sun Bank (2001-2004+) Omega Bank First National Bank
1865-1946	81	Jacob Hower (1865-1923) (undertaker) Charles Hower (1923-1930) S. H. Strunk (1930-1933) C. Strunk (1934-1946)
1867-1979	112	Lewisburg Woolen Mill (1866-1917) Lewisburg Mills (1917-1979)
1868-1907+	39+	Charles F. Lindig (marble works)
1868-1914	46	John Zearfoss (harness making)
1869-1909	40	Lewisburg Music Hall Company/Opera House
1869-1915	46	Alfred E. Slifer (groceries)
1871-1896	25	James Hazelwood (boots & shoes)
1871-1903	32	Daniel Oswald (1871-1902) (tobacco & cigars) G. B. Hyde (1902-1903)
1872-1905	33	Koch & Strouse (1872-1885) (clothing) F. Steiner (1885-1905)
(1872)-1915	43	D. Brown & Company (1872) (groceries) John F. Walker (1872-1874) Bartholomew & Pross (1874-1875) S. P. Kerstetter (1875-1883) I. C. Harvey (1883-1905)



		E. F. Prowant (1905-1911) O. Kreisher (1911-1915)
1872-1961	89	L. F. Albright & Company (1872) Albright, Leinbach & Company (1872-1874) Dreisbach Hardware (1874-1961)
1873-1949	76	Nogel & Himmelreich (1873-1875) (dry goods) Nogel (1875-1876) P. W. Himmelreich (1876) Himmelreich Brothers (1876-1880) P. W. Himmelreich (1880-1904) J. F. Groover Brothers (1904-1947) John H. Brouse (1947-1949)
1877-2009	132	Donehower's (wallpaper, sporting goods)
1878-1905	27	A. L. Reeser (groceries)
(1878)-1935	57	Samuel M. Wolfe (1878-1911) (shoes) Wilbur W. Wolfe (1911-1935)
1880-(1952+)	72+	Lewisburg Knitting Mill (Musser's)
1880-1915	35	Miss M. E. Morrow (notions)
1881-1931	50	William B. Marsh (1881-1908) (shoes) Irey & Brobeck (1908-1909) Irey Shoes (1909-1924) 20th Century Shoes (1924-1925) Lehman Shoes (1925-1931)
1882-1916	34	Baker House (hotel)
1882-1946	64	Lewisburgh Local News (1882-1883) Lewisburgh Saturday News (1883-1946)
1883-(1989)	106	Buffalo Mills (1883-1916) W. D. Deitrich (1916-1927) Dietrich & Gambrell (1927-1966) Ralston Purina (1966-1985) Purina Mills (1985-1989)
1884-1936	52	George Stein & Brother (1884-1917) (meats) Walter A. Blair (1917-1936)
1886-1916	30	Thomas Ritter & Son (1886-1896) (carriage making) Thomas Ritter (1896-1916)
1887-1952	55	Kline & Oldt (1887-1894) (dry goods) C. W. Oldt (1894-1913) Herman & Leiser (1913-1952)
1888-1915	27	Eyer Walter (1888-1891) (drug store) Harry Hoffman (1891-1915)
(1889)-1943	54	William J. Ward (barber)

1892-1959	67	William C. Cromley & Company (1892-1944) (stoves, plumbing) Laird & John Cromley (1944-1959)
1892-1950s	60+	W. D. Wainwright (tobacco, pool hall)
1892-1939	47	Harry J. Nogel (jewelry store)
1896-1921	25	P. C. Hunter (1896-1899) (photography) F. W. Lindig (1899-1906) Ellen Shields (1906-1921)
1896-(1931)	35	Oscar N. Lindig (plumbing)
1896-1964	68	Lewisburg News Bureau
1898-1926	28	Wolfe & Shultz (coal yard, grain)
1898-1998	100	John F. Prowant (1898-1922) (men's clothing) J. F. Prowant & Company (1923-1941) Prowant's (1941-1998)
1899-1934	35	Jacob Horam (livery, garage)
1900-1930	30	W. N. Wensel (tinware)
1900-1933	33	W. R. Long (groceries)
1900-1939	39	J. Allen Fegley (tobacco, stationary, newsstand)
1900-1954	54	Peerless Steam Laundry
1901-1943	42	David C. Burkey (bicycles, auto supplies)
1901-1984	83	Quaker Cuff Company (clothing manufacturer) Quaker Manufacturing Company (?-1977) New Quaker Industries (1977-1984)
1902-1932	30	U. R. Swengel (furniture, undertaking)
1904-present	112+	Buffalo Valley Telephone Company (1904-1996) Conestoga Phone Company (1996-2003) D&E Communications (2003-2009) Windstream (2009-present)
1905-(1941)	36	Max Harris (clothing store)
1905-present	111+	Reber & Fisher (1906-1910) J. F. Reber & Company (1910-1934) Busser Supply Company (1934-1975) US Supply (1975-present)
1906-1959	53	J. Fred Zeller (jeweler)
1906-1971	65	Gundy's Hat/Bonnett Shop (women's hats and accessories)
1907-present	109+	Lewisburg Trust & Safe Deposit Company (1907-1984) Commonwealth Bank (1984-1995) Meridian Bank (1995-1996)

		Core States (1996-1998) Sovereign Bank (1998-2013) Santander (2013-present)
1907-present	109+	Purity Candy
1908-1961	53	Isaac Gedrich (1908-1945) (clothing) Mary Koons Shop (1945-1961)
1908-1960	52	Orpheum (1908-1931) (movie theater) Roxy (1931-1960)
1910-(1949)	39	J. Howard Stahl (tobacco and pool hall)
1912-1982	70	Lewisburg Condensed Milk Company (1912-1915) Nestle Food Company (1918-1925) Sheffield Farms (1925-1958) Sealtest Sheffield Farms (1958-1960) Sealtest Foods (1960-1973) Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative Association (1973-1982)
1913-1949	36	W. H. Zearfoss (electrician)
1913-1976	63	Heimbach Lumber
1913-1981	68	H. E. Raezer (1913-1921) (groceries) Elmer L. Wagner (1921-1936) Milton C. Wagner (1936-1975) Village Meats & Grocery (1975-1981)
1914-(1943+)	30+	James P. Ruhl (electrician)
1915-1951	36	E. C. Noll (feed)
(1917)-1944	27	Clarence B. Comstock (coal yard)
(1918)-1959	41	M. Flavio (fruit)
1918-1960s	42+	A & P (groceries)
1918-1975	57	R. F. Halfpenny (1918-1930) (groceries) William S. Rhoads (1930-1931) Elmer L. Wagner (1931-1936) Milton C. Wagner (1936-1975)
1918-present	98+	Swengel Funeral Home Pursley Funeral Home Erdley Funeral Home Shaw Funeral Home (1949-present)
1920-1949	29	John C. Reedy (furniture)
(1920)-2000	80	Byerly's Market (1920-1961) (meats) Meckley's Meats (1961-1974) Gessner Meats (1974-2000)
(1920)-1994	74	Five Points Market (groceries)

1921-1977	56	Oscar I. Liddick (1921-1937) (groceries) Charles A. Heiser (1937-1975) (groceries, then fish market) Village Seafood (1975-1977)
1921-1993	72	New Cameron House (1921-1934) Hotel Lewisburger (1934-1993)
1922-1969	47	Steininger Café (1922-1951) Steininger's Restaurant (1951-1969)
1922-1996	74	Union Motors (1922-1963) (moved from N 3rd Street to Route 15 in 1941) Walters Oldsmobile (1963-1987) Lewisburg Motors (1987-1990) Anchor Motors (1990-1996)
1923-1966	43	Lewisburg Nash Sales (1923-1931) Meachum Motor Company (1931-1966)
1923-present	93+	P. M. Savidge (1923-1929) Stein's Flowers (1929-present)
1923-present	93+	Abe Farley (1923-1961) (barber) Ziegler's (1961-present)
1924-1950	26	Wagner's Café
(1924)-1954	30	Charles W. Galloway (1924-1949) (coal) Warner M. Galloway (1949-1954)
1924-(1998)	64	Montgomery & Company (1924-1931) (men's clothes) Brough's (1931-1970) Rogers Men's Wear (1970-1996) David Martin Stores (1996-1999)
1924-1999	75	Acme Markets (1924-1995) Bi-Lo (1995-1998)
1924-2006	82	Bechtel's Dairy restaurant (moved from Market St. to Rte. 15 in 1955)
(1925)-1951	26	Mearns V. Arbogast (draying & hauling)
1925-1973	48	L. R. Ernest (1925-1941) (groceries) Warren C. Kunkle (1941-1973)
1925-present	91+	Ross Photography (1925-1980) Lewisburg Studio (1980-present)
1925-1994	69	Beyer & Fortner (plumbing)
1926-2012	86	Edwin D. Mensch Agency (real estate)
1927-1986	59	J. J. Newberry
1928-1973	45	Burrey's Warehouse (business started in Vicksburg in 1894) (coal, fuel oil, fertilizer, seeds)

1928-1989	61	Lewisburg Cleaners & Dyers
1929-1962	33	Stewart A. Royer (1929-1946) (tires & gas) W. A. Royer & Son (1946-1962)
(1929)-1967	38	Harry E. Stein (insurance)
1929-1984	55	Schlow's Quality Shop (1929-1950) The Lyons Shop (1950-1984)
1929-present	87+	Diehl Chevrolet (1931-1945) (started by Richard Diehl in Hartleton) B.P. Thomason (1945-1950) Diehl Chevrolet (1950-2002) Fairfield Chevrolet Cadillac (2002-present)
1931-1978	47	Heiter's Barbershop
1931-2010	79	Martin's Flowers
1931-2004	73	Lewisburg Inn
1932-1994	62	Reliable Furniture Company
1933-1962	29	O. P. Miller (1933-1935) Gravell Insurance Agency (1935-1962)
1933-present	82+	M. S. Meixell Agency (1933-1976) (insurance) Meixell-Diehl Agency (1976-present)
1934-2009	75	Lewisburg News Agency
1935-1979	44	Ralph E. Moyer & Son (1935-1947) (hides) H. W. Moyer (1947-1979) (hides, grease from 1966)
1936-1961	25	S. P. Gearhart (1936-1944) (groceries) Clarence H. Stahl (1944-1961)
1936-1980	44	Third Street Service Station (1936-1946) Bailey Tire Company (1946-1951) Lewisburg Recapping & Tire Supply (1951-1980) (at 400 N. Derr Drive 1953-1980)
1937-1972	35	Western Auto
1938-1986	48	Minium Moving & Storage (1938-1965) Minium Storage (1965-1986)
1938-1995	57	Flo-Le Beauty Salon (1938-1940) Helena Beauty Salon (1940-1945) Cook's Beauty Shop (Mrs. Anne Cook) (1945-1977) Cook's Beauty Shop (Betty Cook) (1977-1995)
(1938)-1969	31	William F. Strohecker (1938-1967) (coal) Harold W. Erdley (1967-1969)
1938-present	78+	Dornsife Funeral Home (1938-1967)

		Cronrath Funeral Home (1967-2007) Cronrath-Grenoble Funeral Home (2007-present)
1940-1968	28	Pitt the Tailor
1940-1969	29	Lewisburg Auto Supply & Service
1940-present	76+	B. O. Daubert (1940-1983) (plumbing/heating systems) Silver Tip (1983-present)
1941-2009	58	Royal Stationary (1941-1951) Wagner's Stationary (1951-2009)
1941-present	75+	Campus Theater
1941-present	75+	Champion Shoe Repair
1943-present	73+	Lewisburg Concrete Products Company (1943-1967) Central Builders Supply (1967-present)
1943-present	73+	Lewisburg Locker Plant (1943-1963) Mensch's Locker Plant (1963-1968) Fisher's Locker Plant & Meat Market (1968-present)
1945-present	71+	Wolf's Jewelers
1944-2001	57	Beck's Popcorn & Amusement Company (1944-1954) Beck's Amusement Company (1954-2001)
1945-1974	29	Reish Brothers (electrical supplies & contractor)
1946-1978	32	Focht Printing
1946-1979	33	Donohoe's Furniture
1946-1984	38	Brown R. Dunkle (insurance & real estate)
1947-1979	32	Woodrow W. Hoffman (contractor)
1947-2004+	57+	Buffalo Valley Supply Corporation (plumbing & heating)
1948-1973	25	The Donut Shop (1948-1954) Grenoble's Donut Shop (1954-1956) Grenoble's Bakery (1956-1973)
1950-1981	31	The Lyons Shop
1950-1981	31	Helen Lyons (gifts)
1950-2004+	54+	Fred W. Hoffman (1950-1956) (insurance) Elizabeth P. Hoffman (1956-1991) Hoffman Insurance (1991-2004+)
1951-2004+	53+	Hilda's Beauty Shop
1951-2001	50	The Children's Center

1951-present	65+	Catherman's Home Made Candy (new owner added bakery specialties in 2006)
1952-1984	32	Bison Plumbing Company (1952-1977) Bison Mechanical Contractors (1977-1984)
1952-2006	54	Matrey's Foodtown
1952-present	64+	Stamm's Radio Service (1952-1972) Stamm's TV & Appliances (1972-present)
1953-1983	30	Herbert E. MacIntyre (accountant)
1953-1983	30	Baker's Body Shop
1953-2004+	51+	Frank R. Lewis (landscaping)
1953-1995	42	Broadt's Furniture (relocated from Pittston to New Columbia in 1953 and then to Lewisburg in 1954)
1954-1999	45	Watkins Motor Lodge (1954-1985) College Inn (1985-1999)
1956-1983	27	Blee Ignition & Carburetor Service
1956-1998	42	Reed's Dry Cleaners & Laundry
1957-1984	27	John E. Heim (barbershop)
1957-1999	42	James T. Powderly (accountant)
1957-1992	35	Bobb Goff TV (1957-1987) Goff-Eisley TV (1987-1992)
1957-present	69+	Sherwin-Williams (paint)
1960-present	56+	Village Steak House (1960-1969) Bull Run Inn (1969-2013) Bull Run Tack House (2013-present)
1962-2008	46	Ruhl's Mechanical Engraving (1962-1964) Ruhl's Engraving Service (1964-2008)
1962-2004+	42+	Lewisburg CATV
1962-present	54+	Town Tavern
1962-present	54+	Cole's Hardware
1962-present	54+	Pardoe's Bikes and Repairs
1965-2000	35	Buchart-Horn (civil & consulting engineers)
1965-present	51+	Culligan Water Conditioning Company
1965-present	51+	Ernst & Foulds Barbershop (1965-1974) Ernst Barbershop (1974-present)

1967-1996	29	Foss Jewelers
1967-present	49+	Central Builders Supply
1968-2004+	36+	The Wardrobe (clothing)
1970-1997	27	Hassenplug Brothers (painting)
1970-present	46+	Open Door Gallery
1971-present	45+	House of Pizza (La Casa)
1972-2014	42	Temperance House
1972-present	44+	Washtubs Laundries
1973-present	43+	Joseph Carroll Salon
1973-present	43+	John L. Kerstetter Floor Laying
1974-present	42+	Villager Realty
1976-2004+	28+	Keeley's Bakery (1976-1981) Keeley's Bakery & Coffee Shop (1981-2001) Keeley's Café (2001-2004+)
1976-present	40+	Bowen Agency (real estate)
1976-present	40+	Stephen J. Lindenmuth (architect)
1976-present	40+	R. L. Hummel Automotive Supply
1979-(2011)	32	Lewisburg Card & Gift (1979-1983) Lewisburg Cardware (1983-1994) Lewisburg Card Shoppe (1994-2011?)
1979-present	37+	Gingerbread House
1981-present	35+	Pennsylvania Mercantile (1981-1987) (gifts) The Mercantile (1987-present)
1981-present	35+	CONCERN: Professional Services for Children, Youth & Families
1983-present	33+	Crossland Group (financial services)
1983-present	33+	<i>The Valley Trader</i> (newspaper)
1983-present	33+	The Treasure Hunters (metal detectors)
1984-present	32+	Michael N. Hahn Antiques Restoration
1984-present	32+	University Hair Design
1984-present	32+	Styling Nook (hair salon)
1984-present	32+	Robert A. Lack (architect)
1984-present	32+	Coup Agency (insurance)



1984-present	32+	Vennari's (pizza)
1985-present	31+	Pineapple Inn (bed & breakfast)
1985-present	31+	Cathy Katherman (hair salon)
1985-present	31+	Eugene Caicco's Men's Hair Styling Shop
1986-present	30+	Marc Williams Goldsmith
1987-present	29+	Larry Smith's Styling Nook
1987-present	29+	Music N' More
1988-present	28+	Molesevich Environmental
1989-present	27+	Brushstrokes (art supplies)
1989-present	27+	Coldwell Banker Penn One Real Estate
1990- present	26+	Lewisburg Antique Center (1990- Roller Mills (1995-present))

✧ **ACCOUNTS** ✧

## **An Expanded Compilation of Businesses in Union County and in Lewisburg, Past and Present**

### **Introduction**

Across the long sweep of Union County's history businesses have played a central role in shaping and energizing our society and lives. The founding and spread of individually owned businesses, starting in the 1770s, marked a fairly rapid shift from a dispersed, extractive, frontier economy to a settled, economically interdependent society, progressively enveloping the County's landscape. Of course other components were simultaneously playing their own roles – church congregations, transport and infrastructure, land surveys, local government, roads and railroads, banking, market demand in cities of the Atlantic seaboard, and so on – but our local businesses were indisputably a crucial dimension of Union County's consolidation and success. In the present issue of ACCOUNTS, the article by Jean Hormell on HP Allen's store in Allenwood could not more decisively illustrate this point.

One year ago ACCOUNTS published as appendices to an article by Jeannette Lasansky two extensive compilations of the businesses operating in Union County, and in Lewisburg, giving the business's name, nature, dates of founding, and changes of ownership and identity. Richard Sauers' list covered the businesses in the Borough of Lewisburg, while Jeannette Lasansky's list covered the rest of Union County. The lists are not quite parallel. The Lasansky list is restricted to businesses that were still operating as of August, 2016. The Sauers list covers, in addition, Lewisburg's businesses that operated in the past, but which have since closed. In both lists, the number of Union County businesses lasting various generations is striking. And both lists are the product of years of compiling information on the part of these authors, themselves prolific contributors to Union County history.

After the publication of the Lasansky and Sauers appendices a year ago, both authors continued to augment their lists, entering omissions and bringing their data up to 2016. While lists like these, as with the writing of history itself, are always works in progress, the updating and refinements that Lasansky and Sauers have done makes re-publishing these more complete editions of their lists compellingly worthwhile. The lists below supersede the lists that appeared in 2015 and will be, from now forward, essential resources for Union Countians pursuing any number of historical questions and topics of our county history.

So look through these lists, recollect businesses that figured in your earlier days, and let me know if you can see where additions or changes in the listings will tell a more complete story. I will pass them along to the authors.

Tom Greaves, Editor  
ACCOUNTS of Union County History  
greaves@bucknell.edu

## ACCOUNTS

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### About this Issue's Authors:

**Mary and Douglas Candland** moved to Lewisburg with their month-old son, Kevin, in September, 1960, when Doug joined the Bucknell faculty. He taught psychology and animal behavior until 2002 when he became editor of a scientific journal, a position that continued until 2014. Mary served as Bucknell's associate director of publications and contributed her designs to many organizations, including, for many years, the *Voters Guide* distributed by the League of Women Voters, of which she was a 50-year member. The Weis Center spiral staircase logo is one of her creations. The family lived at first at 1414 Market, then in Lochiel, and moved to the Muffly-Loughead house in 1968.

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.

**Tom Greaves** is a Bucknell professor emeritus, an anthropologist, and editor of *ACCOUNTS of Union County History*.

**Jean Hormell**, graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the University of Illinois, retired from the Williamsport School District after 35 years as a music educator. A native of Watsonstown, she performs with the Susquehanna Valley Chorale and is active with the Warrior Run Education Foundation.

Since the 1970s **Jeannette Lasansky** has written primarily on Pennsylvania's material culture. Lasansky has focused recently on local history, slavery in the Northeast, and universal design or living barrier free.

**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 in Colorado Springs, CO.

**Richard Nornhold** was born in Lewisburg and raised in central Snyder County before moving to upper Northumberland County in 1973. He retired from teaching in 2012 and since that time has spent his time woodworking and collecting and studying tools and trades of the Pennsylvania Germans. He is a student of all things pertaining to local history and early American technology.

**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.

## **The Purpose and Scope of 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 editors are 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.

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