

# ACCOUNTS

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<a href="#"><u>Table of Contents</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>In this issue</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>2</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Be an ACCOUNTS Author!</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>3</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Enoch Miller, Mifflinburg's Master Builder</u></a> by Susan Waggoner	<a href="#"><u>4</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>A Granddaughter and a Barn, 120 years later</u></a> by Michael & Carol Manbeck	<a href="#"><u>24</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Taming Union County's Back Country</u></a> by Jonathan D. Bastian	<a href="#"><u>30</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Churchville: A Lewisburg Crosscut Canal Community</u></a> That Never Was by Georganna Fitzgerald Kresl	<a href="#"><u>38</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Wir Sind Neue Berliners</u></a> by Tom Walker	<a href="#"><u>49</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>About this issue's authors</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>56</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Writing for ACCOUNTS</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>57</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Index to Vol. 7, No. 1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>59</u></a>

## What's in this Issue?

We lead off with a path-breaking article by **Susan Waggoner** on Enoch Miller, Mifflinburg's master builder of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Together with his teacher, Joseph Boop, Miller's skill and creativity are evident in much of the historic appearance of Mifflinburg today. Waggoner recounts Miller's life and introduces you to his many legacy creations.

**Mike and Carol Manbeck**, owners of that stand-out home and barn along Airport Road in Lewisburg, tell us about the original owners, Joseph and Ann Elizabeth Shriner, grandparents of Elizabeth Rue. Elizabeth is the author of a marvelous 1897 essay remembering her childhood adventures in her grandfather's barn, now carefully maintained by the Manbecks. Elizabeth's charming essay, written when she was 14, is included in its entirety in this article.

The third article, by **Jonathan Bastian**, takes us to our county's West End to recount the wild, dangerous, days of logging, arks, tram railroads, whiskey and lumber around towns like Pardee, Weikert, Laurelton, along the Penns Creek drainage in the late 1800s. Meanwhile, merchants, farmers and churches attempt to implant orderly communities as the fast-moving timber companies clearcut the hills of Union County's last frontier.

Ever heard of Churchville? **Georganna Kresl** tells the story: in the 1830s Lewisburg was victorious in its fight to be joined by a three-quarter-mile-long "cross cut canal" connecting it to the Pennsylvania Canal to its east. Then come two fast-talking brothers, Francis and Jerimiah Smith, platting a town fronting the cross cut, opposite Lewisburg and offering lots for sale. The Smiths propagated fake news and alternative facts as abundantly as in our times. Although they appear to have lost money on their Churchville venture, they went on to establish other towns that grew and put money in their pockets.

Finally, **Tom Walker** returns to ACCOUNTS' pages with a review of the controversy that enveloped New Berlin in the 1940s, spawned by a campaign by New York playwright Maxwell Anderson to induce towns across America named for the defeated Nazi capital to change their names. The people of New Berlin, PA were unimpressed. But who hasn't heard someone tell of this episode? Tom Walker gives us the facts.

## Updates

ACCOUNTS readers will remember Tom Walker's investigation of a mysterious address on his dad's letters home to Mifflinburg during WWII (vol. 6, #2, 2016). I am pleased to share with you that Tom has now published a book on his dad's war service based on his letters and writing. The book is *Navigator*, available on Amazon.

(continued on page 3)

Readers will also remember Doug and Mary Candland's article on 125 Stein Lane, their home in Lewisburg (vol. 6, #2, 2016). Reader Jack Fisher wrote to add to the story: "The land was not "deeded" to David Kennedy – the tract was warranted (granted) to David by the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania (Thomas and Richard Penn) on 6-18-1773; later surveyed on 8-10-1773. The tract was named "David's Addition" and consisted of 202 acres and 154 perches." The Candlands join me in thanking Jack for his information. The craft of history is at its best when it's a collective process!

Finally, for the record, all photos in ACCOUNTS are photo-processed. Often they are cropped, and most are enhanced for definition, legibility, and brightness. Dark areas may be lightened to bring out detail. And all photos are reduced in total information content in order to keep download times reasonable; at normal resolution levels, exceeding about a half dozen photos causes the article to be very slow to download and open to be read on your device.

### **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.

### **Edit ACCOUNTS**

I'm looking for my replacement. If you have enough writing savvy to edit the manuscripts and want to be the editor of ACCOUNTS, I will work with you across a transition period and then hand off the editorship to you. Is it work? Sure. But you may already be volunteering a lot for the Historical Society. Being editor allows you to consolidate your service to one job. To me, there is much satisfaction in actively preserving our county's history. Contact me and I'll answer your questions.

Tom Greaves, Editor  
greaves@bucknell.edu

## **Enoch Miller, Mifflinburg's Master Builder**

**by**

**Susan Waggoner**

American domestic architecture came of age in the late Victorian period, 1860-1900. "Rapid industrialization and the growth of railroads led to dramatic changes in American house design and construction" as, due to these changes, complex shapes and elaborate details became available for use on more than the most expensive houses. Another development at the time was the publication of books that showed drawings of architectural detail for craftsmen to follow and house plan books that offered sets of plans



Enoch Miller about 1898<sup>1</sup>

for sale by mail. In the late 1870s formal education in architecture was added to the curriculum of several major institutions of higher learning, including Pennsylvania universities, and "these formal programs were reinforced by a multitude of architecture journals."<sup>2</sup>

Enoch Miller's working life and his development as a skilled craftsman,

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<sup>1</sup> Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania, including the Counties of Centre, Clinton, Union and Snyder. Chicago: J. H. Beers and Co. 1898, p. 904-5.

<sup>2</sup> McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* Knopf, 2015. Page 314.

wood worker, builder, contractor, architect and businessman exactly coincided with these changes in American architecture as well as with the growth and expansion of Mifflinburg as a buggy manufacturing center. He was not the only builder or architect active in Union County between 1860 and 1920, but, referred to as “the town’s eminent architect and builder” in more than one period source, he is the one who left the most indelible mark, a mark we can easily see and appreciate today.

Moses Miller and his wife, Maria Bertolet (aka Mary Bartlet) Miller, moved from Berks County, Pennsylvania to Union County in the spring of 1835, locating on a farm in West Buffalo Township (after the division, it would be in Limestone Township). The purchase of a farm consisting of 51 acres and 126 perches from John Pancross for the sum of \$1800 was recorded at New Berlin on March 16, 1836. Making the journey with them were two young daughters, Sarah and Maria. On November 4, 1835, their first son, Enoch, was born. Four more sons, Joseph, Daniel B., John F., and George A., would be born between 1837 and 1844. Enoch’s father was of German descent and his mother was a member of a French Huguenot family who settled in the Oley Valley of Berks County after the Revolutionary War.<sup>3</sup>

Moses Miller died intestate on May 23, 1844, when Enoch was eight years old. As there were insufficient funds to pay off the family’s debts, the administrator for Moses’ estate held a public sale on February 5, 1845. The farm was sold to his surviving widow Maria for \$2195.<sup>4</sup> It fell to Enoch as the oldest son to help his mother manage the farm with the help of tenants and her seven children. Enoch began working on neighboring farms as soon as he was strong enough, working out by the month and attending school in the winter only. He is

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<sup>3</sup> Basic biographical information throughout the essay is in *Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania, including the counties of Centre, Clinton, Union and Snyder*; J.H. Beers & Co., 1898; pp. 904-905, with photo; published when the subject was at his height and could provide personal details, this is the source for numerous later publications, especially those of Charles M. Snyder. Some interesting additions were found in Ellis & Hungerford’s *History of that part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys embraced in the Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union & Snyder*, 1886, page 1378. The front page obituary for Enoch Miller in the *Mifflinburg Telegraph*, October 18, 1923, supports these sources.

<sup>4</sup> Union County, Pennsylvania; Courthouse records.

listed as a pupil at Lewis Township School on January 16, 1847.<sup>5</sup> In 1850, when he was fifteen years old, he worked his mother's farm for one year.

In 1851, Enoch was placed by his guardian with Joseph Boop to learn the carpenter's trade. For the next five years, he worked as an apprentice, a journeyman, and finally a partner to Mr. Boop who was a prominent builder in Mifflinburg at the time. He was only nineteen years old when he went into business on his own while still helping Joseph Boop as his assistant.

On September 20, 1856, Enoch Miller married Sarah Louisa Katherman, a native of Union County and Mifflinburg. She was nineteen and he was twenty-one. They would eventually have a family of eight daughters and one son; two daughters and the son died at young ages but five daughters lived into adulthood.

In 1857, Joseph Boop built the German Reformed Church at 415 Market Street. That same year, the Mifflinburg board of school directors purchased the old Elias church property and Joseph Boop took the contract for making the partitions and arranging the building for use as a school. Enoch Miller was his assistant on both of these projects.<sup>6</sup>

In 1860, Enoch Miller built a house and carpenter shop on the southwest corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Catharine (later Market) Streets in Mifflinburg, where he and his family would live until 1870.<sup>7</sup> At this time and place he became independent of Joseph Boop and continued to work at his trade on his own account. The *Atlas of Union County 1868* shows the house and carpenter shop at this location. The 1860 Census lists his occupation as "master carpenter" and Joseph Maize is listed with him as an "apprentice carpenter."

In the late 1860s, Enoch Miller designed and built a large and very beautiful home on Chestnut Street at the west end of Mifflinburg. It is known as the Barber-Orwig-Ward house at 836 Chestnut Street. A few years later, he reversed the plan for this house and built its twin across the street at 900 Chestnut Street. This second house is now known as the Barber-Earnest-Iddings house. Both houses

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<sup>5</sup> Dr. Mary Belle Lontz, *History of the Schools of Union County, Pennsylvania*, 1984.

<sup>6</sup> Lincoln, *History of Mifflinburg* and Steese, *History of Mifflinburg, 1792-1927*.

<sup>7</sup> Steese, *History of Mifflinburg* and Snyder, *Union County, Pennsylvania: A Celebration of History*.

were built for two brothers. In the 1880s, he did something similar for the Klose brothers; Aaron (1880) at 330 Market Street and John (1884) across the street at 327 Market Street.<sup>8</sup>

In 1867, the German Reformed Church installed a pipe organ at the prodding of and with a sizable contribution from Enoch Miller who directed the choir for many years. He attended this church throughout his life.<sup>9</sup>

In 1870, Enoch Miller razed the house he built in 1860 and built a new one to replace it on the same site.<sup>10</sup> By now, he is “the town’s foremost architect and builder” and this new house at 537 Market Street, a rectangular, two-story, frame structure, was his home for the rest of his life. At this time, he is most likely operating his carpentry business from this same location. In the 1890s, he added a large Victorian porch. The 1870 Census lists Enoch Miller’s occupation as “carpenter” with a real estate value of \$5000 and personal value of \$1000. His brother Joseph, listed as a “house carpenter,” and two apprentice carpenters are at the same location. The Sandra Fasano-Dreese house at 601 Market Street was built by Enoch Miller about this time. He sold it to Peter Grove in 1874 and it was converted into apartments by Joseph Fasano in 1875 without altering the exterior, including the large Victorian porch. This same year, 1870, Enoch Miller built the Minadore Schware Jewelry Shop and lodge hall at 326 Chestnut Street, which would become part of the Schware-Sholly Block in 1883.<sup>11</sup>

According to courthouse records dated October 11, 1869, Enoch Miller deeded to “Mary M. Miller, widow” a lot adjoining his residence on Market Street. Mrs. Miller sold the family farm in 1871 and built a house in Mifflinburg in 1873 where she spent her later years. It seems probable that her son Enoch was the builder of her house.

“In 1875, Enoch Miller, an enterprising architect and building contractor,

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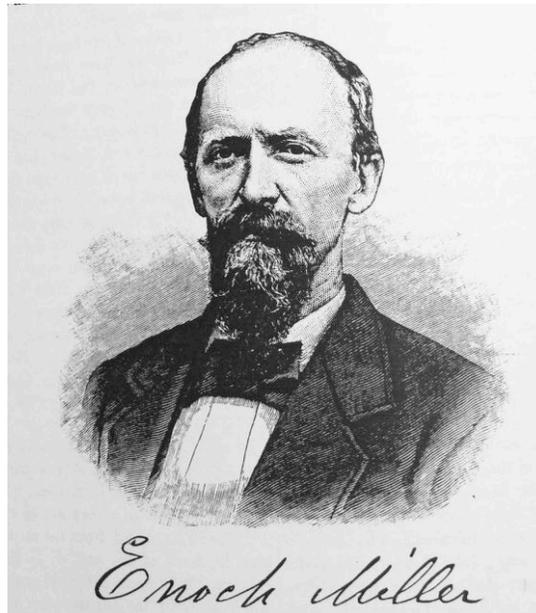
<sup>8</sup> *Union County Preservation Plan, 1978*; this is the source throughout this essay for information about the structures considered at the time of historical importance; unfortunately, the architect or builder is not always noted with preference given to the owner or pastor at the time.

<sup>9</sup> Snyder, *Mifflinburg: A Bicentennial History*; pages 17ff, photo of Enoch Miller, p. 146.

<sup>10</sup> Lontz, “Trail of History” column, *Mifflinburg Telegraph*, July 26, 2007; originally published September 2, 1977.

<sup>11</sup> *Mifflinburg Walking Tour: the Late Years, 1865-1900*.

commenced the erection of shops for the purpose primarily of working the lumber



Enoch Miller about 1886<sup>12</sup>

used by him in his building operations. He has an engine in his works, and is well equipped for doing all kinds of work usually done in planing mills.”<sup>13</sup> An 1886 source says that he built

in 1875 the large and commodious planing [sic] mill he now occupies, and in which he manufactures doors, sash, blinds and everything in his line used in building. Mr. Miller is, in every sense of the word, a self-made man, and has, by integrity and upright dealing, increased his business until he now employs sixteen carpenters and erects buildings in Mifflinburg borough, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties.”<sup>14</sup>

He operated the planing mill for over forty-five years. An advertisement in the *Mifflinburg Telegraph* dated April 1, 1885, lists the mill’s offerings: “Flooring, Siding, Doors, Sash, Blinds, Shutters, Moulding, Brackets and everything that

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<sup>12</sup> *History of that part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys Embraced in the Counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Vol 2.* Philadelphia: Everts, Peck and Richards. 1886, p. 1378.

<sup>13</sup> Lincoln, *History of Mifflinburg.*

<sup>14</sup> Ellis & Hungerford, *History...Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys.*

**MILLER'S**  
**PLANING MILL**  
 Mifflinburg, Union Co., Pa.  
**ENOCH MILLER, Architect & Builder,**  
**PROPRIETOR.**  
 5-20-1885

The Planing Mill is located in the west end of the Borough, on the line of the Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad and is supplied with the latest improved machinery for manufacturing

**Flooring, Siding, Doors, Sash, Blinds, Shutters, Moulding, Brackets and everything that pertains to the trade.**

CONTRACTS taken for NEW buildings, and plans, designs and estimates furnished for the same on short notice and on reasonable terms.

CUSTOM WORK.—Persons having lumber of their own, and desiring to have it worked into building material or otherwise, can be accommodated at any time.

In connection with my above business I am prepared to furnish on short notice a first class quality of

**ROOFING SLATE.**

And also have an experienced Slater to do my slating, and have a competent Slater right at the quarries to select the Slate, and will GUARANTEE SATISFACTION to all who may favor me with their work.

April 1, 1885. xtf      **ENOCH MILLER, Mifflinburg, Pa.**

Advertisement, Mifflinburg Telegraph, May 20, 1885

pertains to the trade.” In addition, they were taking contracts for new buildings and doing custom work for persons having their own lumber. There is an excellent photograph of Enoch Miller and his employees taken much later, probably June of 1898, at the mill.<sup>15</sup> Over the years, he had several expert woodworkers working for him, (see photo next page) such as Mike Noll and Eli Groover, as well as apprentices.

Between 1876 and 1921, he designed and built more than thirty major structures - at least nine churches, fifteen homes, and eight commercial buildings, three of which were “blocks” containing two to three different businesses. Most of his work was done in Mifflinburg with a few notable structures in nearby villages in Union County. In addition, he is credited with the Union National Bank and a church in Lewisburg as well as churches in Lewistown, McEwensville, Renovo, and

<sup>15</sup> *Memories of Mifflinburg.*

Lock Haven. It is also believed that he was at least a part of the 1904 renovation of the Mifflin County courthouse in Lewistown. Several of these structures, such as



June 1898 photo of Enoch Miller and his employees: left to right, first row, William F. Romig, Miller Badger, Charles Badger, Eli Groover; second row, Daniel Hassinger, Enoch Miller, proprietor, Hud Eberhart, Stewart Romig, Harry Wilkinson, Benjamin Tittle.

the Gothic style Lutheran Church in Hartleton which was one of his earlier creations in 1876 and the elaborate Victorian Mifflinburg School House of the same year, have since been torn down. Fortunately, most of his work remains today and can be seen and appreciated by even the most casual visitor to Mifflinburg. (See attached Chronology for more information)

In style, Enoch Miller appears to have made his own every feature of what is considered "Victorian," the decorative building styles popular during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. His churches in Mifflinburg are decidedly Gothic, but the Lincoln Chapel near Laurelton is more Carpenter in style. The homes he built for private individuals in Mifflinburg are elaborate Victorian mansions with Queen Anne features, but the house he built on the planing mill site in 1885 is a smaller Queen Anne cottage. And then there is the Eastlake style house that he built for Joseph S. Raudenbush in Vicksburg in 1887. The Union National Bank in Lewisburg, erected in 1899, was designed in Beaux Art style with characteristic cross-hatching over rounded windows and flat pilasters. He and his expert wood

workers and craftsmen were comfortable with all kinds of intricate details and used them in good taste on the interiors as well as the exteriors. His commercial buildings, such as the Gast Department Store and the bank buildings were as much a pleasure to enter as were, and still are, the churches. One can only imagine what it must have been like to attend school in the beautiful Mifflinburg School House surrounded by dozens of Norway maple trees.



The planing mill in 1900; building with porch is Enoch Miller's office.<sup>16</sup>

What cannot be fully appreciated or even identified are the barns, porches, and ordinary structures that Enoch Miller and his crew built in between those major projects. (For instance, attendees at the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Mazeppa Union Church at Old Buffalo Church on November 20, 2016, were given copies of a timeline. In 1916, “a new pulpit platform would be built by Enoch Miller.”) Only the discovery of actual records from the planing mill would give us this detailed information. Hopefully, such records will surface some day.

While he was doing all of this building and operating his construction business and the planing mill, Enoch Miller was a contributing and valued member of the Mifflinburg community. He served many years on the Borough

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<sup>16</sup> This photo is used in Huffines' *Mifflinburg and the West End*, 2012, p. 75, where the employees are identified.

Council and was President of that body for several terms. He was the first initiate member and past master of Masons Lodge no. 370 and served as its treasurer. He was a life-time member of the German (St. John's) Reformed Church, conducting the choir there for many years, and was instrumental in getting a pipe organ installed there in 1867. It is not known whether he played it, but a piano is listed in his estate, so he may also have been a skilled player.

In the January 1, 1897, issue of *The Wood-Worker*, a journal for machine wood-workers, there is a nice paragraph about Enoch Miller accompanied by a "likeness" of him:

Enoch Miller ...is one of the successful men of Mifflinburg, Pa. Besides being the owner of a planing mill and sash, door, and blind factory, he is an architect, contractor and builder. The principal residences and public buildings of his town are evidence of his skill, as he drew the plans and contracted for the creation of the greater part of them. His mill, office and lumber yards cover about two acres of ground. This would not be considered a big plant in some localities, but it is big enough for its owner's purpose. It is a good plant, too, and Mr. Miller knows how to get plenty of good work out of it. One evidence of this shrewdness is that he has for years been a careful reader and staunch friend of *The Wood-Worker*.<sup>17</sup>

Obviously, this is somewhat promotional for the journal itself, but it also gives us a nice description of the man Enoch Miller and the respect his fellows had for him.



Fire insurance photo of the Miller Planing Mill showing Queen Anne style house (right) built in 1885 and, in the distance, Enoch Miller's office both of which are still there.

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<sup>17</sup> *The Wood-Worker*, vol. 16, January 1, 1897, p. 23

In 1909, tragedy struck Enoch Miller's family. Two married daughters, both living in Birmingham, Alabama, died within a few months of each other. Edith May Budwig (who lost her first husband Bringhurst to a pistol accident and remarried) died on February 17 at age 47 and her sister Margaret Blanche Myer died on May 29 at age 38. The cause of both deaths was Bright's Disease, a term used at that time for a number of illnesses having to do with the kidneys. Enoch's wife Sarah had been ill for some time with cancer and was not told of the deaths of her daughters. She succumbed to the disease on June 17 at the age of 72 and was interred in the Mifflinburg cemetery. They had been married for fifty-three years.<sup>18</sup> The White Springs school house was being built this same year.

The 1910 Census lists Enoch Miller, age 74, as an employer and manufacturer and operator of a planing mill; his daughter Virginia B. is living in the same house with him. The Sanborn map of Mifflinburg dated July 1913 shows details of the Enoch Miller Planing Mill. The accompanying comments indicate there is no watchman, heat and power is supplied by steam, fuels used are coal and shavings, the lights are kerosene, and there is 150 feet of 2 1/2 inch hose and twelve chemical fire buckets on site. The Sanborn maps were done for purposes of fire insurance and provide interesting details.

In 1916, the Mifflinburg Silk Mill was founded by F. Q. Hartman on the southeast corner of Walnut and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets. J. Merrill Barber directed the brickwork and Enoch Miller was in charge of the woodwork. It is basically a single-story, rambling brick building with few decorative features and is today an apartment house.

In the 1920 Census, Enoch Miller, age 84, at 537 Market Street, is listed as an employer and his occupation is builder of homes; his daughter Maize C. "Mary" Badger, age 61, widow, is living with him.

In 1921, he sold the planing mill to Ruhl, Watson & Phillips, a group with similar operations in Hartley township and Lewisburg, for \$12,000; the transfer deed is dated December 29. The buildings built after the sale and the main planing

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<sup>18</sup> *Mifflinburg Telegraph*, June 4 and June 25, 1909, front page obituaries for daughters and wife.

mill were razed by fire in 1924,<sup>19</sup> but Enoch Miller's office and the house he built on the site in 1885 are still there today (2017) as well as some other out-buildings.

Enoch Miller died on October 12, 1923, at the age of 87. The funeral was held on October 15 at St. John's Reformed Church, Mifflinburg, and he was buried in the family plot in the Woodlawn (Mifflinburg) Cemetery with the Masonic Lodge conducting the impressive burial service at the grave.<sup>20</sup> There is a nice monument bearing the family name. The certificate of death lists the cause as "Acute Suppression of Urine. Uremia" with contributory or secondary cause as "Epithelioma of Face." He most likely had been ill with chronic conditions for some time and may have had treatments that could have been radical in nature, making it very difficult for him to continue working. Residents told of seeing him crawl up the ramp into his mill before he sold it.<sup>21</sup>

Soon after I purchased my 19<sup>th</sup> century log house on New Berlin Mountain Road, a previous owner told me that a name, "Enoch Miller," was on the frame of the original front porch which was now enclosed and covered with wallboard. This name did not appear in my search of the deeds and, as I did not recognize it, I gave it no more thought. Then Tom Greaves suggested that "Enoch Miller" would make a good topic for a future issue of the Union County Historical Society's online journal *Accounts*.

I volunteered to search for materials and write an article as a way of finding out about the man whose name is on my house. My thought was that I might be able to make the connection between Mifflinburg's esteemed architect of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and my front porch. I now know quite a bit about Enoch Miller but that connection is elusive and can only be imagined from his story. Piecing together that story has been reward enough and some day soon I will have the courage to pull off some of the porch wallboard and see his name for myself.

In the meantime, perhaps people with additional knowledge of Enoch Miller, his architecture, and his planing mill will come forward and add to the

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<sup>19</sup> *Memories of Mifflinburg, 1793-1942*.

<sup>20</sup> *Mifflinburg Telegraph* obituary

<sup>21</sup> Snyder, *Union County...Bicentennial History*.

story. I feel certain there is much more to tell.

### Enoch Miller Chronology

In the following, I have attempted to determine the year the structure was built, but different sources often give different dates. Particularly difficult are the churches as they change denominations and names with surprising frequency. Most descriptive notes are from the *Union County Historic Preservation Survey, 1978*. All structures are in Mifflinburg unless otherwise noted. The number(s) at the end of each building entry correspond to the number of the source in the Source list that follows this Chronology.

1851 Enoch Miller went to Mifflinburg to learn the carpenter's trade with Joseph Boop as his apprentice, then journeyman, and finally as his partner (15 years old) (3,8,15)

1856 Enoch went into business on his own (21 years old) (3,15)

1857 German Reformed Church, 415 Market Street; probably built by Joseph Boop while Enoch Miller was his assistant; now St. John's United Church of Christ. (20, p.62)

Also "In 1857, the board of school directors purchased from the trustees of the Lutheran and Reformed churches, the old Elias church property...Mr. Joseph Boob took the contract for making the partitions and arranging the building..." for use as a school. (7)

1860 Enoch Miller built a house and carpenter shop on the corner of Sixth and Market Streets in Mifflinburg (20)

1860 Census (July 6) lists Enoch Miller occupation as a Master Carpenter, age 24; Jacob Maize is listed with him as an Apprentice Carpenter (4)

1866- Barber-Orwig-Ward House, 836 Chestnut Street; "built just prior to 1870...twin to 1870 house at 900 across the street" (22)

Barber-Earnest-Iddings House, 900 Chestnut Street; twin to above, plan reversed, probably dating from late 1870s, rear addition in 1893; both houses built for two brothers (22)

1867 German Reformed Church installed a pipe organ at the prodding and sizable contribution of Enoch Miller who directed the choir for many years (17)

1868 *Atlas of Union County 1868* shows the Enoch Miller house and carpenter shop on the southwest corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Catharine (later Market) Streets (2)

### A Sample of Buildings Built by Enoch Miller, Mifflinburg, Vicksburg and Lewisburg



537 Market (Miller's own house)



411 Market (Parsonage)



404 Market (1st Evan. Lutheran)



327 Market (J. Klose House)



325 Market (United Methodist)



Vicksburg (Raudenbush Hse.)



407 Chstnt (1st Farmers' Bk)



326 Chestnut (Shops & Lodge Hl)



Union Nat'l Bank, Lewisburg



836 Chestnut St. (Barber Hse)



348-52 Chstnt (Gast Block)



241 Chestnut (Brubaker House)

1870 Enoch Miller House, 537 Market Street; he built the home he lived in until his death; his personal residence after 1870 was "...at 537 Market Street." (19)

"the town's foremost architect and builder - a rectangular, two-story, frame structure with a large Victorian porch which he added in the 1890s" (22); he razed the house he built in 1860 and built this one to replace it (8:June 26, 2007); he most likely operated his business from this same location

1870 Census (August 11) lists Enoch Miller, age 34, Carpenter, Value of Real Estate - 5000, Personal Estate Value - 1000; brother Joseph, age 32, at same location, H (House?) Carpenter; and two apprentice carpenters (4)

Sandra Fasano-Dreese House, 601 Market Street; "early Enoch Miller building, dating about 1870, which he sold to Peter Grove in 1884. It was converted into apartments by Joseph Fasano in 1875 without altering the exterior, including its large Victorian porch (22)

1873 Enoch's mother built a house in Mifflinburg, "where she spent her later years..." (3)

Minadore Schware Jewelry Shop and lodge hall; 326 Chestnut; part of Schware-Sholly Block in 1883 (16)

1875 Enoch Miller built and began operating his own planing mill on north 8<sup>th</sup> Street; "In 1875, Enoch Miller, an enterprising architect and building contractor, commenced the erection of shops for the purpose primarily of working the lumber used by him in his building operations. He has an engine in his works, and is well equipped for doing all kinds of work usually done in planing mills." (7)

1876 Lutheran Church, Hartleton; of Gothic design, one of Miller's earliest structures; demolished in the 1960s (6)

1876- Mifflinburg School House, Third and Maple Streets; "Mr. Miller also supervised the erection in 1877 of the old section of the Mifflinburg School House; an elaborate Victorian structure admired by visitors to the community." (6,7)

1878 Dr. John Reynolds Gast Residence, 422 Market Street; handsome brick residence; "an ornament... a beauty, and most convenient, which speaks well for the architect and builder" (19); "...one of Miller's early successes, dating from 1878. Notice the same brickwork under the roof as in other homes he built." (18,19) Joseph Boop died while working on the Cronmiller house. (17)

1879 Dr. David Brubaker Residence, 241 Chestnut Street; Victorian cottage; "Note the unusual brickwork under the eaves and the finials on the corners of the roof line." (16) "shamrock-like arrangement of bricks, variety of window shapes...Victorian taste for decorative detail" (22)

Gast-Evans House (22)

1880 Gast and Strunk Stores (19)

Mifflinburg Bank (later the fire house, now gone) (19)

Snodgrass Hardware Store (19)

1880 Census lists Enoch Miller, age 45, occupation: Architect & Builder but shows that he has been unemployed for two months (4)

Klose-Bingaman-Littell House, 330 Market Street; built for Aaron Klose, a farmer and grain and coal dealer; brick quoins at corners, ornamental window frames and doorways (22)

1881 United Methodist Church (earlier Presbyterian and Evangelical) (19); Buffalo Presbyterian-Evangelical-St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 325 Market Street; small, neat neo-Gothic church edifice, an attractive rectangular brick structure erected by Enoch Miller (22); became St. Paul's United Evangelical on November 30, 1902 (6); plate on tower shows 1901; currently Providence Orthodox Presbyterian Church

1883 Enoch Miller opens his planing mill; 1884 map of Mifflinburg shows the planing mill on the northwest corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and the Railroad (6)

Ray's Church (St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed) (19,22)

Samuel W. Snodgrass building (Snodgrass-Musser-Shively House), 315 Chestnut Street; two story, brick store erected for Samuel Snodgrass and sons, James and Robert for a hardware business; had fine hardwood counters (22); decorative façade and quoins a favorite of Miller (19); recently Dressler's Appliance & Electric

Henry Gast Building/Gast Department Store, 352 Chestnut Street; became O. R. Laney's Five and Ten Cent Store; designed and built by Enoch Miller, "Mifflinburg's fine architect and builder"; large brick structure with large French glass windows and a broad open stairway (18,19)

Gast-Laney Block, 348-352 Chestnut Street included three businesses: O.R. Laney Five & Dime, Augustus Heiter's barber shop, and Strunk-Kleckner Tru-Value (22)

Schware-Sholly Block, 326-328 Chestnut Street; "built shortly after 1883 for rental as business space" - ornamental details typical of the period: brick frieze, carved brackets and dentils, quoins at corners, arched windows with keystones (22)

1884 John Klose House, 327 Market Street; wanted a house like his brother Aaron's across the street; not identical but resemblance is unmistakable with Victorian trim and brick quoins (22)

1885 "Architect Enoch Miller is building a frame house adjoining his planing mill on the east." (14: November 11, 1885) This small Queen Anne cottage at 107 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street as well as Enoch Miller's office still stand on the original planing mill property; they were not included in the Union County Historic Preservation survey and may be in danger of being razed for a parking lot. Advertisement for the Miller Planing Mill (14:May 20, 1885)

1887 Joseph S. Raudenbush Residence, Vicksburg; "In 1883, he (Raudenbush) employed Enoch Miller to build an Eastlake Victorian mansion..." (18)

Sanborn map of Mifflinburg shows the Enoch Miller Planing Mill at North 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the railroad.

1888 Kurtz-Glover-Barker House; 4<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Street (19); built for Luther D. Kurtz; Queen Anne shaped building with four gables trimmed with scalloped siding, frame structure with central hallway (22)

Green Grove School House; one-room school house (19); "Mr. Enoch Miller, contractor, erected the present building for \$2,200. The price was deemed exorbitant by a minority of the tax payers who severely criticized the Board of Directors. More recent opinion is very commendatory." (10)

1889 First Farmer's Bank-Orren House, 407 Chestnut (now the Tattoo Parlor); ornate, three-story brick structure with date at top (6,19,22)

Schoch-Koons House, 408 Chestnut Street; built for a residence, a post office, and a printing business - rectangular building, brick construction with Victorian detail at the roof and a squared bay window on the second floor (22)

1890 The 1890 Census is incomplete and there is no record for Enoch Miller

John Beard Residence, 431 Chestnut Street; a fine Queen Anne built for lawyer Beard and, upon his death, transferred to the town for a civic center, Beard Community Center (22)

1891 Lincoln Chapel (Methodist), near Laurelton; "unusually attractive Gothic edifice designed by Mifflinburg's noted architect and builder" (22)

Enoch Miller elected treasurer of Mifflinburg Lodge No. 370, E.&A.M. for 1892. (14:December 15, 1891)

1892 Enoch Miller "re-modeling Mr. J.O. Glover's business building" near Third and Chestnut streets; "Frank H. Forster, a successful merchant, will take

possession for a term of years.” (14:April 22 & July 8, 1892)

1893 Methodist Church, 279 Market Street; “Gothic design by the town’s eminent architect and builder - the charm of his edifice remains undimmed” (17); was Wesley United Methodist, today is Mifflinburg United Methodist? (16) “The present 1893 Gothic structure was designed and built by Enoch Miller.” (6)

Presbyterian-Kreisher House, 321 Market Street; Queen Anne style frame residence erected for the First Presbyterian Church parsonage; high gables, delicate wood trim (22)

1894 Wesley Methodist? (18)

1895 Parsonage, German Reformed Church, 411 Market Street; just east of the church; Enoch Miller assigned his master woodworkers, Mike Noll and Eli Groover, and it remains an ornament today (17,18); decorative details blend elements of Victorian and Queen Anne styles - interior wood-work combines oak, cherry and chestnut - original porch (22)

1898- First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 404 Market Street; Enoch Miller as builder, not architect; J. A. Dempwolf of York, architect; church with the clock tower; Miller not mentioned in the history (1992) describing the dedication on November 4, 1900 (6)

1899 Union National Bank of Lewisburg, 311 Market Street; designed in Beaux Arts style with characteristic cross-hatching over round-top windows and flat pilasters (22). In the UCHS Past Perfect database, there is a bond binding Enoch Miller to build a brick and stone building and a second document showing a payment of \$2000 made to Enoch Miller in February 1900 (12)

1900 Census, #312, Enoch Miller is listed as a manufacturer of sash, doors, etc. (4)

1900 Census, #312, Enoch Miller is listed as a manufacturer of sash, doors, etc. (4)

1900 Lutheran Church, Lewistown (possibly St. John’s at corner of North Main Street and Third Avenue) (12,18)

1900- Probably some time in this next decade, Enoch Miller is also credited with building a Reformed Church in McEwensville, a Sunday School Room for a Reformed Church in Lewistown, a Church at Renovo, and a Catholic Church at Lock Haven (12,18)

1903 United Church of Christ (Reformed), Lewisburg (12,18,19)

1904 Kurtz-Delaney House, 253 Chestnut Street; “Erected by Newton Kurtz (Enoch Miller, builder) ...it reflects both the simplicity of the Classical Revival and

the Queen Anne of the previous decade, notably, the turret.” (22)

Mifflin County Courthouse, Lewistown; “The remodeling of the Court House at Lewistown was the last work contracted by this firm” (12); unable to confirm; certainly not the “last work” of the firm

1906 Dr. Charles Dimm Residence (later Bidlack house); 307 Chestnut Street; plans by architect J.A. Dempwolf of York, built by Enoch Miller; Flemish flair of overhanging roof, colored glass windows of Queen Anne mode (18,19,22)

1909 White Springs School House (10,18,19)

1910 Census lists Enoch Miller, age 74, an Employer, Manufacturer/ Planing Mill; daughter Virginia B, age 41, living in the same house but no one else (4)

1913 Sanborn map of Mifflinburg dated July 1913 shows details of the Enoch Miller Planing Mill on the northwest corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the Railroad; comments: No Watchman. Heat & Power - Steam. Fuel - Coal & Shavings. Lights: Kerosene. 150’ 2½” hose. 12 Chemical Fire Buckets. Dwelling and office clearly marked; they both exist today.

1916- Mifflinburg Silk Mill, southeast corner of Walnut and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets; “Its founder was F. Q. Hartman. J. Merrill Barber directed the brickwork, and Enoch Miller, the woodwork” (6,17); today it is an apartment building.

1920 Census lists Enoch Miller, age 84, address 537 Market Street, as an Employer; Occupation: Builder; Industry: Home; daughter Maize C. “Mary” Badger, age 61, widow, living in the same house (4)

1921 Enoch Miller sold the Planing Mill to Ruhl, Watson & Phillips; transfer deed dated December 29, 1921 (21); the new owners built an addition onto the main frame building and this building burned in 1924. (8: November 7, 1996)

1923 Enoch Miller died on October 12 at age 87; the funeral was held on October 15 at St. John’s Reformed Church, Mifflinburg. He is buried in the family plot in the Woodlawn Cemetery (Mifflinburg Cemetery) where there is a nice monument bearing the family name. (15)

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### **Acknowledgements**

I am grateful to Bob and Dianne Lynch of Mifflinburg for their interest in Enoch Miller and his Planing Mill and for their enthusiasm and assistance for this project. They found interesting items in the Mifflinburg Telegraph and elsewhere and generously made copies for me. They assured me I was on the right track just when I needed it most. I also want to thank Tom Greaves; first, for drawing my attention to Enoch Miller; second, for continually encouraging me through numerous drafts; and third, for his expert editing and photography. At several points, I was overwhelmed and he kept me going.



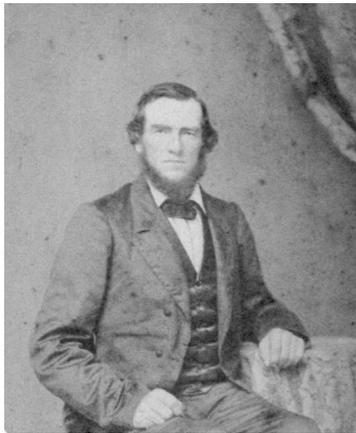
## A Granddaughter and a Barn, 120 years later

by

**Michael & Carol Manbeck**

Owning property with vintage buildings comes with a level of responsibility, a responsibility to preserve the history and memories they embody as best we can. Sometimes those moments long since passed are significant. Sometimes they are just everyday life that, at the time, seem mundane or meaningless. But, many years later as we learn or recall them, they turn into treasures, a glimpse into life in the past or a trail of things that would become significant to future generations.

My wife Carol and I are blessed to own such a property on Airport Road in Buffalo Township just west of Lewisburg for the last 21 years. Our house was originally commissioned and owned by Joseph Wheeler Shriner in the mid 1860's, although the property certainly had other existing buildings when he purchased it. Most likely the barn predates the house.



Joseph Wheeler Shriner (November 12, 1824 – March 15, 1897) and  
Ann Elizabeth Kremer Shriner (December 4, 1824 – April 19, 1905)

Joseph W. Shriner's life is outlined well in many sources like the *History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys of Pennsylvania*, *Directory of Prominent Business Places in Lewisburg*, *The Industries of Pennsylvania*, *Union County a Bicentennial History* and obituaries. It is clear that Joseph Shriner was a prominent figure in the local business world in the late 1800's. His endeavors include partner in Geddes, Marsh & Company who built the Dry Valley iron

furnace in Winfield, partner in Slifer, Walls & Shriner, manufacturers of farm machinery in Lewisburg, and operator of Lewisburg Water Mills, a feed mill in Buffalo Township at the site most recently known as Campbell's Mill. Mr. Shriner also operated a dairy farm in Buffalo Township adjacent to the mill.

Joseph and his wife Ann Elizabeth had nine children, only three of which survived into adulthood. One of their daughters, Sarah Julia, married Rev. Dr. John Wesley Rue a Methodist minister. My wife and I had the great fortune of making the acquaintance of Sarah and John's grandson, John (Jack) Wesley Rue II and his wife Helen in 2002. Jack was an historian and keeper of many family artifacts. He valued the genuine interest Carol and I had in our property and its history. He was eagerly willing to share all he had and knew. One item that I found particularly interesting was an essay his aunt, Elizabeth Rue, wrote as a 14-year-old girl in 1897. She titled it "My Grandfather's Barn." It was presumably a school assignment and was written after Joseph's death. Please enjoy a glimpse into the past through the eyes and spirit of a teenage girl in the closing days of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.



Shriner Barn in the late 1800's as it would have looked to Elizabeth

**My Grandfather's Barn (Joseph Shriner, Lewisburg, PA)****By Elizabeth Rue (age 14)****October 21, 1897**

I have always lived a great ways from my grandfather's farm, and, of course when I visit there it is always a great source of joy to me. To get out in the country and walk in the beautiful lanes and play on the grass almost any child, that lives in the city, would enjoy it. We were always playing a great many new games and doing a great many things new to us, but one we enjoyed the most was playing in the barn.

In my grandfather's barn, one section of the building was used for the carriage house, and in this was the carriage, two buggies, a milk wagon, two farm wagons, two sleighs called cutters, and one very large sleigh, beside a hay wagon, and the funniest kind of a buggy I ever saw, we children called it the "ark".

This ark was a very high buggy that had been used long, long ago, I am not sure but that it belonged to my great, great grandfather. It was so old and rickety we were not allowed to get in it for fear of it coming down with us.

We each one used to take a carriage to our self, and call them our houses, the big carriage was the church, the milk wagon was a store, because it had a money drawer in it, and so went on and named all the wagons.

I remember one day above all the others which I will tell you about, now our grandmother had forbidden us to go up in the hay mow, but this day which I am speaking of grandma had gone to town and our nurse said we might go to the barn with our dollies but be sure and don't get in the ark, never thinking about telling us not to go in the hay mow.

We played with our dolls a while, but we soon got tired of it for one of the boys had been quarrelling with another one and of

course you know that is never interesting to girls, so we took our dolls out for a walk around the barn, now the carriage house opens right out on the road, and to get to the other side of the barn you had to open a big gate or either climb the fence and we girls didn't propose to do that.

So we went through the gate and of course never closed it and the cows got out and did a great deal of damage. We went in the great sliding door past the threshing machine and engine and all the other machinery, to where stood a great pile of straw and up this we crept until we came to the second floor. All the while we were climbing the straw the boys (for they of course had followed us) were trying to scare us by saying that there was a snake in the hay, but we girls did not scare the way the boys wished us to, for we hurried upstairs instead of going back. As there was a new cousin with us we took her through the granaries and then to another door, of which outside, down a few feet was an immense hay stack, onto which we all jumped.

I will never forget what a delightful sensation one has in dropping through the air, no swing was ever equal to it. We forgot all about the time until someone called, lookout here comes your grandfather down the lane. My but we did scamper but it was too late, we were caught. And we were treated something like the old woman in the shoe treated her children, we were given some bread and milk and some hickory oil (Do you know what that is?) and put to bed, where we remained until next morning. Thus ended my happiest experience in "My Grandfather's Barn".

She was born Julia Elizabeth Rue in 1883. After writing this essay she went on to study at Lycoming College (Williamsport) and Pennsylvania College (Gettysburg) to become a teacher. She married Samuel Arnold Helmbold on June 20, 1907 and had two children, William Clark (1908) and Margaret Louise (1909).

She taught in Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Delaware. She died in 1968 a resident of Wilmington, DE.



Sarah Shriner Rue, William Clark Helmbold, Elizabeth Rue Helmbold  
(Photo from the collection of Alexandra Genetti, step-daughter of William Helmbold)

It is my hope that what is now “my barn” can continue to generate the kind of memories expressed by Elizabeth. Maybe even for my grandchildren.



Manbeck Barn in 2012 after renovations

## **Acknowledgments**

I would like to recognize the late Jack and Helen Rue of Easton, MD for preserving the history and memories of Joseph Shriner and his descendants. It was through their care and efforts that we have the pictures of Joseph and Ann and their homestead, and the essay by Elizabeth. I would also like to thank Alexandra Genetti of Sonoma County, CA for providing pictures and additional information for Elizabeth Rue's life and descendants.

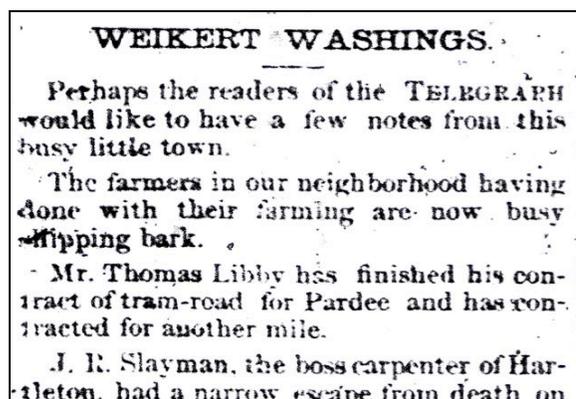
## Taming Union County's Back Country

by

**Jonathan D. Bastian**

While the American West had multiple mass migrations of settlers seeking new opportunities for prosperity, the western end of Union County had its own westward migration. The West End is a natural resource hot zone. While coal was king and not found in Union County, lumber was clearly “queen” and this county had miles of virgin timber. Pardee and Laurelton both became home to important logging operations bringing jobs and immigration to the quiet and sparsely populated region of Penn's Woods. This article provides an opportunity to step back in time and into the shoes of the men and women who made Pardee, Laurelton and Weikert an important chapter in the story of the American industrial era and ultimately what it is today.

The peopling of the western end of Union County is a storied history. The earliest settlers migrated there and began staking their claim to land. In the 1814 Assessment there were 97 householders in what is now Hartley Twp. Even at that time there were numerous farmers, ten employed by sawmills, three in gristmills, six were



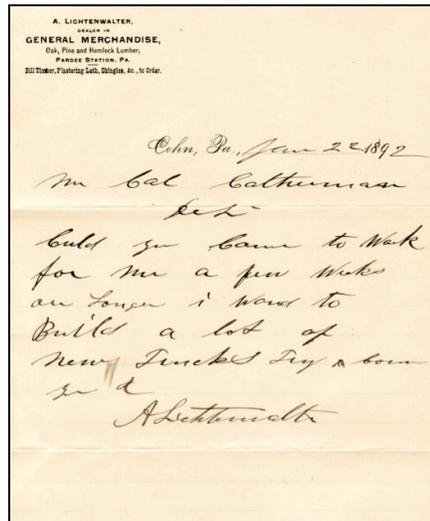
Local residents practiced a variety of jobs, as illustrated in this excerpt from *The Mifflinburg Telegraph*, Dec. 19, 1883

weavers, four were distillers, four were leather workers and four were shoemakers. There were also several carpenters, blacksmiths and coopers. The earliest names include Boop, Braucher, Catherman, Cook, Corl, Dorman, Frederick, Glover, Hoffman,

Galer (Kaler), Heise, Hendricks, Keister, Gleckner, Klingman, Lincoln, Miller, Reed, Rote, Roush, Royer, Ruhl, Schnure, Shively, Showalter, Smith, Spigelmyer, Stitzer, Voneida, Wise, Weiker, and Zimmerman.

A common discussion point among West End locals is the “Maine Men”. They suggest that there was an influx of laborers from Maine who came to Pennsylvania and settled in western Union County to work for the lumber companies in the late 1800s. Yet in a review of census documents a slightly different picture emerges. It is necessary to mention a few notable “Maine Men” including the Libbys, Rotes, Marstons, and Fessendens. However, the vast majority of the Maine migration occurred in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when hard-working laborers settled in Williamsport and Selinsgrove. Besides settlers originally of Maine, there were those from Germany such as Philip Blazer and Benjamin Cohn as well as Thomas O’Hare from Ireland.

As mentioned earlier, the lumbering industry was a focal point for employment. Once again, census documents suggest that a significant portion of working adults were farmers or day laborers. Men needed to support their families and this sometimes required multiple means of income. Farmers were also day laborers and both of these occupations were intertwined within the lumbering industry. One clear example is in correspondence in 1892 from Albert Lichtenwalter, superintendent of the lumbering



“Jan 22 1892 Mr. Cal Catherman Could you come to work for me a few weeks or longer I want to build a lot of new trucks ...”  
A Lichtenwalter

operation at Pardee, to Mr. Calvin Catherman. Albert wrote to ask Calvin to build him more logging trucks. In another document Harvey Boop described his dad's work to include work as a stonemason, fishing, trapping to sell furs, selling maple candy he made, and providing butchering services.

Both men and women worked to provide for their families and put food on the table. There are photographs of log trains loaded with huckleberry pickers eager to



Pardee Lumber Company Climax 121 at Pardee Station - Local residents took advantage of the tram trains to go on blueberry picking excursions.

capture the harvest of this natural fruit that was plentiful in the clear-cut regions of the mountains. In an interview (date uncertain) by Louise Goehring Scott, a family reports that they gathered a lot of food including huckleberries, elderberries, dewberries, and fox grapes, producing maple syrup, alcohol in the form of hard cider, and blackberry wine. They also made their own vinegar. The creek provided bountiful fishing opportunities including eel fishing. Meals were from the creek or the woods.

### **Rise of Mills**

When western Union County was first settled in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, farming was the primary means of subsistence, as the region was isolated from

the resources and markets of the larger towns and cities. To meet the needs of the farmers and to utilize the harvests various mills were built that provided a destination for the farmer's products. Michael Shirtz built a grist and sawmill along Laurel Run near the Seven Mile Narrows. Then in 1800 Adam Wilt took over the business and added a hotel. This larger operation was subsequently sold to Henry Roush who enlarged the enterprise to include a store and distillery. This was considered the principal enterprise in western Union County until 1839 when George Braucher built the Free Mill in Slabtown, in the present day Laurelton. The Free Mill was a three-storied building and since it was closer to Penns Creek this mill was able to outperform Roush's operation. Other mill owners included Thomas Fredrick, David Smith, Jesse Hendricks, and John Galer.

With surplus grain available, distilling of whiskey became an important industry. According to one description, "This article was in daily use by nearly all the male inhabitants. It was supposed to furnish the motive-power in all undertakings that required severe physical exertion. A harvest could not be cut or housed, a log cabin raised or an ark turned without its invigorating influence. At all public gatherings, such as venues, militia musters, elections, etc., it was freely used and its exhilarating influence found vent in the fights which were common on such occasions."<sup>1</sup> In 1829, there were twelve distilleries within Hartley Township.

Penns Creek was declared a public highway as early as 1771 and by 1792 the declaration was extended to Spring Mills. Before the railroad, Penns Creek was used as the primary means of transportation to float logs cut from the western reaches of Union County down to a sawmill near Selinsgrove in the 1850s. Arks were also utilized to transport goods from the farming communities down to cities along the Susquehanna River and even to Baltimore. R.V.B. Lincoln stated "John Fisher was a man of

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<sup>1</sup> Ellis, F., & Hungerford, A. N. (1886). *History of that part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys: Embraced in the counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania* (Vol. 2). Philadelphia: Everts, Peck & Richards.

enterprise and a leading man in the community. He ran arks down Penns Creek laden with wheat, flour, whiskey, butter and other productions of the county.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Railroads and Tram Roads**

When the Railroad arrived to Millmont in 1875 and then Spring Mills only two years later, the opportunities and way of life for Western Union County saw a revolution. The railroad provided a more reliable and less expensive means of transporting lumber, iron, grain and people to and from this remote section of the



Weikert RR station. William McColm and George W. Sholter

Commonwealth. In conjunction with the railroad, so too did the logging industry blossom. The Laurelton Lumber Company was officially formed in 1890. Whitmer and Steele also began in 1890 while the Pardee Lumber Company began a few years earlier in about 1886. It is without a doubt that Laurelton profited more from the lumbering era than Pardee, Weikert or Laurel Run. Laurelton was the site of blacksmith shops, saddler’s hop, foundries, shoemaker, flouring mill, general stores, drug stores, a school, churches, other businesses, and a physician.

This industrial revolution was not without destruction of both men and buildings. Fires ravaged various mills while the professions were inherently dangerous and led to many deaths, amputations, and career-altering injuries. The logging industry was likely

<sup>2</sup> Ellis, F., & Hungerford, A. N. (1886). *History of that part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys: Embraced in the counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania* (Vol. 2). Philadelphia: Everts, Peck & Richards.

the most dangerous of the industries in central Pennsylvania. Clear cutting of the mountains south of Penns Creek began when the railroad arrived and provided a means of transportation for equipment and the wood products harvested from the wild areas. Rail access extended from Lewisburg up to Millmont in 1875 and continued to Spring Mills by 1877.

Three major logging companies, Laurelton Lumber Company, Whitmer & Steele Company and the Pardee Lumber Company were each responsible for clearing thousands of acres of forestland. These companies used narrow gauge tramlines which weaved their way over mountains and through gaps, sometimes running through streams and in other places utilized elaborate trestle systems to satisfy a need to haul logs down to their mills. The Laurelton company had approximately 38 miles of tram lines while the Pardee Lumber Company was responsible for over 80 miles which were jointly used by the Whitmer & Steele Company as well as for their own use. These tramlines and the act of 'wildcatting' which was the use of a small wooden cart with a handbrake to control the speed of loaded log trains returning by gravity back to the mill was the source of many injuries and deaths. The articles in local newspapers do not leave out many details. The article published in the *Mifflinburg Telegraph* around January 22<sup>nd</sup> of 1892 indicates that William Jordon was "almost instantly killed, having had his breast caved in and head mashed." Only a few months later, Lincoln Smith's death noticed in the same paper indicates he was thrown beneath the train and ground to death by the wheels. By September of 1892, there were at least 4 deaths on the Pardee Tram system.

Fortunately, there was a calmer side to Taming the Back Country. The late 1800s was a time of development and enterprise. Those early developments have already been described. However, once the railroad came to town, a new wave of business sprang up. By 1888, The Mercantile Appraisal published on April 30 in the *Mifflinburg Telegraph* shows four stores in Pardee under the ownership of William Johnson Jr, Benjamin Cohn, William Harman, and Albert Lichenwalter. Weikert was home to two others while Cherry Run had a store under the ownership of D. C. Johnson.

As the logging companies began to close down due to lack of resources and financial challenges, the economic prosperity also began to change. The hard-working men and women rather suddenly found themselves without outside income and their

ability to help sustain numerous retail establishments quickly vanished. Over the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Laurelton, Pardee and Weikert saw a contraction in their growth. But, this would not be the end of these communities.

The Great Depression is not remembered for prosperity or flourishing small businesses. Yet, in Pardee there was a rekindling of opportunities and enterprise. As part of the Federal Government's programs to resolve the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) was created to provide jobs to men.<sup>3</sup> As part of this program the men would be housed in camps often located in more remote areas since the goal was to create or improve parks and the infrastructure associated with our natural resources. One such camp was located at the present day Union County Sportsman's Club. Since this is only a very short distance from the village of Pardee, the men of this



Tharp's Beer Garden in the village of Pardee. Photo appears to have been taken in the 1920s or 1930s

camp would journey over the Pardee on the weekends to enjoy their time off. Tharp's Beer Garden was a common destination and well known throughout the region as the place to go on a weekend night. The re-energizing of Pardee did not last very long and once again the village began to fade back into the wilderness and revert to a small quiet lane lined with cabins and only a few permanent residences.

The development and economic improvements to western Union County, which peaked during the late 1800s, brought about prosperity, hardship, and death. With any

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<sup>3</sup> For more information on Weikert's former CCC camp see *The CCC Camps of Union County (1933 -1942)* by Tony Shively; *Heritage*, Vol. 28, Union County Historical Society, 2003

rise comes a fall. Since the time of the Great Depression, employment opportunities within the West End have dwindled and the region is slowly returning to a calm, quiet corner of the Buffalo Valley.



Entering Bald Eagle State Forest - Caption could read: While the logging industry brought people to the West End, the formation of the Bald Eagle State Forest has allowed this region to remain accessibly wild and continues to provide endless opportunities for outdoor recreation and exploration of the natural world.

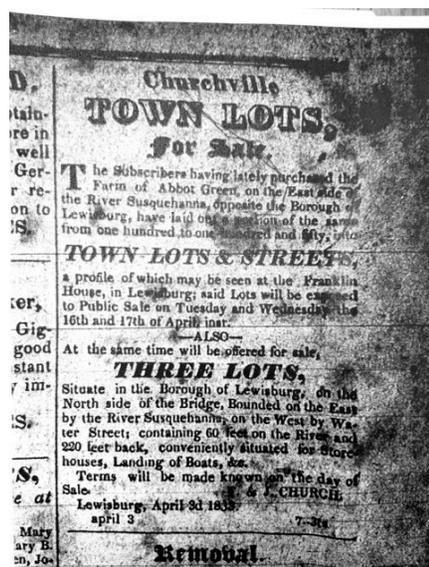
✧ **ACCOUNTS** ✧



30, 1833, directly across the river from Lewisburg. Their drawing shows 160 numbered lots, with named streets and alleys, running along the south side of the crosscut canal.

Starting near the banks of the Susquehanna, roughly where May's Drive-In is currently located at the end of the Lewisburg bridge, Churchville is on the south side of Route 45, stretching east towards Montandon. Today, this locale is undeveloped, unoccupied, and uncultivated land, with no visible signs that there was ever a town, or even a single building, on that property.

Maps are not the only testimony pertaining to the town of Churchville. The April 3, 1833 edition of *The Lewisburg Journal and Union County Advocate*<sup>2</sup> contains an ad placed by Francis and Jeremiah Church ("the Subscribers") heralding the birth of this new community and announcing that the lots would be available to purchase at a public sale in two weeks.



This is followed by an article in the April 24 edition of *The Journal* proudly proclaiming that the property sale was a resounding success and excitedly announcing that houses will be constructed on the land in the immediate future. (see photo, p. 4)

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blue colored pencil accents, but it contains no name of the "artist," date of creation, or other background information.) See also partial picture on p. 8 of this article.

<sup>2</sup> Microfilm collection of newspapers in the Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library at Bucknell University.

So, who are “Messrs. J. and F. Church,” founders of this Pennsylvania town that bears their name? According to a journal left by Jerry (Jeremiah) Church,<sup>3</sup> they are brothers who grew up in Jerico, now Bainbridge, in Chenango County, New York. Their eldest brother, Robert Church, and a sister, Elizabeth Church, settled in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, across the river from Harrisburg. Robert’s Pennsylvania home functioned as a frequent refuge for Jerry throughout the years whenever he was ill or destitute.

Jerry appears to have been an eccentric entrepreneur whose primary skill was salesmanship. Though he sometimes peddled merchandise door to door, he never seemed to make much profit in this line of work, and he was perpetually broke.

“About the first of January 1831, my brother Francis came to Harrisburg from the state of New York with a fine horse and sleigh, going to the South and wished me to go with him. I told him that I could not go, for I had no money to go with. He said that made no difference for he had money enough for us both and I must go with him. He said that he intended to go into some speculation in some way, but could not tell what it would be, until something turned up in our travels, that we could make money at.”<sup>4</sup>

The two brothers then trekked extensively around the country during a period when America was rapidly expanding. Along the way, they were introduced to property speculation and decided to venture into the field of “land prospecting” as a profession. They purchased acreage, divided it into lots and sold them in Tennessee, as well as Illinois. Then they returned to Pennsylvania in 1833 to try their hand at turning a profit on sales in the Commonwealth.

That year was very eventful in the life of the Church brothers. Immediately before drawing up the plot for Churchville they bought a farm adjoining the borough of Williamsport and laid out what they called “Church’s addition” to that town.

“The next town we made our appearance in was Lewisburg, formerly called Derrstown. We there made a purchase of one hundred and twenty-five acres of land, of Gen. Green, at forty-five dollars per acre, laying on both sides of the cross-cut, from the end of the bridge to the Pennsylvania canal, opposite the town of Lewisburg...”<sup>5</sup>

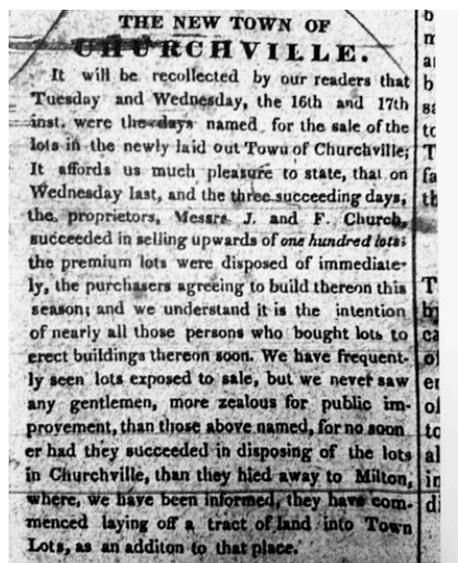
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<sup>3</sup> Jerry Church, *Journal of Travels, Adventures, and Remarks, of Jerry Church* (Harrisburg, 1845). Accessed online December 17, 2016 at <https://babel.hathitrust.org>. Digitized by Google, Original from Penn State.

<sup>4</sup> Church, pp. 18-19.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 37.

Following this, as the previously cited April 24 *Lewisburg Journal* article states (below), “they hied away to Milton, where, we have been informed, they have commenced laying off a tract of land into Town Lots, as an addition to that place.”



Later the same year, Francis Church moved west to Clark County, Missouri. In September of 1833 he surveyed and laid out a second town called Churchville in that state. The Church family name bestowed on this Missouri town, however, was not destined to survive. “About 1848 or prior thereto the name of [Churchville] was dropped by the common consent of the people and that of Alexandria adopted for the whole town. The change of name was made on account of the alleged improper domestic relations of the original proprietor of the town.”<sup>6</sup>

Jerry Church, on the other hand, remained in Pennsylvania where he subsequently expanded his land speculation team to include his youngest brother, Willard Church. They jointly founded the town of Lock Haven in October, 1833, where Jerry continued to live for more than a decade. During his tenure there he advocated strongly for the formation of Clinton County, which was created from portions of Centre and Lycoming Counties.<sup>7</sup> There was much opposition to the creation of this new

<sup>6</sup> *A Directory of Towns, Villages, and Hamlets, Past and Present, of Clark County, Missouri*, compiled by Arthur Paul Moser. Accessed online December 18, 2016 at <https://thelibrary.org/lochist/moser/clarkpl.html>.

<sup>7</sup> John Blair Linn, *History of Centre and Clinton Counties Pennsylvania*, (J. B. Lippincott & Co, Philadelphia, 1883), see map between pages 526 and 527.

district, directed specifically at Jerry, as reflected in an article in the *Democrat* on March 26, 1839.

“A gentleman from away down east (Jeremiah Church), who has traveled in different parts of the United States laying out towns has laid out one on the Susquehanna and desires to enhance the value of his lots and make a speculation; hence the project of clipping Centre County and enriching himself at the expense of her citizens.”<sup>8</sup>

Jerry eventually emigrated west in 1846 and founded several other towns,<sup>9</sup> ultimately settling in the territory of Iowa where he founded a city named Carlisle. He then remained in that area for most of the rest of his life.<sup>10</sup>

Jerry states that in the meantime (1833) his brother Willard “married a lady living near Milton, Pennsylvania. His wife [Mary A. Montgomery<sup>11</sup>] had an interest in a store with her brother Robert Montgomery. Of course [Willard] became a partner in the store, in the town of Milton, as large as life. They concluded they would move their store to our new town of Lock Haven, and did so; but it did not last long.” This is because Willard and his family lived beyond their means and failed to pay for the merchandise in their store. So, the sheriff seized their goods and sold everything to pay their debts. Willard, his wife, and brother-in-law then emigrated west, joined Francis in the state of Missouri, and settled there.<sup>12</sup>

This is the story of the family that founded the town of Churchville and bestowed their name on it, but it is not the last word about the community from one of the Church brothers. In his journal, Jerry writes:

“...Having been in the habit of making towns, we concluded that we could make one most anywhere, and we thought we would try a small one in opposition to the one on the other side of the river – Lewisburg. However, we did not frighten them much as a rival, but we got their feelings raised and blood up, so that they bought of us at beautiful prices. There was one gentleman who purchased seventeen acres at one hundred dollars per acre, the next day after we had bought it at forty-five. We laid out the balance into streets, alleys, and out-lots, and

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<sup>8</sup> Linn, p. 82.

<sup>9</sup> J. F. Meginness, *Otzinachson; A History of the West Branch Valley of the Susquehanna* (Henry B. Ashmead, Philadelphia, 1857), p. 447.

<sup>10</sup> Find A Grave Memorial #133218409 for Willard Church (1808-1851), accessed online December 18, 2016 at <http://www.findagrave.com>.

<sup>11</sup> John W. Jordan, *Genealogical and Personal History of Northern Pennsylvania*, Volume III, (1913), p. 937.

<sup>12</sup> Church, page 44.

called it Churchville. We sold out the whole purchase in two weeks, and made some money, but not much of a town.”<sup>13</sup>

It is difficult to confirm the accuracy of Jerry’s statements regarding his profits from the sales of land in Churchville, because only a single deed documenting the purchase of any property there is on record in the Northumberland County Courthouse. Curiously, it details the sale of thirty-three lots in Churchville by Abbot Green and his wife Margaret to Jeremiah Church on May 7, 1833, for “five hundred dollars in gold or silver money,” as well as the subsequent sale of the same thirty-three lots by Jeremiah Church to Alexander Graham on May 28, 1835, for \$280.00! This entire transaction was recorded in January of 1836 in a single document.<sup>14</sup> No other deeds pertaining to Churchville or the Church brothers are contained in the Northumberland County records.

Viewed as a whole, it is clear that the Church brothers had a financial investment in Churchville, in the short run, but they had no vested interest in its ultimate success in the long run. Put in plain and simple language, they were solely land speculators out to make a dime and line their own pockets.

That begs the question, however, of what happened to Churchville. Years later Jerry Church stated, “It was a very pleasant place for a town, but there were no houses built in it but one, I believe, and that was a hotel; and in order to let the people know that that was the town of Churchville, the proprietor of the house had the name written on a large sign – ‘CHURCHVILLE HOTEL,’ and I am very thankful to the gentleman for keeping up appearances.”<sup>15</sup>

According to the April 24 article in the *Lewisburg Journal*, previously cited, the Churchville lots sold almost immediately, and the owners indicated plans to build right away. Why, then, was nothing besides a hotel constructed? In his *History of Northumberland County*, Herbert C. Bell suggests a reason. He indicates that this planned community constituted the earliest attempt to locate a settlement on the east side of the river between Milton and Northumberland. “This effort to establish a town no doubt indicated considerable enterprise on the part of the projectors, but the place

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<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, page 38.

<sup>14</sup> Deed Book, Vol. Z (1836), pp. 476-477, Northumberland County Courthouse, Sunbury, Pennsylvania,

<sup>15</sup> Church, p. 38

failed to materialize, owing in all probability to the fact that the country was not so thickly settled at that time as to require an intermediate trading point between Milton and Northumberland.”<sup>16</sup>

The fact remains, however, that an “intermediate trading point” was already in existence on the west side of the Susquehanna, a place christened the Port of Lewisburg when the crosscut canal was constructed in 1833. The crosscut was aimed directly at that prospective commercial center.<sup>17</sup> Though Lewisburg was already emerging as an established settlement by that time, perhaps the Church brothers overlooked or underestimated its importance as a competitor with their planned community. Jerry’s statement that “we did not frighten them much as a rival, but we got their feelings raised and blood up, so that they bought of us at beautiful prices” is open to interpretation. Could he have meant that the good citizens of Lewisburg bought up the property in Churchville, but never built houses there, in order to prevent the establishment of a rival community that might have meant competition for them?

We will probably never know the real reason for Churchville’s failure to spring to life and thrive during the 1830s, but we do know it was dealt a final death blow three decades later. That becomes apparent in a document included with the Churchville maps. This is addressed to the “Honorable [sic.] Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace of the County of Northumberland at August Sessions A. D. 1861.” It is a “Petition of John Kinkead to have certain streets & alleys in Churchville vacated.” The document states:

“The Petition of John Kinkead respectfully represents that about the year 1833 the town of Churchville in Chillisquaque Township in said County of North’d. was laid out, but streets and alleys never opened and nor was said plan of a town built up That said petitioner is owner of nearly all the said territory

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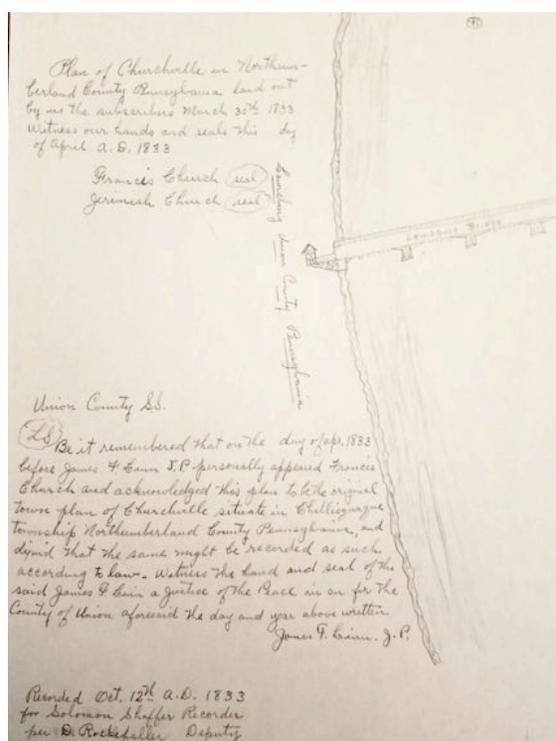
<sup>16</sup> Herbert C. Bell, *History of Northumberland County Pennsylvania* (Brown, Runk & Co., 1881), pp. 720, 723.

<sup>17</sup> With the creation of the crosscut, Lewisburg then had direct access to the canal system, as illustrated on the map. This entrée was unavailable prior to the crosscut because the West Branch portion of the Pennsylvania Canal, from Northumberland to Muncy, was actually built east of the Susquehanna River, not directly adjacent to it. The distance between the river and the canal, on the Northumberland County side of the Susquehanna, was approximately three-quarters of a mile. When the crosscut was constructed that opened the door for Lewisburg to utilize the waterway. Once it was connected to the main canal system this critical linkage enabled the town both to gain admittance to a major transportation thoroughway for its use and to become accessible to others utilizing the canal system. For more information see *The Amazing Pennsylvania Canals, 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition* (American Canal and Transportation Center, March 2001) by William H Shank, P.E., and “How Lewisburg Became A Canal Port” by J. Orin Oliphant (Northumberland County Historical Society, 1996).

embracing said Churchville and uses the same as a farm. He therefore prays the Court to appoint viewers to view and vacate that part of Market st. extending from East corner of lot No7 to the West branch Canal also that part of Jackson street between Franklin alley and canal alley also that part of Franklin Alley between Jackson street and Cherry Alley and also that part of Cherry Alley between Franklin Alley and Market street, and make return of their proceedings according to law.”

This record functions as the official obituary of Churchville, a town that died without having ever lived, and which was then ultimately subsumed within a local farmer’s field.

There is one remaining chapter, however, in the history of Churchville – the mystery of the maps. Both copies of the historical society maps that led to this investigation are clearly much more recent than 1833, which is given as the date when the original plan was drawn up. The WPA map shown at the beginning of this article is dated as 1939, a century after the original plan was created, and the other map (pictured in part below), is undated, but is obviously not vintage. There is no information with either copy to explain why it was created or where the original map from which each was drawn is located.



When Bell wrote his History of Northumberland County in 1881 he described the original plan in some detail and stated that it is on record in the “county archives” at

Sunbury; however, there is no map in the Northumberland County Courthouse, nor is there a copy of the deed for this land.<sup>18</sup> Those records have apparently been missing for decades, as they were reported to have been “detached and lost” as long ago as 1955.<sup>19</sup>

Fortunately, however, in 1833 a duplicate Churchville map was drawn up for someone in Union County at the same time the original one was created for Northumberland County. Though the site for Churchville was not in Union County, a notation on all the maps states that in April of 1833 Francis Church personally appeared before “James F. Linn, Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Union” where he “acknowledged this plan to be the original town plan of Churchville situate in Chillisquaque Township Northumberland County Pennsylvania, and desired that the same might be recorded as such according to law.” This authentic map was retained by the aforementioned James F. Linn, of Lewisburg, and eventually gifted to the archives in the Bucknell University Library by his son, Merrill W. Linn.<sup>20</sup> In April of 2011, however, it was transferred to the Northumberland County Historical Society where it is now housed in their library’s special collections.<sup>21</sup> Because of the age and condition of this map it is not openly accessible to the general public, but the society generously made it available to be photographed for inclusion in this article (see next page).

Thus ends the saga of Churchville, a Lewisburg crosscut canal community that really never was, doomed forever to an obscure existence at best, though now partially resurrected postmortem in this document.

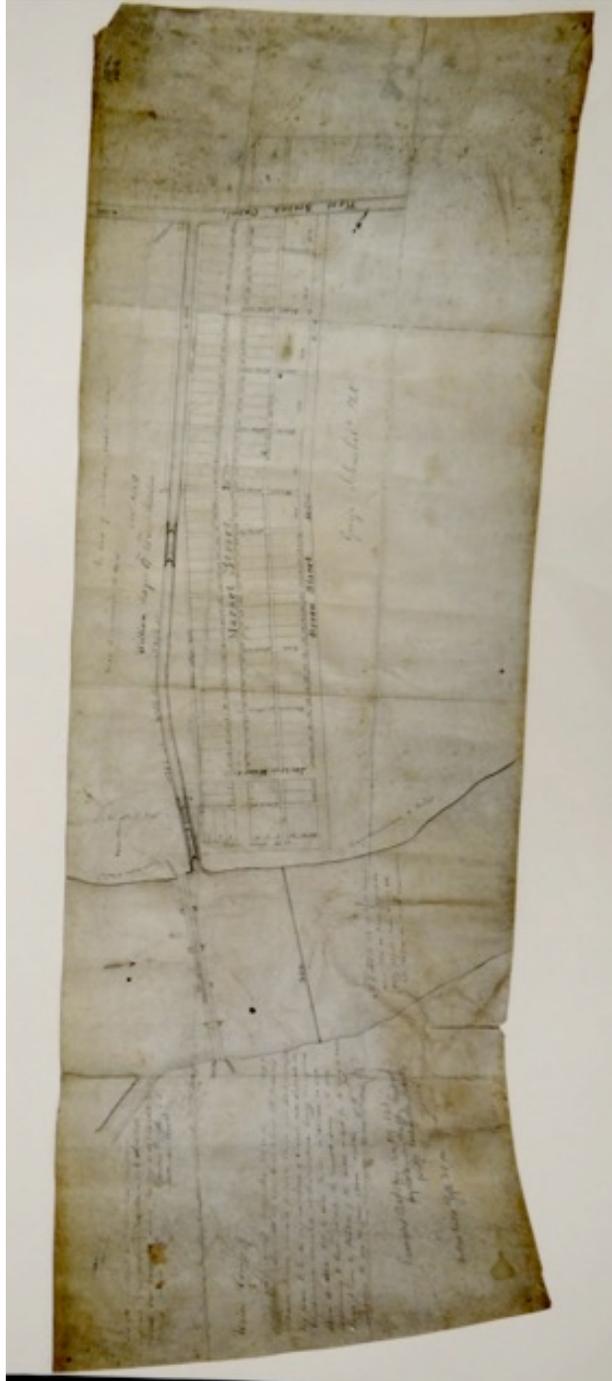
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<sup>18</sup> There is an entry for Churchville in Index Number 1, the *Index to Charters and Town Plots in Northumberland County*, which cites Vol. Z, page 20 ½ and states the record was filed Oct. 12, 1833, but no such page exists in the record book and no corresponding document could be located among the historical records from that era in the basement of the courthouse, where they are stored.

<sup>19</sup> Oliphant, p. 62; original paper presented at meeting of the Northumberland County Historical Society on November 11, 1955.

<sup>20</sup> Montandon Alumni Association, *West Chillisquaque Township, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania: The Historical Development of a Community 1700-2000*, pp. I-4, I-5.

<sup>21</sup> Information provided by Isabella O’Neil, Head of Special Collections and University Archives in the Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library at Bucknell University. According to library records it holds a “Photostat copy of [the map] for use in the library instead of original.” Additionally, the Montandon Alumni Association work cited immediately above states that the map was “reproduced by the specialist at the Bertrand Library and instructional Media Services Graphic/Photographic Services” at Bucknell, and a photograph of this is included in the Alumni Association’s publication; however, Mrs. O’Neil states the department which took the picture is no longer in existence at the university, and the aforementioned photostat copy is not currently in the library’s holdings.



The Original Town Plan of Churchville dated March 30, 1833. It appears to have been drawn up on parchment, which has a yellowed tinge to it, and over the years the ink has faded, making the detail difficult to see. The Lewisburg bridge is barely visible in this picture, however one can make out the crosscut canal extending from the Susquehanna out to the point where it forms a “T” with the West Branch Canal. Parallel to the crosscut are numbered lots, neatly laid out along Market Street and Green Street. The straight line across the river shows the location of a dam, which is not shown on the later maps.

## **Acknowledgments**

I wish to express my gratitude to the staff in the Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library at Bucknell University, the employees in the office of the Northumberland County Recorder of Deeds, and the volunteers at the Northumberland County Historical Society Library for their assistance in conducting this inquiry. Most especially, I want to thank Ann Roll at the NCHS Library. Without her skillful navigation through the detours, dead ends, and roadblocks of research this investigation would have met with an untimely demise much faster and more final than that of Churchville.



## Wir Sind Neue Berliners

by

Tom Walker

During the war years, the townsfolk of New Berlin, PA., considered a plan to change the borough's name to something less German. Or did they?

I remember my father telling this story more than once. But does proof exist that such a move was considered? Turns out, it does.



I had forgotten this tale until I read the letters my dad wrote to his parents in 1944 and 1945 when he was in the Army Air Corps. My father, Spencer W. Walker, was born in New Berlin in 1925 and buried there in 2013. His parents, Spencer M. and Fannie M., lived on Market Street until 1944 when they moved to Mifflinburg R.D. #2.

Even though Dad did not live in New Berlin after he returned from the service, he always thought of himself as a New Berliner. At the very least, he continued to play for the New Berlin town team in the West Branch League. He and my mother, the former Grace Wagner of Mifflinburg, were regular visitors to Heritage Days.

Dad wrote this in his letter of January 15, 1945:

"I received a package from you the other day with that piece from the newspaper. I mean the piece concerning the changing of New Berlin's name. What a bunch of hooey that was. Good reading though and I got a lot of laughs out of it."

So it wasn't a tale. There exists a newspaper account to back up Dad's story.

I sent an email enquiry to New Berlin resident Diane Lengle, a volunteer with the New Berlin Heritage Association. Diane replied as follows:

Per the Union County, Pa. A Celebration of History, (Penn State Press, 2000) p. 297:

"In New Berlin a movement was afoot to discard its name, since it was identified with Hohenzollern rule, and substitute 'Verdun' (one of heroic defenses by Allied troops) or 'St. Mihiel' (a spectacular counterattack by American forces). The matter was scheduled for a town meeting; but no name could be agreed upon, and the town remained New Berlin."

I'm not sure what Hohenzollern (the royal family of Germany, last in power in 1918) rule had to do with the name of a small town in Pennsylvania. Perhaps the residents didn't want an association with the city that was the seat of German rule as far back as 1417. Maybe it was a hatred of the Nazis. Or maybe none of the above.

Diane said her husband, Jim, who is president of the Heritage Association, learned from some townspeople that the name remained the same but the pronunciation changed a little. "Berlin" became "Burlin" and more accent on the first syllable and on "New." I have been hearing about New Berlin for six decades and the name has always enjoyed the Burlin pronunciation.

Unfortunately, there are no references to support the claims published in the Union County history book. No year was given for the movement afoot, so this event

could have taken place during World War I when anti-German sentiment was pervasive. But there is a clue: the reference to a town meeting.

Could a record of the meeting exist? Was the discussion recorded in meeting minutes? I called Rebecca Witmer, secretary and treasurer of the New Berlin Borough Council. Alas, the records of council meetings before 1955 were destroyed in a flood.

While all the activity described above was going on, I set out to find the article. Dad was in India in January of 1945 and he received the Sunbury Daily Item in the mail. If the article had been in the Item, he would have seen it; his parents would not have sent it to him.

I asked my cousin, Bob Stoudt, if he could find anything in the archives of the Union County Historical Society where he is a volunteer. In a February 12 email, Bob reported he had sent me a copy of an article he thought I would find interesting.

The article was in the *Williamsport Sun*, October 14, 1944. The headline tells the story:

**Union County Town Sticks to its Historic Name**

**Notwithstanding Playwright's Idea, Residents Favor Retention of New Berlin**

**New Berlin Has Had Its Name for 100 Years**

**Citizens See No Reason to Change it Now**

As the headline states, the name change idea came from a playwright, Maxwell Anderson, who suggested that towns across the United States with the name Berlin — New Berlin, Berlinville, whatever — “...bear the taint of Berlin...” and that such names are “distasteful.”

Anderson sent telegrams to the mayors and councils of 16 communities across the country. His recommendation was driven by a desire to perpetuate the memory of Distomo, a Greek village destroyed by the Nazis on June 10, 1944. German SS troops murdered 214 men, women and children in retribution for partisan raids in the area. Attempts by relatives of the victims to collect reparations for the massacre were rebuffed by courts in Greece, Germany and Italy, most recently in 2011.

Anderson was acting as chairman of the Committee for the Rebirth of Distomo. The committee included the First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, Vice President Henry Wallace, the Broadway theatrical director and producer Herman Shumlin, and the actress Helen Hayes.

It is not known if the mayor of New Berlin received Anderson's telegram. Judging by the comments reported in the Sun, however, the suggestion would not have been implemented.

Here is a sampling of what New Berliners had to say:

"If there are any changes to be made, let the name of Berlin in Germany be changed!" proffered Postmaster Joseph S. Seebold. "Does anyone realize the disruption that such a move would make in the mails alone? And how, may I ask, would it further the war effort?"

Dr. Lewis E. Wolfe, the community's only physician, had this to say: "What a narrow-minded, bigoted idea!"

Miss Susan Matilda Fries, a seamstress, says softly, "It would not seem like home."

David E. Peterson, storekeeper, asks, "What's the point?"

Joseph Van Horn, garage proprietor, exclaims, "No, sir-e-e-e!"

Mrs. J. Marlin Spangler, housewife and energetic war bond salesman, says. "There's no sane reason to change."

E.A. Snook, school principal, contends, "Very confusing."

Carl Soloman, a 12-year-old who comes from a long line of New Berlin Solomans, looked up at the reporter sheepishly as if to say, "You're kidding." There is no record of what young Carl said.

The article also reports that the name-change idea had "bobbed up" in two world wars:

"The suggestion didn't make it to first base during World War 1 and residents think it will meet the same fate in this World War.

"Some New Berlin residents point out that there are many fine people of German stock living in this country and that the quarrel is not with Germany itself or its forbearers, but with the Nazi regime.

"Another reminded us that we have had two wars with England but we didn't change English names, even those states which honored English kings and queens.

"Still another far-sighted person stated that by the time we get all of the Berlins changed over here, we'll be addressing mail to the Yanks in Berlin!"

I was still in pursuit of the article as it appeared in the Sun. I found it at the James V. Brown Library in Williamsport, where the newspaper exists on microfilm. The article includes photos of the town and of the people who were quoted. The poor quality of the microfilm renders the photos as not much more than black smudges, but their presence shows the prominence the newspaper placed on the story.

Although Anderson's campaign failed miserably, he nearly succeeded in getting the town of Berlin, Ore. renamed. Oddly, the town was not named after Berlin, Germany. Rather its name derived from Burrell's Inn, the town's former name. Residents apparently ran the words together as a verbal shortcut. A member of the local Chamber of Commerce accepted Anderson's proposal because he thought the resulting publicity would boost the area's economy. The townspeople were having nothing of it. According to newspaper accounts, residents, including a descendant of one of the Burrells of Burrell's Inn fame, petitioned the local court to prevent the name change. As one resident stated, "Maybe we'll change it and maybe we won't. But by golly, if we do, we'll do it ourselves, and not some New York playwright!" Berlin, it stayed, and Berlin it remains.

News accounts from October 1944 report that the residents of Berlins in Ohio and New Hampshire were similarly disinclined to change their town's name. An Associated Press article stated that the people of Berlin, N.H., pronounce their town name with the accent on the accent on the first syllable, same as the folks in New Berlin, PA.

The phenomenon of striking German-influenced town names was strong during World War 1. Berlins in California, Iowa and Michigan became Geneva, Lincoln and Marne, respectively. New Berlin, Ohio, became North Canton. Several Germantowns were also renamed, becoming Schroder, Texas; Garland, Neb.; and Pershing, Ind. In Canada, Berlin, Ontario, became Kitchener.

More than 90 communities in Australia shed their German names for ones that were more English or Australian sounding. The discarded place-names included Bismarck, Hamburg, Heidelberg and Rhine, along with Berlin and names combining German- with words such as Town, Gardens and Mountain.

The most aggressive attempt to obliterate German place names was reported in the *New York Times* on June 2, 1918.

With this headline, “To Strike Germany from Map of U.S.,” the Times introduced its readers to a heavy-handed attempt to force name changes through legislation. The gist of the article follows.

Representative J.M.C. Smith (1853-1923), Michigan, introduced a bill in the House to change the names of municipalities, counties, townships, streets and highways from Berlin or Germany to Liberty, Victory of some other patriotic designation.

The movement to give expression to public sentiment and oppose Germany is taking shape in the opposition to study German in elementary and secondary schools, in the change from sauerkraut to “liberty cabbage.” The Times reported that the city of Portland, Ore., had changed the Teutonic names of several of its streets and that loyal Americans with German patronyms are “striking them out.”

A study of the atlas revealed 28 places in the U.S. with “German” or some variation in the name and 30 with Berlin. Ohio had the most with nine followed by Iowa, six, Pennsylvania, five, and Wisconsin, three.

The Times identified Rep. Smith’s bill, H.R. 11,950, was referred to the Judiciary Committee. Another news account had the reference as H.R. 11,860. A search returned several legislative proposals with these numbers, none of which were the bill proposed by Rep. Smith.

Here is the text of the bill:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the names of all cities, villages, counties, townships, boroughs, and of all streets, highways, and avenues in the United States, its Territories or possessions, named Berlin or Germany, be changed from the name Berlin or Germany to the name of Liberty, Victory, or other patriotic designation.

Sec. 2. That the municipality where any of the above names occur shall forthwith upon passage of this act take proper proceedings to make the changes above specified.

Sec. 3. That from and after the passage of this act all letters or mail matter addressed to any person residing in any municipality called Berlin or Germany shall be prohibited from transportation or delivery in the United states, its Territories or possessions.

A review of Printed Hearings of the House of Representatives Found among its Committee Records in the National Archives of the United States 1824-1958 (Library of Congress) indicates that the Judiciary

Committee of the 65<sup>th</sup> Congress (1917-19) did not hold a hearing on this proposal.

This may not be relevant to the story, but Rep. Smith was an Irish immigrant, coming to the U.S. in 1855 as a two-year-old.

Freedom fries, anyone?



ACCOUNTS Vol. 7, No. 1, 2017  
Union County Historical Society

## ACCOUNTS

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### About this Issue's Authors:

**Susan Waggoner**, a native Hoosier, retired from directing public libraries and found a home in a log house on Shamokin Mountain in Union County to be near her daughter and family. She is a member of the Board of the Historical Society.

**Mike and Carol Manbeck** are residents of Buffalo Township, Union County with an active interest in preserving local history. Mike is currently serving on the Archives and Museum Committee of the Union County Historical Society. Carol was formerly the Office Manager for the Society.

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### Seeking an Editor of ACCOUNTS

The Board of the Historical Society seeks expressions of interest regarding the Editorship of ACCOUNTS of Union County History. The main duties are spotting potential articles and authors, editing their manuscripts, and assembling the twice-yearly issues. The current editor, Tom Greaves will be pleased to answer questions of those interested. The editor emphatically need not be a professional historian or published writer. Good writing and organizational skills are the main needs. Contact Tom Greaves at [greaves@bucknell.edu](mailto:greaves@bucknell.edu)

## 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.



## Index, Issue # 7-1, February, 2017

This index of ACCOUNTS articles includes place names and geographic features in Union County, the names of individuals associated with Union County, activities, institutions, and industries in the county, and events that transpired in the County.

- Arks on Penns Creek 7-1:33
- Army Air Corps 7-1:49
- Atlas of Union County 1868* 7-1:6
- Badger, Charles 7-1:10
- Badger, Miller 7-1:10
- Barber, J. Merrill 7-1:13, 21
- Bartlet, Mary (see Maria Bertolet Miller)
- Bastian, Jonathan D. (article author) 7-1:30-37
- Beard, John 7-1:19
- Bertolet, Maria (see Maria Bertolet Miller)
- Blazer, Philip 7-1:31
- Boop, Harvey 7-1:32
- Boop, Joseph (builder) 7-1:6, 17
- Braucher, George 7-1:33
- Buffalo Township 7-1:24
  - Campbell's Mill 7-1:25
- Catherman, Cal 7-1:31, 32
- Cherry Run 7-1:35
- Church, Francis 7-1:38, 40, 41, 42, 44, 46
- Church, Jerimiah 7-1:38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44
- Church, Robert 7-1:40
- Church, Willard 7-1:41, 42
- Churchville 7-1:38-48
  - Churchville maps 7-1:38, 39, 45-47
- Cohn, Benjamin 7-1:31, 35
- Dimm, Dr. Charles 7-1:21
- Dry Valley iron furnace 7-1:24
- Ebverhart, Hud 7-1:10
- Fasano, Joseph 7-1:7
- Fisher, John 7-1:33, 34
- Forster, Frank H. 7-1:19
- Fredrick, Thomas 7-1:33
- Free Mill, Slabtown (Laurelton) 7-1:33
- Fries, Susan Matilda 7-1:52
- Galer, John 7-1:33
- Gast, John Reynolds 7-1:17
- Geddes, Marsh and Company 7-1:24
- Glover, J. O. 7-1:19
- Green, Abbot 7-1:43
- Green, Gen. 7-1:40
- Green, Mary 7-1:43
- Green Grove School 7-1:19
- Groover, Eli 7-1:9, 10, 20
- Grove, Peter 7-1:7
- Hartleton
  - Lutheran church 7-1:10, 17
- Hartley Township
  - blacksmiths 7-1:30
  - carpenters 7-1:30
  - coopers 7-1:30
  - distillers, distilleries 7-1:30,33
  - early surnames 7-1:30, 31
  - gristmills 7-1:30
  - leather workers 7-1:30
  - population 1814 7-1:30
  - sawmills 7-1:30
  - shoemakers 7-1:30
  - weavers 7-1:30
- Harman, William 7-1:35
- Hartman, F. Q. 7-1:13, 21
- Hassinger, Daniel 7-1:10
- Heiter, Augustus 7-1:18
- Helmbold, Elizabeth Rue 7-1:28
- Helmbold, Margaret Louise 7-1:27
- Helmbold, Samuel Arnold 7-1:27
- Helmbold, William Clark 7-1:27, 28
- Hendricks, Jesse 7-1:33
- Johnson, D. C. 7-1:35
- Johnson, William Jr. 7-1:35
- Jordan, William 7-1:35
- Katherman, Sarah Louisa 7-1:6
- Kinlead, John 7-1:44
- Klose, Aaron 7-1:7, 18, 19
- Klose, John 7-1:7, 16, 19
- Kresl, Georganna F. (article author) 7-1:38-48
- Kurtz, Luther D. 7-1:19
- Kurtz, Newton 7-1:20,21
- Laurel Run 7-1:33, 34
- Laurelton 7-1:30
  - blacksmiths lumber industry 7-1:34
  - business contraction 7-1:36
  - churches 7-1:34
  - drug stores 7-1:34
  - fires 7-1:34
  - flouring mill 7-1:34
  - foundries 7-1:34
  - Free Mill 7-1:33
  - general stores 7-1:34
  - injuries (work) 7-1:34
  - physician 7-1:34
  - Laurelton Lumber Co. 7-1:34, 35
  - Lincoln Methodist Chapel 7-1:10, 19

- (Laurelton continued)  
 saddler's hop 7-1:34  
 school 7-1:34  
 shoemaker 7-1:34  
 "Slabtown" 7-1:33  
 Whitmer and Steele 7-1:34, 35
- Lengle, Diane 7-1:50  
 Lengle, Jim 7-1:50  
 Lewis Township School 7-1:6  
 Lewisburg  
*Lewisburg Journal and Union Co. Advocate* 7-1:39  
 Lewisburg Water Mills 7-1:25  
 Union National Bank 7-1:9, 10, 16, 20  
 United Ch. of Christ (Reformed) 7-1:20
- Lewistown 1:18  
 church by E. Miller 7-1:9  
 courthouse by E. Miller 7-1:10, 21  
 Lutheran Church 7-1:20  
 Reformed Church 7-1:20
- Libby, Thomas 7-1:30  
 Lichtenwalter, Albert 7-1:31, 32, 35  
 Limestone Township 7-1:5  
 Linn, Hon. James F. 7-1:46  
 Lock Haven  
 church by E. Miller 7-1:9  
 Church brothers 7-1:41
- Lycoming College 7-1:25  
 Maize, Jacob 7-1:15  
 Maize, Joseph 7-1:6  
 Manbeck, Michael and Carol (article authors) 7-1:24-29
- Mazeppa  
 Mazeppa Union Church 7-1:11  
 Old Buffalo Church 7-1:11
- McColm, William 7-1:34  
 McEwensville  
 Reformed church by E. Miller 7-1:9, 20
- Mifflinburg 7-1:8  
 Barber-Earnest-Iddings Hse 7-1:6, 15  
 Barber-Orwig-Ward Hse 7-1:6, 15, 16  
 Beard, John house 7-1:19  
 Beard Community Center 7-1:19  
 Boop, Joseph, builder 7-1:6, 15  
 Borough Council 7-1:11  
 Brubaker, David house 7-1:16, 17  
 Buffalo Presbyterian-Evangelical- St. Paul's Lutheran Ch. 7-1:18  
 Cronmiller house 7-1:17  
 Dimm-Bidlack house 7-1:21  
 Dempwolf, J. A. (architect) 7-1:21  
 Dressler's Appliance and Electric 7-1:18
- Elias Church 7-1:6, 15  
 1<sup>st</sup> Evangelical Lutheran Ch. 7-1:16, 20  
 Dempwolf, J. A. (architect) 7-1:20  
 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Ch. parsonage 7-1:20  
 1<sup>st</sup> Farmers Bank 7-1:16, 19  
 Gast Department Store 7-1:16, 18  
 Gast-Evans house 7-1:18  
 Gast, John Reynolds house 7-1:17  
 Gast store block 7-1:11, 16, 18  
 German Reformed (St. John's) Church 7-1:6, 7, 12, 14, 15, 21  
 Parsonage 7-1:16, 20  
 Heiter's, Augustus, barber shop 7-1:18
- Klose-Bingaman-Littell hse 7-1:18, 19  
 Kurtz-Glover-Barker house 7-1:19  
 Kurtz-Delaney house 7-1:20  
 Lodge Hall 7-1:7, 17  
 Masons Lodge #370 7-1:12, 14, 19  
 Mifflinburg Bank 7-1:18  
 Mifflinburg School House 7-1:10, 11, 17  
 Mifflinburg Silk Mill 7-1:13, 21  
 Mifflinburg United Methodist Ch. 7-1:20  
 Miller's Planing Mill 7-1:8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21  
 Miller, Enoch buildings 7-1:9, 16  
 Minadore Schware Jewelry Shop/ Lodge hall 7-1:7, 16, 17  
 O. R. Laney's Five and Ten Cent Store 7-1:18  
 Orren House 7-1:19  
 Presbyterian-Kreisher House 7-1:20  
 Providence Orthodox Presbyterian Church 7-1:18  
 Ruhl, Watson and Phillips mill 7-1:13, 14, 21  
 Sanborn map 7-1:13, 19  
 Sandra-Fasano-Dreese House 7-1:7  
 Schware-Sholly Commercial Block 7-1:7, 17, 18  
 St. John's United Church of Christ 7-1:15  
 St. Paul's United Evangelical Ch. 7-1:18  
 Schoch-Koons house 7-1:19  
 Strunk-Kleckner Tru Value 7-1:18  
 Snodgrass Hardware Store 7-1:18  
 Snodgrass-Musser-Shively house 7-1:18  
 United Methodist Church 7-1:16, 18  
 Wesley United Methodist Ch. 7-1:20  
 Woodlawn Cemetery 7-1:14, 21

- Mifflinburg Telegraph* 7-1:8, 9, 35  
 Miller, Daniel B. 7-1:5  
 Miller, Edith Mae (Budwig) 7-1:13  
 Miller, Enoch 7-1:4-23  
   Apprentice to Boop 7-1:6  
   death 7-1:21  
   Home and Shop 7-1:6, 16, 17  
   Portrait 7-1:4  
 Miller, George A. 7-1:, 85  
 Miller, John F. 7-1:5  
 Miller, Joseph 7-1:5, 7, 17  
 Miller, Maize C. (Badger) 7-1:13, 21  
 Miller, Margaret Blanche (Myer)  
 Miller, Maria 7-1:5  
 Miller, Maria Bertolet 7-1:5, 7  
 Miller, Moses 7-1:5  
 Miller, Sarah 7-1:5, 13  
 Miller, Virginia B. 7-1:13, 21  
 Millmont 7-1:34  
   railroad arrival 7-1:34, 35  
 Montandon 7-1:39  
 Montgomery, Mary A. 7-1:42  
 Montgomery, Robert 7-1:42  
 New Berlin 7-1:5  
   Heritage Days 7-1:50  
   Name change controversy 7-1:49-55  
   West Branch League 7-1:50  
 Noll, Mike 7-1:8, 20  
 O'Hare, Thomas 7-1:31  
 Pancross, John 7-1:5  
 Pardee 7-1:30, 32, 34  
   economic contraction 7-1:36  
   Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) 7-1:36  
   eel fishing 7-1:32  
   Great Depression 7-1:36  
   grist mills 7-1:33  
   hard cider 7-1:32  
   huckleberry excursions 7-1:32  
   lumbering 7-1:32, 34  
   maple syrup 7-1:32  
   sawmill 7-1:33  
   stores 7-1:35  
   Tharp's Beer Garden 7-1:36  
   vinegar 7-1:32  
 Pardee Lumber Company 7-1:34, 35  
   tram system (log transport) 7-1:35  
 Penns Creek 7-1:33  
   arks 7-1:33  
   clear-cutting 7-1:35  
   goods transport 7-1:33  
   log transport 7-1:33  
   railroad impact on use 7-1:33, 35  
 Pennsylvania College (Gettysburg) 7-1:25  
 Peterson, David E. 7-1:52  
 Raudenbush, Joseph S. 7-1:10, 16, 19  
 Ray's Church 7-1:18  
 Renovo  
   church by E. Miller 7-1:9, 20  
 Romig, Stewart 7-1:10  
 Romig, William F. 7-1:10  
 Roush, Henry 7-1:33  
 Rue, John (Jack) Wesley II 7-1:25  
 Rue, Rev. John Wesley 7-1:25  
 Rue, Sarah Julia (see Shriner, Sarah Julia) 7-1:27, 28  
 St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Ch. 7-1:18  
 Seebold, Josaeph S. 7-1:52  
 Selinsgrove  
   sawmill 7-1:33  
 Sholter, George W. 7-1:34  
 Scott, Louise Goehring 7-1:32  
 Shirtz, Michael 7-1:33  
 Shriner, Ann Elizabeth Kremer 7-1:24  
 Shriner, Joseph Wheeler 7-1:24  
 Shriner, Sarah Julia (Rue) 7-1:25-28  
 Slayman, J. R. 7-1:30  
 Slifer, Walls and Shriner 7-1:25  
 Smith, David 7-1:33  
 Snodgrass, James 7-1:18  
 Snodgrass, Robert 7-1:18  
 Snodgrass, Samuel 7-1:18  
 Snook, E. A. 7-1:52  
 Soloman, Carl 7-1:52  
 Spangler, Mrs. J. Martin 7-1:52  
 Spring Mills 7-1:33  
 Stroud, Robert 7-1:51  
 Tittle, Benjamin 7-1:10  
 Union County  
   alcohol consumption 7-1:33  
   lumbering 7-1:30  
   Union County Sportsman's Club 7-1:36  
   West End 7-1:30  
     Bald Eagle State Forest 7-1:37  
     butter 7-1:34  
     distillery 7-1:33  
     employment decline 7-1:36  
     Fessendens 7-1:31  
     flour 7-1:34  
     Great Depression 7-1:37  
     Libbys 7-1:31  
     lumbering industry 7-1:31, 34  
     "Maine Men" 7-1:31  
     Marstons 7-1:31  
     mill owners 7-1:33  
     railroad impact 7-1:34  
     Rotes 7-1:31  
     stores 7-1:33  
     tram lines (logging) 7-1:35  
     wheat 7-1:34  
     whiskey 7-1:33, 34

- Van Horn, Joseph 7-1:52  
 Vicksburg  
     Raudenbush home 7-1:10, 16  
 Waggoner, Susan (article author) 7-1:4-23  
 Walker, Fanny M. 7-1:49  
 Walker, Grace (Wagner) 7-1:50  
 Walker, Spencer M. 7-1:49  
 Walker, Spencer W. 7-1:49  
 Walker, Tom (article author) 7-1:49-55  
 Weikert 7-1:30  
     business contraction 7-1:36  
     lumber industry 7-1:34  
     railroad station 7-1:34  
     Sportsman's Club 7-1:36  
     stores 7-1:35  
 West Buffalo Township 7-1:5  
 White Springs  
     school house 7-1:13, 21  
 Whitmer, Rebeca 7-1:51  
 Whitmer and Steele Co. 7-1:35  
 Wilkinson, Harry 7-1:10  
 Wilt, Adam 7-1:33  
 Winfield 7-1:25  
 Wolfe, Dr. Lewis E. 7-1:52

✧ **ACCOUNTS** ✧