



# The Hartleton School



Photograph of the Hartleton School erected in 1862. This photograph was provided courtesy of Jack Shirk of Hartleton. The date the photograph was taken is unknown.

Prior to the adoption of the common school law in 1842 the schools of Hartley Township were subscription schools. In the Looking Back column of this issue I have published a letter that includes a brief overview of what a subscription school was. This account comes from a letter written in 1908 by Robert Reed who attended the Keister, or White School, which was located about 2.5 miles west of Laurelton. Prior to 1842 there were three subscription schools in the West End of the county, and one of them was located in Hartleton.

Following the establishment of the free or common school system in Pennsylvania the school directors of Hartley Township agreed on the need for two public schools in Hartleton. One of the schools was erected at the east end of town and the other was located at the west end of town. It might seem unusual that a small community like Hartleton would require two schools. However, during that era there were a lot of young children living in or near the village of Hartleton.

In the early 1800's Hartleton was a prosperous community. When the mail was delivered by horseback, Hartleton was a post stop along the route between Northumberland and Bellefonte. By 1818 the mail stagecoach replaced the horseback as the method of transporting mail. This stagecoach made the trip through Hartleton every two days. With the organization of the Bellefonte, Aaronsburg and Youngmanstown Turnpike Company in 1825, traffic through Hartleton increased markedly.

The bustling village of Hartleton grew as taverns and hotels, stores and other businesses were established to accommodate travelers passing over the turnpike. This resulted in an influx of people settling in the Hartleton area. As the number of young people in the community grew, so too did the need for suitable schools.

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## *Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder*



Now is one of the best times of the year to go outside in the evening or at night to listen for various owls. Almost every night I have been able to hear great horned owls and screech owls calling, with others occasionally mixed in.

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I have seen numerous small groups of deer that have stayed in one spot for days at a time in order to conserve energy, which enables them to make it through the cold winter.

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Photograph of the Hartleton School courtesy of Jack Shirk of Hartleton. Date of the photograph is unknown.

Both schools were constructed of round logs with the bark attached and the outside was covered with slab wood siding. The early subscription school in Hartleton was not only primitive but the education standards were also rudimentary as well. The seating inside the school was also made of slab wood. Assessment lists from 1823-1841 provide the names of some of the teachers at those early subscription schools. They include David Wiley, James Cunningham, William Robinson, Thomas Gadding, Charles Mason, William Geddes, Joel Hamor, Robert Lucas, James Madden and Daniel Wilt.

A 1835 newspaper advertisement for a teaching position at Hartleton included the following requirements: *A person of steady habits and well qualified to teach the rudiments of a good English education, comprising of Spelling, Reading, Arithmetic, English, Grammar, and Geography.*

In 1842, with the adoption of the common school law, the directors of Hartley Township

School District included Solomon Knauss, Melchoir Smith, John Spigelmyer, Henry Roush, A. B. Cummings, and John Smith. After organizing the board met on numerous occasions to determine how many schools were required in the township, and where they should be located. Small committees were formed and tasked with making those decisions. By the time they met in August 1842 the board agreed on the need for ten new schools in the district, including two in Hartleton.

According to the minutes of the school board the contract to build a schoolhouse in the east end of Hartleton was awarded to Elias Fees at a cost of \$180.00. The contract for the school located at the west end of town was awarded to William Young at a cost of \$190.00. The Atlas of Union County, published in 1868, shows the schoolhouse at the east end of Hartleton situated on what is today Cold Run Road near the intersection of Water Street. The schoolhouse located in the west end of town was located at the north end of Hazel Street.

The board also established teacher's salaries. In 1842 those salaries ranged from \$16 to \$20 per month, and the school term was three months duration. Salaries were not based on a teacher's aptitude or qualification but rather on the number of pupils they were instructing. Individuals who applied for and were awarded certificates to teach in the schools of Hartley Township in 1842 include: Henry W. Crotzer, Jacob Weirick, Richard VB. Lincoln, Christian Breyman, Samuel R. Dunday, George Hackenberg and William Geddes.

William Geddes taught in both the subscription and common schools. He is listed in the decennial census records from 1850 through 1870 as a resident of Hartleton. He also listed his occupation on each census form during that 30-year period as "teacher". When the census data was being gathered in 1880, William Geddes, age 69, and his wife, Barbara, age 63, were still residents of Hartleton. At that time William listed his occupation as "pauper". Considering the trifling salaries teachers received at that time, and that fact that the job was part time, it is little wonder he was destitute near the end of his life.

According to historian, Richard VB. Lincoln, Geddes received a certificate to teach orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar and bookkeeping. He continued to teach in the public schools of Hartleton until the infirmities of age compelled him to retire from the profession. He died in Hartleton in 1885.

At 19 years of age, Richard VB. Lincoln was the youngest of the group hired in 1842. He was selected to teach in Hartleton. His early education was attained at the Keister subscription school west of Laurelton, which he attended until age nine. His parents then sent him to the Mifflinburg Academy where he continued his education until age 16. He subsequently entered Dickinson College in Carlisle where he graduated second in a class of twenty-three students in 1841.

Beginning with the 1842 school year, Lincoln taught a total of four terms. At that time a term was three months and his monthly salary was \$16.00. He subsequently decided to take up farming and left the teaching profession in 1846. The following year he was elected to a seat on the Hartley Township School Board.

At their October 21, 1844 meeting school directors passed a resolution providing guidance to the committee members who were trying to fill open teaching positions. Samuel Knight and Hartleton resident Dr. William Seebold were chosen to examine applicants for the district teacher openings and make recommendations to the board. One of the condi-

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**Grammar School  
Hartleton, Union County, Pa.**

**1901-1902**

**PUPILS**

| Name.              | Age | Name.            | Age |
|--------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Ray Smith,         | 20  | Eli Steffy,      | 14  |
| Clayton Shirk,     | 20  | Irvin Wagner,    | 14  |
| Henry Charles,     | 19  | Harry Ruhl,      | 13  |
| Robert Smith,      | 18  | Mary Pontius,    | 17  |
| George Hickernell, | 18  | Bessie Border,   | 17  |
| William Culp,      | 18  | Carrie Charles,  | 17  |
| Willard Charles,   | 16  | Stella Charles,  | 16  |
| Harold Radabaugh,  | 16  | Grace Whitmer,   | 15  |
| Clyde Orwig,       | 16  | Lena Voneida,    | 15  |
| Claude Walter,     | 15  | Helen Whitmer,   | 14  |
| Reily Charles,     | 15  | Iola Charles,    | 14  |
| Luther Feese,      | 15  | Ray Feese,       | 14  |
| Newton Shirk,      | 14  | Helen Catherman, | 13  |

**Hartleton Borough Board of Education.**

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Milton Bingaman, | Galen Whitmer, |
| Hiram Border,    | Henry Dorman,  |
| Reuben Boyer,    | Henry Hoffman  |

**D. P. Stapleton, County, Supt.  
ESTELLA E. BRION, Prin.**

tions for hiring teachers was: "the privilege to hire their teachers as cheap as they can." That year the teachers at both Hartleton schools were earning \$19.00 per month, or \$57.00 for the school year.

During a November 3, 1844 school board meeting at the home of William Glover in Hartleton there was discussion concerning the need for a third school in town. The minority opposed the idea and argued there was no need for an additional school and that there were no funds to "carry the same into effect". When the motion was voted upon the tally was three votes in favor of a new school and two votes opposed.

Samuel Haupt, teacher at the east Hartleton School appealed to the school board about his concerns about having too many students in one classroom. While the board continued to debate the issue over the next couple of meetings the proposal for a third school in Hartleton was never acted upon. One of the principal factors in not moving the issue forward may have been the routine change in board members. The only compensation teachers received due to overcrowded classrooms in Hartleton was an additional \$2.00 per month in salary above what other teachers in the district were being paid.

At their meeting held May 26, 1849, school directors discussed the possibility of instituting a four-month school term, and how to adjust the tax structure in order to pay the additional expenses. The vote was not recorded but at the next board meeting it was decided that rather than having the school term begin in December as was normal, classes would begin the first Monday in November. Financial records show that \$667.82 in taxes was necessary to support a four month term for the 1850/1851 school year.

It was sometime later that the board established a three-month winter term and a two-month summer school. However, one of the stipulations the board agreed upon relative to the summer school was: "If any of the Schools should be less than 12 (students) on an average the 1st month, then to be discontinued at the end of the month". During the summer session a teacher's salary was reduced to \$8.00 per month. Yet another

indication that compensation was based on the number of students in attendance rather than the teachers abilities.

During the school board meeting held April 17, 1852 there was renewed discussion about the need for a new school near Hartleton. The secretary of the board noted in his minutes "A considerable effort was made for the erecting of a new school house near Hartleton. After considerable argument and difficulty concerning the same it was agreed that no new School houses should be built for the coming School year". In fact, it took a decade before a new school was erected in Hartleton.

In September 1858 the village of Hartleton became the Borough of Hartleton. As an autonomous governing body, the residents chose new school directors living within the borough to represent the two schools. While I have not seen the minutes of the Hartleton School Board, they voted to erect a new wood frame schoolhouse at the north end of Hazel Street in 1862. This schoolhouse replaced the two log buildings erected two decades earlier.

Funding for the new two-room school was derived from taxes levied upon borough residents. Within a few years directors decided to add a second story to the building. The upper floor provided space for a large hall that could be used for school functions as well as the general public. The classrooms remained on the first floor, with the primary grade on the east side of the building and the grammar school on the west side.

Peak enrollment at the Hartleton School was reached during the 1865-1866 school term. That year there were 111 students (59 boys and 52 girls) in attendance at Hartleton. This included a number of students living outside the confines of the borough, but who attended the Hartleton School because of its proximity to their residence. When the Pine Grove School was erected in 1866 at the intersection of Polly Pine Road and Shady Lane, northwest of the borough, a number of students moved to that school. This alleviated some of the overcrowding at the Hartleton School.

The first mention of a commencement exercise in the annual report of the county superintendent is in 1887 when a large class graduated under the guidance of Miss Alice De Haas, principal. The courses offered in the grammar school at the time were the equivalent of the first two years of high school.

A group of patriots from the Washington Camp 426 of the Millmont P. O. S. of A. raised funds

**Students With Perfect Attendance Record at Hartleton in 1935:**

- John VonNeida
- Betty Wilson
- Sammy Diehl
- Dick Diehl
- Sara Korman
- Pauline Bowersox
- Betty Ellen Diehl
- Myrtle Ruhl
- Frances Jean Mitchell
- Lewis Diehl
- Emma Grace Sheesley



How many of these students from the Hartleton Class of 1948 do you recognize?  
 Photograph courtesy of Linda (VonNeida) Dorman of Hartleton.

their education beyond the grammar school level offered at Hartleton. Presumably those students were required to pay tuition expenses to the Lewis Township School Board.

Over time the population of Hartleton not only aged but also decreased. The result was a decline in the number of students in attendance at the Hartleton School. In 1906 attendance was recorded at 37 students, which became the somewhat standard over the next couple of decades.

In 2003 Eleanor (Hoffman) Hoy (1930-2013) submitted a series of articles entitled "Hartleton As I Remember It", which were published in this newsletter. One of those articles pertained to the Hartleton School, which she attended as a child. She recalled that only one room on the east side of the building was used as a classroom when she attended, and there was only one teacher. This classroom was for grades first through eighth. The room on the west side had been turned into a library and was also used for a social hall. She also remembered a crock-like container that was filled with water in the back of the room. Each day older students in the class went to the nearby home of Ernest Printzenhoff to fill a bucket with water for the crock at school. Each student had his or her own collapsible tin cup that was used to get water from the spigot on the water crock.

Hoy also recalled when the school was heated with a round cast iron stove in the winter months. This stove had a metal shield around the outside where students hung their gloves after recess so they would dry. When Eleanor reached high school age she had an option of going to the high school in Mifflinburg or the Hartley Township High School. She said that the Hartleton School Directors did not provide transportation to either of these schools, so students had to furnish their own transportation. Eleanor decided to attend the school in Laurelton and was a member of the last class to graduate from the Hartley Township High School in 1948.

Hartleton Borough closed their school in 1953 as consolidation spread throughout the West End. Long after the school was shuttered a public sale of the building's contents, including the bell that hung in the copula, was held. The building was subsequently razed and today the lot where the school once sat is under cultivation. No traces of the school where generations of Hartleton scholars learned reading, writing, and arithmetic remain.

TLS

**Editor's Note:** My thanks to Robert and Dianne Lynch of Mifflinburg for providing information about the schools of Hartley Township; Linda (VonNeida) Dorman for the Hartleton Class of 1948 photograph; and Harlan Zimmerman of Iowa who preserved school attendance books from the Hartleton School discovered as the building was being razed.

**Sources:** Minutes of the Hartley Township School Board from 1842-1856; Union County Hartleton As I Remember It by Eleanor Hoffman Hoy and published in the July 2003 edition of this newsletter and Heritage Volume XIV published by the Union County Historical Society in 1994.

from their membership to purchase a U. S. Flag for the pole at the Hartleton School. On June 18, 1898 the group presented the flag to the school at a ceremonial flag raising. The Swengel Cornet Band provided the musical entertainment for this event.

In 1901 the Lewis Township School Board instituted a high school under the leadership of Professor William W. Spigelmyer. In addition to students from Lewis Township, parents from Hartleton had the option to send their children to the new high school located midway between Millmont and Swengel.

Graduation ceremonies at the Lewis Township High School between 1903 and 1929 reveal the surnames of a number of students that were most likely from Hartleton Borough. Those surnames include Wilson, VonNeida, Shirk, Catherman, Dale, Harter, Lontz, Charles and others. These students had a desire to further

School Teachers at Hartleton  
 from 1932-1952.  
 (list is incomplete)

- Melvin S. Adams
- Violet Gemberling
- Eleanor Radel
- Janet M. Soars
- Mary Arner
- Marjorie B. Roberts
- May H. Wenzel
- Frank W. Stout

Records of the 1944/1945 Hartleton School Year: Term 9 months. Paul Mitchell Secretary of the School Board:

- Avg. Attendance: 32 students
- Salary of the teacher: \$1,350.00
- State Retirement: \$20.51
- Text Books: \$75.35
- Cost of Fuel: \$57.50
- Supplies for Instruction: \$48.10
- Janitor & Supplies: \$20.51
- Lights and Power: \$9.00

**Union County Historical Society Dinner and Program**  
***“To Instruct the Youth: From Union Seminary to Albright College”***

**By Sid Dreese**

**Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.**

**At the Union County Sportsmen's Club. Weikert, PA**

New Berlin was the Mecca of the Evangelical Association, and so it was fitting to have a school, the Union Seminary, located there. Through the diligence and leadership of Rev. William Orwig the seminary was founded in New Berlin, opening its doors on January 3, 1856. For nearly 50 years young people, chiefly from Union County, continued their education at this institution.

This program will describe the school's development as it moved from Union County to Lebanon County, and then to Albright College in Berks County.

The Evangelical Association, whose members were mostly of German descent, was founded in 1800 by Rev. Jacob Albright, a German-speaking Pennsylvanian (1759-1808), influenced by John Wesley and the Methodist movement. The first meetings were held in 1803, and a Book of Discipline, was introduced six years later. In 1816, the church became “The Evangelical Association.”

Sidney Dreese, a Union County Historical Society Board member and Archives Committee member, is the Director of the College Archives and Special Collections at Albright College. He graduated from Mifflinburg High School, from Clarion University of Pennsylvania with a B. S. in Education, from Drexel University with a Masters in Library Science, and from Penn State University with a Masters in American Studies. He has been a librarian for over 20 years, and has always had an interest in the history of Union County; his Masters thesis was “A Civil War Home Front Study - The Mifflinburg Telegraph Tells the Story.”

The program follows a buffet dinner with Roast Beef, Fish, Roast Turkey, Vegetables, Salad, Dessert, and Beverages. Cost is only \$16.50 per person. There will be a cash bar. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7:30 p.m. Join us on Thursday, April 10 for an interesting program and a delicious dinner!

Reservations can be made by calling the society at 570.524.8666, or mail your check to the U.C.H. S at 103 S. 2nd Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837. You can also email them at [info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org)

**From the diary of the late Elder Greene Shively, born in White Springs in 1870 and a resident of Millmont from 1918 until his death in 1954:**

*Sun. Apr. 23, 1933. Temp. 35 in the AM. Clear. Lesson Mark 9:33-43. Pres. 109. Coll. \$2.49. Mr. Douty taught my class. Mervyn preached. This PM I officiated at the funeral of Charles Dorman at 2 o'clock. Text St. John 1-12.*

*This evening we had our 1st Christian Workers Meeting for some time, having discontinued it for some time. A good attendance. Billy and Donald (Shively) sang and I gave a talk. Several others spoke too.*

*Mon. Apr. 24, 1933. Temp 35 in AM. Clear. Worked in the garage. This evening District SS Meeting was held in the ME Church in Millmont. Dr. Boyer was the guest speaker. Billy and Donald (Shively) were to sing but fell asleep before they called on them. Subject for discussion Superintendents duties.*

*Tues. Apr. 25, 1933. Cloudy. Dug some garden for Jacob's and also some of our own.*

*Wed. Apr. 26, 1933. Cloudy. Papered the small room above the porch. Charles Glover papered the hall. We had a shower last night.*

*Thur. Apr. 27, 1933 Worked at the house, painting the hall and the valley on the roof.*

*Fri. Apr. 28, 1933. Clear. Was digging garden and helping on the garage. Harry Strunk Funeral Director died last night in Lewisburg of a heart attack.*

*Sat. Apr. 29, 1933. Temp 60 and clear. A very beautiful day.*

*I officiated at the funeral of Mrs. Joseph Trutt. Text Psalm 23. She was Gertrude Rearick, daughter of Howard Rearick.*

*Sun. April 30, 1933. Clear. Temp. 65. Warmest day of the season yet. All for Christ Jesus sets new Standards of Living, lesson Luke 10. Douty taught my class. I spoke from Hebrews 4:12. This afternoon Edmund, mother and I called to see Isaiah Shively. He is 80 years old and lives with Mr. Daniel Lamey. We then went to the dam that supplies the water for the State Village. Then across by Buffalo Flat to the 14 Mile Narrows.*

## Leroy M. "Deafy" Dorman



Sketch of Herman "Pete" Englehart drawn by Leroy "Deafy" Dorman in 1946. A copy of this sketch was provided to me courtesy of Marvin Englehart of Mifflinburg.

All of the small villages in the West End of Union County have had "characters" living in them at one time or another through the years. By characters I am referring to those unique individuals who leave a lasting impression on us long after they have passed from the scene. The type of characters I refer to are those who possessed rather odd or unusual behavior traits, or, perhaps they were a little eccentric. Maybe certain individuals come to mind from your childhood that might fall into one of those categories.

One of the characters that I remember from my childhood was a man from neighboring Hartleton. His name was Leroy Dorman, but everyone knew him and referred to him by his nickname "Deafy Dorman". It is quite likely that some of the readers of this newsletter are familiar with who he was.

Although a little grimy, unkempt, rough around the edges and at times a bit crude, my personal encounters with this man were always pleasant. Despite being handicapped by loss of hearing and his difficulty trying to verbally communicate with people, he was nonetheless a gregarious and affable fellow. Deafy was one of those characters that you could not help but like, and always had a knack for putting a smile on your face. Perhaps he did not know whether you were laughing at him or laughing with him. In reality it did not matter because he never expressed any concerns one way or the other, and always seemed to be happy just trying to communicate with others.

Leroy Michael Dorman was born March 6, 1911, the oldest child of Francis and Marion (Brillhart) Dorman. The family lived in the Halifax area of Dauphin County. Deafy's siblings included Ellsworth, Kermit, Leon, Isabelle, Hurley, Bruce and Flora. His paternal grandparents were James and Sara Ellen (Rearick) Dorman while his maternal grandparents were James and Margaret (Parker) Brillhart. Both his maternal and

paternal grandparents were residents of Union County.

Deafy lived in a somewhat dilapidated building in Hartleton, north of the intersection of Route 45 and Millmont Road. Today this site is a vacant lot. I recall when he operated a small printing business from his home. I remember accompanying my grandmother (Florence Shively) to Deafy's home/business on one occasion to pick up a print job he had completed for Shively's Garage in Millmont. The inside of his home was not very inviting. Although he had electricity it was not obvious as the interior had few light bulbs. While his house did not have a dirt floor, it had the appearance of one. However, with a roof over his head and a wood stove to keep warm in the winter, Deafy seemed content. His mode of transportation was a red bicycle with a wire basket attached to the front handlebar. Deafy could also frequently be seen sitting on a chair in front of his home watching people and traffic pass by on Route 45.

Deafy possessed unique artistic abilities. When and where he learned his talents are unknown, since it is my understanding that his disabilities were from birth. I have not been able to determine when he moved to the West End of the county. I know that he was living here at the time both of his parents were killed in a tragic automobile accident near Harrisburg in July 1960.

Audrey (Mitchell) VonNeida told me that she thought that Deafy lived with his aunt and uncle, Irwin and Clara (Dorman) Ranck. This seems plausible since Deafy's father, Francis Dorman and Clara (Dorman) Ranck were siblings. He must have moved here sometime after 1940 as he does not appear on the census records with Irwin and Clara. VonNeida also remembered as a young girl when Deafy visited at the home of her grandfather, John Mitchell, who lived at 438 Libby Road.

According to William Kahl of Hartleton, when he was a young boy, Irwin and Clara (Dorman) Ranck lived on the farm south of the covered Millmont Covered Bridge, at the intersection of Canada Drive and Ranck Road. Kahl stated that during that time, circa 1940/1941, he and his family were living on the next farm to the west of Ranck's. Kahl recalled as a seven or eight year old boy when Deafy came to his parent's farm to assist with the thrashing work that was being conducted by the Knauss' of Swengel. Kahl remembered Deafy finding a spot where he could sit and draw while the Knauss' took time to service their machinery.

It is unclear when Deafy relocated to his home in Hartleton. Jack Shirk, a resident of Hartleton, recalled that the one

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room building where Deafy lived was previously used by Diehl's Garage for storage of automobile parts, and perhaps used vehicles. The front of the building had a large window facing Route 45.

As a young boy in the mid to late 1960's I was employed at Shirk's Store in Millmont. I recall Deafy's visits to the store on his bicycle. I always had difficulty understanding what he was trying to communicate. In part desperation and part frustration, as he was often prone to do, he removed a small tablet and pen or pencil from his shirt pocket and wrote what he was trying to say on the tablet. His writings were easy to understand. I also recall that he sometimes used drawings, rather than words, to communicate what he was trying to say. Some of his drawings were rather provocative.

It was during this same time that I remember seeing Deafy at the West End fair. He was often in the line of people waiting to enter one of the risqué entertainment venues that seemed to be present at the fair during the 1960's. As youngsters, we referred to these belly dancing venues as hoochie coochie shows. Deafy enjoyed the entertainment as he was grinning from ear to ear and his boisterous laugh could be heard from a distance as he entered and exited the trailer with its salacious exhibitions.

Details about Deafy's latter days are rather sketchy. I recall that a serious fire removed him from his Hartleton residence. Joe White of Millmont remembers when Deafy lived in a small trailer that was placed on his lot in Hartleton after the ruins of the fire were cleaned up. White also recalled providing him with fresh small game, such as pheasants and squirrels, that he killed during hunting season.

White also recalled when he persuaded Deafy to attend God's Missionary Church in Millmont. Prior to attending church services, White took him to his parent's home where Deafy was able to take a bath and get himself cleaned up. L. G. White, Joe's father, provided Deafy with a nice set of clean clothes to wear to church. White recalled that for the next few weeks Deafy wore the new set of clothes on a regular basis.

It was sometime after the fire that Deafy entered the Friendly Nursing Home, now Rolling Hills Manor west of Hartleton. His last days were spent there before passing into eternity on March 12, 1988 at the Evangelical Community Hospital. Leroy M. Dorman is buried in the Hartleton Cemetery.

Last year I placed a request in this newsletter for information relative to Leroy as well as his artwork. Marvin Englehart of Mifflinburg noticed my request and responded. Englehart emailed me a copy of a sketch that Deafy drew of his father, Lester "Pete" Englehart. This sketch is just one example of his artistic abilities. According to the date on the sketch, it was drawn July 3, 1946.

I often wonder whatever became of his many other drawings? Perhaps they were given to the people he drew and they have been stored away in someone's attic. It is also quite possible that some of his artwork was lost in the blaze that destroyed his home. It is one of those questions we may never be able to answer. What we do know is that Deafy was one of those characters who left a lasting impression on the people with whom he came in contact during the time that he lived in West End of Union County.

TLS

Editor's Note: I would like to thank the following people that I contacted in search of information for this article, or those who provided me with information - Marvin Englehart of Mifflinburg; Audrey (Mitchell) Von-Neida, Pauline Shively, Joe White, and Kenneth Catherman of Millmont; Ralph Dorman of Mifflinburg and Jack Shirk of Hartleton. Sources: The Genealogy History of the Dorman Family and Descendants 1753-1989 by Pearl Kaler, and The Mifflinburg Telegraph.

# *Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours*

*by Lucy Hoover*

February 16, 2014

Kimbria was born to James and Ella Mae Hoover of Mifflinburg. She has two brothers and two sisters. Grandparents are Joseph and Margaret Hoover and Ervin and Armeta Sensenig of Ohio.

February 28

Tonight there was a CAM presentation at the Rail Center where a large group attended.

Kevin Zimmerman, son of Lloyd and Lorraine of Lewisburg, and Ann Oberholtzer, daughter of Melvin and Irene of Mifflinburg have their wedding planned for March 27, 2014.

March 9

Lucille, Mrs. Melvin Zimmerman, of Mifflinburg recently underwent surgery.

Wilmer and Marlene Zimmerman of Lewisburg have a daughter named Lorene Ruth. She has two brothers. Grandparents are John and Esther Zimmerman and Paul and Louise Reiff.

Lewis Ray Hoover and May West of Florida are engaged to marry on September 6, 2014. The wedding will be in Pennsylvania.

Elton and Delores Horning of Middleburg have their fifth daughter. Her name is Elsie. She also has four brothers. Grandparents are Phares and Anna Horning and Lester and Martha Nolt.

It has been 17 years since there was a baby Elsie in our church community. (That is what we named our oldest daughter).

The small photograph in the upper left corner of page one show a view of the Hartleton School that was built in 1862, and located at the north end of Hazel Street. I believe this photograph was taken by School Superintendent Frank Boyer. While the date of the photograph is unknown, it appears as though it may have been taken around the time of the consolidation of the schools in the West End of Union County. That is when the one rooms schools were closed. This photograph was provided to me courtesy of Robert and Dianne Lynch of Mifflinburg.

## Recipe of the Month

By Janice (Dorman) Shively

### Buttermilk Pancakes

1 ¾ C. all-purpose flour  
2 T. granulated sugar  
2 tsp. baking powder  
½ tsp. baking soda  
¼ tsp. salt  
1 egg, slightly beaten  
1 ½ C. buttermilk or sour milk  
3 T. cooking oil

In a large bowl stir together flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In another bowl use a fork to combine egg, buttermilk and oil. Add egg mixture all at once to four mixture. Stir just until moistened (batter should be slightly lumpy).

Pour ¼ cup batter onto a hot, lightly greased griddle or heavy skillet, spreading batter if necessary.

Cook over medium heat for 1 to 2 minutes on each side or until pancakes are golden brown, turning to second size when pancakes have bubbly surfaces and edges are slightly dry.



This is our favorite pancake recipe! I usually put the batter onto our griddle with my large cookie scoop. That way I get the same size pancakes every time. Without fail, these pancakes are light and fluffy and just delicious. We serve them topped with a dollop of butter and hot maple syrup and serve with fresh or smoked sausage. This makes a great breakfast, lunch or dinner!

Leftover pancakes freeze well. I place the pancakes in a freezer bag with wax paper between each pancake so we can pull out the number of pancakes we want to eat, and microwave them.

ENJOY!

## Are You Ready for Some Pot Pie?

Millmont PA – Members of Christ’s United Lutheran Church, also known as the “Four Bells Church,” are getting ready to make and serve their renowned pot pie. We will be serving three types of pot pie (beef, ham and turkey/chicken) on Saturday, April 12, 2014, starting at 3:30 p.m.

Patrons can either eat in or take out. Meals include applesauce, pickled cabbage and dessert.

Adult meals are \$9.00 each, while children’s meals, ages 6 through 12, are \$5.00 each. Children under age 6 can eat free of charge. Pot pie quarts will be sold at \$8.00.

Christ’s United Lutheran Church is located three miles west of Mifflinburg along Route 45. Worship services start at 9:00 a.m., followed by Sunday School. All are welcome. For more information on this and other events, call us at (570) 922-1860, email us at [culc@dejazzd.com](mailto:culc@dejazzd.com) or visit our website at [www.4bellschurch.com](http://www.4bellschurch.com)

## Attention Newsletter Subscribers

As you are aware this newsletter will cease publication with the April 2015 issue, just one year from now. That issue will culminate 15 years of The Millmont Times. There is no denying that those years have passed by rapidly. It has been an honor and a privilege to have played a role in preserving a small portion of the history of people and places in the West End, and we would like to thank everyone for your support over these many years. That support has come about in many ways, including financial, through information and photographs provided, and the kinds words and remarks from so many people about the newsletter.

To some people the news about The Millmont Times coming to an end is a disappointment, and we apologize for that. We have received numerous cards, letters and emails from readers expressing their feeling about the newsletter coming to an end, and we want you to know that we appreciate all of those comments.

In the past I have expressed my reservations about the U. S. Postal Service decision to transfer my Bulk Rate Permit from the Millmont Post Office to the Lewisburg Post Office. Unfortunately that change will be going into effect beginning with the May 2014 issue. Because of the postal decision to transfer our account we have decided that rather than renew the permit (which has increased yet again this year) we will mail the newsletter using First Class Postage beginning with the May issue. While there will be some benefits to this change, there will also be some drawbacks. The benefits include a more timely delivery as the newsletter will continue to be mailed from the Millmont Post Office. However, on the downside I will not be able to take advantage of the discounted mailing price offered by the Bulk Rate Permit.

In order for the newsletter to be mailed out at the First Class rate of 49 cents each I must stay below one ounce in weight, otherwise I would have to incur additional mailing expenses. A 12-page newsletter weighs more than once ounce and would cost 70 cents per issue to mail. In order to stay below one ounce I am forced to scale back on the number of pages for each issue. Instead of printing a 12-page newsletter each month it will drop to 8 pages, beginning with the May 2014 issue. Unfortunately this change will result in a reduction in content each month. However, the difference in postage between mailing 12 pages and 8 pages is significant. Any cost saving incurred by producing eight pages each month will be absorbed by using First Class postage.

The Millmont Times has been a 12-page publication for the past decade (2004-2014) and this change was not made lightly. I hope that you will find the newsletter to be as enjoyable as you have in the past. This change will force me to scale back on the number and length of some of my articles, but hopefully the content will be as interesting as it has been in the past. I apologize for this change and wish it was not necessary.

If anyone would like a refund because of this change please contact me at the address on page 12 of this issue.

# Looking Back

The following letter was written by Robert Reed of Tiffin Ohio. In this letter published in the April 18, 1908 edition of the Lewisburg Saturday News, Reed recalls his experience as a student at the early subscription school known as the (Kester) Keister or White School of Hartley Township. This school was located off Weikert Road 2.5 miles west of Laurelton.

## Robert Reed's Account of the Kester (Keister) Subscription School.

Mr. John W. Lincoln recently sent me a copy of the Saturday News of February 29th which contained reminiscences of old Hartley township long, long ago, and which made special mention of the Kester log and white school house of that day.

I only know of four or five persons still living who attended that school, viz: Robert Corl of State College; Mrs. William Halfpenny of Swengel; Miss Harriet Reed of Jersey Shore; Mrs. Jane Chambers, of Davis, Illinois, and the writer. The teachers at that time were Messrs. Cunningham, Hamer, Bryfogle and Daniel Wilt. Schools were then conducted on the "Subscription System."

What is meant by the "Subscription System" is that each pupil was charged a nominal sum for each lesson. I will use the exact names of those in use at that time and the cost for each lesson. Primer or A B C, 3 cents per day; Emerson's speller and the New Testament, 5 cents; English Reader History, Pike and Rose Arithmetic, 6 cents. There were a few families who wanted Geography and Kirkman's grammar, but the majority did not favor this. The principal was that it would require too much of the teacher's time; others were of the opinion that such branches should not be taught in school, while others thought too much education was dangerous.

The attendance at school was large, and as a rule the people had large families which is not popular in this age. Scholars would walk as far as four miles to attend school and get an education. Three months was considered an annual term, with six school days each week, and every alternate Saturday afternoon a vacation. Hamer would take advantage of this short vacation and go over to Roush's Hotel and get a little "tea'd up". Sometimes he would not return until Monday morning. Upon his return from these little jaunts he was usually a little grouchy, and remained in this condition for several days.

One of the essentials in those days was to have a bunch of "gads" from four to six feet in length, three fourths of an inch in diameter at the butt, and not very particular about the "trimmins". These "gads" were frequently used, and sometimes without the slightest provocation. On one occasion I saw Robert or Captain Foster (who was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg) and Benevil Smith ordered to disrobe themselves of their coats. (At that time boys did not wear undergarments) and stretch themselves over a bench. What followed is needless for me to say. The "gad", however, played an important part. Girls who violated the written rules of the school were compelled to fold their fingers and the teacher would take their hand in his, and with a ruler probably twenty inches long, would slap their fingers until they would almost crack.

Bryfogle was opposed to ball playing. At noon one day the larger boys stole away and played a game of "long ball." Bryfogle suspicious and sent a spy, who reported that the boys were playing in Miller's meadow. Upon their return all plead guilty. Bryfogle got his "gad" and gave each of the boys three whacks across the back as hard as he could administer them, and none of the boys offered a kick. The boys ranged from 16 to 21 years of age.

Daniel Wilt was a good natured fellow. After teaching two months he got tired of his job and instead of giving four lessons a day as was the custom, he gave eight. Through this method he gained two weeks, which he devoted to a more profitable purpose for himself. The patrons seemed to acquiesce because they felt they had not sustained any loss.

Although the boys and girls only got two or three month's schooling a year, most of them became excellent men and women. The boys and girls of today don't seem to realize the great school advantages they have over their forefathers.

I was in attendance at the funeral of my great-grandfather in 1836, and have seen the sixth generation of the Reed family, and I have a grandson who expects to vote for the next President - - Taft. I only know of two Foraker men in our city are all for Taft. Robert Reed.

Tiffin, Ohio, April 15, 1908.

# *Blessings from the Bible*

*By Brenda Weaver*

*“I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee,  
‘Fear not; I will help thee.’”*

Isaiah 41:13

As a cold March wind mussed my hair and sent drafts under my coat, a feeling of homesickness swept into my heart. Although the calendar marked the first day of spring, and I heard the call of familiar spring-arriving birds in the meadow, it still felt like winter. I wondered if the birds which had migrated back to our Pennsylvania fields wished they would have stayed longer in warmer lands. Were they wishing for what was? (Do birds wish?) I recognized I was doing the same. My mind kept wondering back...back to the days when our family was whole...back to the days when my husband and I anticipated the arrival of spring with all its projects and chores...back to the days when I was a wife and stay at home mom...back to the time when life seemed easier. (Was it really or does it just seem that way in hindsight?) I wouldn't really choose to re-live those years; yet there is a warmth to sharing chores, dreams, projects, goals, conversation, troubles, affection, even arguments, and changing seasons—all of life really—with a spouse and children. Facing life alone feels cold, and winter-like at times.

As I walked I tried to shake off my dismal feelings. I tried to look forward to spring instead of dreading the extra outdoor chores. The arrival of spring means I have to lay aside some unmet goals for the winter and focus on the things to be done in this new season. I tried not to feel overwhelmed.

I recalled verses from scripture I'd read earlier in the day:

*“And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee,” Psalm 9:10.*

*“O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms,” Psalm 95:1-2.*

*“Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name,” Psalm 97:12.*

Why should I feel sad when a long, hard winter is ending? I determined to be thankful. I remembered the many different flus that had circulated among my family and friends. Spring often brings the blessing of renewed health. Who of us wouldn't be thankful about that? I thought of our frequent snowfalls and frigid weather. Yes, it will be wonderful to experience warmth and bright sunshine again. I thought of green. “God must like green,” my mother used to say, “Because He sure used a lot of it to make our world beautiful.” Yes, green again will be good. I thought of the dark evenings and short daylight hours. It is easy to be thankful for lengthening days and the mood improvement that daylight brings.

I thought of my recent visitors. What a joy to have my daughter and her two small children arrive from Alberta, Canada and stay in my home for six days. They came on a spring search and a relative visiting vacation. I knew the empty rooms again, after six days of being filled with the sweet babbles of my grandchildren, were a big part of my sadness. But I could still be thankful for their visit, and thankful for the bright bouquet of togetherness memories I'd collected.

Above my thoughts I heard again the pleasant tinkling of the meadow streamlet and the call of a familiar summer resident.

Why should I fear the arrival of a beautiful season full of hope and new life?

Yes, I think I *am* nearly ready to exchange my snow shovel for the lawn mower.

Sing Red Winged Blackbird, sing!

*“be fruitful and increase in number...” Genesis 9:7*

For me a long, lonely winter was made brighter by a pair of perky zebra finches in a cage in my den. I watched in interest as they nested and raised four baby birds. I remembered my own days of parenting our young ones.

Research told me I would have to separate the parent birds from the baby birds by about five or six weeks of age. But by the time four weeks rolled around, and the baby birds were eating on their own, Mr. Wings and Mrs. Sings quickly tired of parenting. Or so I thought.

The parent birds chased and pestered their full grown offspring until I had to separate them into two cages. I chuckled when one or two of the young birds started singing the longer song of the male bird. Their squeaky voices reminded me of a teenage boy with a changing voice. From their perches they practiced with fervor, but their songs sounded more like a bubbling babbling than the refined song of their father bird.

Again I thought of my own parenting. As my children moved through the teenage years and into adulthood I was, I confess, somewhat surprised, and yes, sometimes amused as they accepted responsibilities and rose to the challenges of life. (Am I the only mother who grins about once-grouchy daughters now consoling their own teething children? Or sons having to change their own sheets or do jobs they thought unnecessary during the carefree days of youth?)

My pet birds accomplished in four or five weeks what took us many years of hard work. I am glad we didn't have to chase our youngsters away. Instead I struggled more with chasing after them to come back! (At least for more frequent visits.)

Relieved of their parenting responsibilities, Wings and Sings seemed to enjoy their former, smaller cage. I placed a cooler

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Remembrance



Ralph Junior Aikey, 87, a lifelong resident of 457 Aikey Road, Millmont entered into rest at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at his home.

He was born October 16, 1926, in Millmont, a son of the late Harry and Myrtle (Waugh) Aikey. On June 3, 1953, in Mazeppa, he married the former Margaret Confair, who survives.

Ralph served in the Army during World War II from January 26, 1945, until his honorable discharge August 8, 1946.

He was employed at ACF Industries, Milton, for more than 30 years.

Ralph was a member of the former Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hartleton, a member of Mifflinburg American Legion Post 410, Union County Sportsmen's Club, Weikert, and Little Buffalo Lodge, Millmont, and a lifetime member of the Union County West End Fire Company and the National Rifle Association.

Ralph enjoyed riding his gator ATV to the mountains with his dog, Susie, hunting, fishing and taking care of animals. Surviving, in addition to his wife of 60 years, are two sons and daughters-in-law, Harry and Leigh Aikey and Mike and Cindy Aikey, all of Millmont; two grandchildren, Lindsey and her husband, Scott Stahl, and Jeremy Rosborough, all of Millmont; one great-grandson, Cohen Stahl; one sister-in-law, Aladean Aikey, of Mifflinburg; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, John and Tommy Aikey, and five sisters, Mary Sheesley, Pearl Ebersole, Mable Sechman, Eleanor Pentycofe and Alverta Oberlin.

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Jean Howell Adams Sholter Erdley, 84, of Hope Mills NC, and formerly of Middleburg, passed peacefully onto her heavenly reward on February 22, 2014, in Hope Mills.

She was born September 9, 1929, in Union County, Pa., a daughter of the late Floyd L. and Albreta Howell Adams.

Jean was a longtime resident of Middleburg, Pa., and was the wife of Joseph Sholter, of Weikert, Pa., and Myron Erdley, of Middleburg, both of whom preceded her in death.

Jean began school in Millmont, Pa., and graduated from Mifflinburg High School in 1947.

She ran the A.R. Sholter General Store in Weikert, and also served as postmaster in that village in the West End. She later enjoyed working part-time with her friends at Walnut Acres in Penns Creek,

Pa.

Jean had a great love of music. In her younger days, she played the alto saxophone and played the piano in church. Her love of music was passed on, as many of her children and grandchildren are musically talented. She enjoyed listening to Elvis, Johnny Cash and 1950's Doo-Wop ballads. Jean was a Christian, with a strong faith in the Lord, and she was actively involved at her local church in Middleburg. She had a beautiful smile and made friends easily. She will be remembered as a sweet lady with a wonderful sense of humor and will be greatly missed.

She was a devoted mother of four children, son, Joseph Roland Sholter (1949-1954), daughter, Patti Lee Sholter, son, David Roland Sholter, and daughter, Laurie Jean Ruddell. Jean had two siblings, Donald Larue Adams (deceased) and Mary Ann Adams Vought, of Center Valley, Pa.; eight grandchildren, Christopher Drumheller, Jennifer Bloom, Erica Sholter West, Kristin Sholter, Amber Sholter Yoder, Kayleigh Sholter, Abigail Sholter and David "Adam" Sholter, at 3 1/2 years her youngest grandchild and named for her maiden name; 11 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

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Levi Aaron Reiff, age 8, of 2565 Creek Road, Millmont, entered into eternal rest at 12:00 a.m. Saturday, March 22, 2014, at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville following an accident near his home on the afternoon of Friday, March 21.

He was born February 24, 2006, in Mifflinburg, the son of Allen Z. and Dorothy (Martin) Reiff of Millmont. He attended Mount Laurel Mennonite School, Millmont.

Surviving are nine siblings, Anthony and Mary Reiff of Mifflinburg, Mark and Elaine Reiff, Earl and Lisa Reiff, Rosanna and Nathan L. Martin, Wilson and Lucille Reiff, and Doris M. Reiff and her fiancée, Leallen Zimmerman, all of Millmont, along with Julia A. Reiff, and David F. Reiff all at home; paternal grandparents Laura N. Reiff of Millmont and maternal grandparents Levin N. and Lydia Ann Martin of Mifflinburg.

Burial was in the Mountain View Old Order Mennonite Church Cemetery on Kaiser Run Road, Lewis Township.

## Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Jack Wagner of Mifflinburg; Barry Blyler of Levittown; Paul and Jane Foster of Camp Hill; Dr. David and Ruthann Schooley of Lewis town; Gordon and Polly Libby, James and Helen Camp and Jean Musser of Millmont and Galen and Esther Keister of Penns Creek.

I would like to thank the following new subscriber: Rose Rodkey of Mifflinburg.

I would also like to thank all those who renewed their subscriptions, and thank everyone who sent along kind words about the newsletter with their recent renewal notices.

(Continued from page 10)

summer nest in the cage and they made themselves at home. Imagine my surprise when eggs again appeared in the nest within a few days. This time they are sitting on five. I'm beginning to feel overwhelmed by my blessings.

Somehow that feels familiar too.

According to Ecclesiastes 10:20 I'd better be careful what I say in my house! *"Do not revile the king even in your thoughts, or curse the rich in your bedroom, because a bird of the air may carry your words, and a bird on the wing may report what you say."*

I suppose instead I will *listen* for soft peeps coming from a nest again.

Pray for Today:

*Dear Lord, thank You for my many blessings...even when I feel overwhelmed by them!*

### April Birthdays & Anniversaries

|  |  |                                       |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 – John & Mary "Lib" Dunkle - 1955        | 11 – Kathryn Shively                   | 24 – Margaret Boney                   |
| 1 – Florence Kreps                         | 14 – Sandra Keister                    | 24 – Lucy Hoover                      |
| 2 – Kenneth & Annabelle Hackenburg -1949   | 15 – Lauretta Brubaker                 | 25 – Harold & Catana Zimmerman - 1966 |
| 2 – Kenneth Shuck                          | 17 – Galen Keister                     | 25 – Donald & Kafy Long – 1968        |
| 4 – Ruth Lenhart                           | 16 – Florence R. Hassinger             | 25 – Glenn & Rita Kuhns – 1998        |
| 4 – Peter & Betty Makosy - 1975            | 16 – Larry Wilson                      | 26 – Jim Hironimus                    |
| 4 – Vicki Gordon                           | 16 – Tyler Radel                       | 26 – Karen & Baris Goktas - 2003      |
| 5 – Harvey Ilgen                           | 18 – Good Friday                       | 26 – Randall Erdly                    |
| 5 – Larry & Carol Wilson - 1966            | 18 – Mervin Kline                      | 26 – Anna Brubaker                    |
| 5 – Lilee Dorman                           | 19 – Joyce Bartolo                     | 26 – Trudy Shively                    |
| 6 – Oscar & Ella Maust - 1957              | 20 - Easter Sunday                     | 28 – Susie Brubaker                   |
| 8 – Lydia Ann Zimmerman                    | 21 – Richard & Susan Hassenplug - 1973 | 28 – Robert Rowe, Jr.                 |
| 9 – Norman Strickler                       | 21 – Perry Swinehart                   | 28 – Betty Klock                      |
| 11 – August "Pop" & Dolores Barnett - 1958 | 21 – Dave Hopta                        | 29 – Forrest McClintock               |
| 11 – Evie Groff                            | 21 – Harold Hackenburg                 | 30 – Donald G. & Renda Shively - 1977 |
| 11 – Harold Zimmerman                      | 22 – Richard VonNeida                  | 30 – Polly Libby                      |
| 11 – Elam Brubacker                        | 24 – Betty L. Hess                     |                                       |

**The Millmont Times**  
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