



# The Improved Order of Red Men Washeaugah Tribe 529 of Millmont

## Freedom, Friendship, and Charity

Those three words - *Freedom, Friendship, and Charity* – summarize what The Improved Order of Red Men stood for when it was organized in 1847, and what it stands for yet today. Legally, the Improved Order of Red Men is a patriotic fraternity chartered by Congress. Still in existence, the group continues to be non-profit organization devoted to inspiring a greater love for the United States of America and the principles of liberty.

The organization maintains that it is descended from the Sons of Liberty. The Sons of Liberty were patriots who concealed their identities and worked in secret to help establish freedom and independence for the early colonies. A group of those early colonists from Massachusetts is perhaps best remembered for dressing in Native American attire and tossing hundreds of chests filled with British tea into Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773.

The group patterned themselves after the Iroquois Confederacy and its democratic governing body. They subsequently adopted the customs and terminology of Native Americans as a basic part of their fraternal organization.

The history of the Washeaugah Tribe 529 and Pocahontas Council No. 191 of Millmont is somewhat vague, since no official records, documents, or meeting minutes of either group are known to exist. Since records could not be located it was necessary to peruse through newspaper accounts for information about the groups activities from 1910-1920. Interviews with people familiar with the group’s activities were also conducted.

While there is no substantive evidence to support this theory, it is quite likely that Rev. John Yeisley (1866-1945) assisted the Millmont tribe in their organizational efforts in 1910. In addition to his pastoral duties Yeisley, a native of the Millmont area, was noted for his organizing abilities, both with the Red Men and with the P.O.S. of A. His involvement in the Red Men organization is documented in the “Centennial Biographical History of Champaign County, Ohio” published in 1902. Rev. Yeisley began his pastoral duties in Ohio in 1898. The following excerpt is from the above-mentioned book:

*In Redmanship he (Yeisley) is past sachem of Washeaugah Tribe of Saint Paris, and also chaplain general, with the rank of brigadier general, in the Red Men’s League of Ohio. He is undoubtedly the best-known speaker in the order, and had lectured extensively in nearly all of the states in the Union in the interest of the organization. He is now writing a book, which when published will be known as the “Popular History of Redmanship”.*

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Hartleton Mailbox by Postmaster Gail Hanselman

Wow...what a hot summer!!! I love it!! Great weather for picnicking with family and friends, swimming, bike riding and long walks or runs. And we are having a very needed rain shower as I am typing this! God is good all the time!!!

As always, summer brings hot weather and hot weather brings bees. So as a safety precaution for you and your mailman check your mail box for bee's nests whenever you get your mail.

A former co-worker, dear friend, and brother in Christ fought a long battle with cancer and went home to be with The Lord on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Lucien Gale Maurer was a rural letter carrier for the Mifflinburg Post Office for approx. 31 1/2 yrs. Please keep his family, including wife Arlene and their three sons Uriah, Elias and his wife Christianna and Malachi and his fiancé Ashley in your thoughts and prayers. Lucien will be missed!!!

New stamps coming to a local post office near you.....EID - available August 12 on a pane of 20; Send a Hello - available August 19 in five different designs, Lightning McQueen and Mater, Remy the rat and Linguini, Buzz Lightyear, Carl Fredricksen and Dug, and WALL\*E on a pane of 20; Edward Hopper - available August 24 on a pane of 20.

All post offices will be closed Monday September 5 for the Labor Day holiday.

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It is interesting to note that the name of the tribe Yeisley was involved with while living in Saint Paris, Ohio is identical to the name used for the Millmont tribe when they organized in 1910.

Men from the West End were eager to join the Improved Order of Red Men when they first organized in Millmont. The following excerpt is from a February 11, 1911 newspaper article pertaining to the membership of the Millmont tribe as well as the benefits of joining:

*Red Men Whoops: Members of the tribe of Red Men at Millmont are sharpening their knives and preparing their tomahawks and war clubs preparatory to scalping 15 more palefaces next Tuesday evening, when M. L. Burus, one of the big chiefs, will be present.*

*They pay \$5 a week (disability benefits), \$250 at death and \$50 at death of wife, take care of orphans of the deceased, will soon have an Old Folks Home for men and women, and furnish money to young men who desire to build a home.*

Another newspaper article dated May 13, 1912 included the following information relative to the membership at Millmont:

*Washeaugah Tribe is in a flourishing condition both financially and numerically. Organized in December, 1910, with thirty-four members they now, in sixteen months, have a membership of nearly one hundred, and have in their treasury nearly \$600.00. At their meeting two weeks ago eighteen new members were initiated into the order, and another class will be taken in within the next few weeks.*

*The Pocahontas Council is likewise making rapid strides since its organization in March, 1911. They have a membership of thirty-nine members, and on Tuesday evening received cards from a number of applicants who desire to enter into the secrets of the inner workings of the Degree of Pocahontas.*

One of the things that the Improved Order of Red Men was perhaps best remembered for was their annual August picnic held at Mohn's Grove located southeast of Laurelton. Mohn's Grove was named after Dr. George C. Mohn, a prominent Laurelton physician in the 1880's and 1890's. Mohn also served as vice president of the Laurelton Lumber Company, which was located immediately south of the picnic grove.

According to Harry Bingaman (1908-2001) the picnic area was located in the wooded area on the south side of Palman Road, now a part of State Game Lands 317. The first Red Men picnic was held in 1912 and they continued until the mid 1920's. The picnics were popular events and were well attended. At a picnic held at Mohn's Grove on Saturday August 24, 1912 the newspaper reporter estimated that there were between 3,000 to 4,000 attendees. (See Looking Back on page 7.)

During a September 5, 1996 interview Bingaman recalled when his father, Daniel, and his mother, Mary Emma (Diehl) Bingaman, were members of the Washeaugah and Pocahontas tribes respectively. While Harry had no recollection of what his parents did when they attended their meetings, he did recall attending the annual picnic from the time he was about five years old. He chuckled as he recalled wearing a brand new red suit to the Red Men picnic when he was about five years old.

According to Bingaman the annual picnic was the social event of the community. In addition to the local residents, people came to the grove from throughout the county. Bingaman stated that a special train came from Sunbury to Laurel Park picking up attendees along the way who were destined for the grove. While the narrow gauge rails of the Laurelton Lumber Company tram road (from Laurel Park to Laurelton) were gone the roadbed provided handy access to Mohn's Picnic Grove.

## Big Crowd at Picnic

### Stirring Time Saturday at West End of County.

A picnic under the auspices of the Red Men of the Millmont tribe, the farmers and the Sunday schools from the west end of the county was held in the Dr. Mohn grove, south east of Laurelton last Saturday. The day was pleasant and the attendance was large. Automobiles, buggies, straw wagons, bicycles and all sorts of conveyances bringing the picnickers together while those from near by places walked and many from a distance came on the train. A platform was erected for the speakers and at half past eleven John T. Church appeared upon the platform and made the announcements of the day. Judge A. W. Johnson, of this place, was the first speaker and delivered the advanced methods in vogue in farming over methods of years ago. He also spoke of the advantages of a farmer's life over that of any other person. Congressman B. K. Focht was booked for a speech, but owing to the fact that Congress was about to adjourn the Congressman could not be present. Prof. Spigelmyer made a short speech and in it he appealed for the best and most attractive rural schools possible under existing conditions, as well as higher grades.

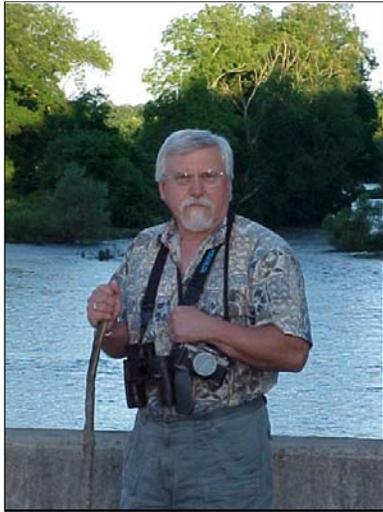
Miss Kline, of West Buffalo Township, in an attractive way recited "How Ruby Played the Organ" which brought forth much laughter and many smiles.

H. M. Showalter, of this place, spoke of the tendency of the farmer's boys and girls flocking to the cities and the evil consequences of it. He requested that the girls and boys be shown their mistake in leaving the farms, and that there be a return to the farms from the already congested cities.

The crowd was entertained by the Troxelville and the Swengel bands. The afternoon was taken up with a baseball game, potato races, tugs of war, and the like. The picnic was a success and the good results from neighbor meeting neighbor can scarcely be estimated. Now that the start has been made, it is expected that each recurring year will see a large crowd at the west end of the county picnic.

Editors Note: The article above is from an August 1912 issue of one of the local newspapers.

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# BIRD TALK

by Jim McCormick

The blistering heat of summer is upon us and now the rhythmic droning of the cicadas is replacing the chorus of singing birds. Summer is more than half over and for most people that's a sad thought, but for me it means one less month of heat to endure! The once vibrant blossoms are starting to fade and lose their petals, but in the ever changing summer landscape other flowers are starting to appear. The Day Lilies that once dominated the roadsides and filled the open fields have now been replaced by Queen Anne's Lace. Queen Anne's Lace is a common two to four foot tall wayside 'weed' with beautiful white lacy flowers that I have seen for years, but never paid much attention to.

I recently read a blog about this plant and have since realized just how prevalent it is. Also known as the Wild Carrot, Queen Anne's Lace has a rather interesting history. It was introduced by American settlers from Europe, but has been around since antiquity in Central Asia. The Wild Carrot is the source of our now domesticated carrot; the wild form's root is spindly and white. It is edible but quickly gets very woody. Our domesticated form has been bred to its familiar orange color, some say by Dutch plant breeders in honor of the House of Orange. There is an interesting history of Queen Anne's Lace and the domestication of the carrot at:

<http://www.carrotmuseum.co.uk/queen.html>.

It's hard to believe but some of the early spring migrants are already starting to leave their breeding grounds. I have noticed many of the Red-winged Blackbirds have left and the Common Grackles will soon leave too. They both arrived in late February and will soon be seen in large flocks until late fall when they head south again. The Common Grackles along Penns Creek seem to be staying a little later this year, perhaps because the Creek was so high and they got a later than normal start in their nesting. The Canada Geese had very small clutches this year again; I remember in past years I would see flotillas of forty or even fifty fluffy yellow goslings with their parents as they floated down stream. The Common Mergansers seem to be hiding from me this summer; I have only seen them rarely, but I know they are around. The Barn Swallows and Tree Swallows have all fledged and with the adults are starting to collect on the power lines. Great Blue Herons are coming out of hiding and are being seen more frequently in Penns Creek.

This month's photos were the result of an early morning encounter. As I was walking on the edge of a field near the Covered Bridge one Sunday morning, I heard some movement to my side and saw two young fawns startled up from their hiding place. At first they jumped through the corn, but only for a short distance when they both stopped. One, the braver or, perhaps, the less intelligent, stood in the open and stared at me, the other, just as curious, peeked at me from his hiding spot in the corn. As they looked at me with their big brown eyes and intently listened with those large pointed ears, I could only wonder what they were thinking. After a while I decided it was just better for me to move on and they crouched down and disappeared. Nature is filled with wonder!



## Hironimus Family Reunion

The Hironimus Family Reunion will be held Saturday August 6 beginning at 12 noon at the pavilion next to the Hironimus Church. Please bring a covered dish to share, place settings, drinks, and items for the auction. We need your support - Jeanne Jolly

Mifflinburg Church of the Nazarene  
The Scribe - An unforgettable dramatic performance by one man - Paul Pitts will be held Sunday Night August 14th at the Mifflinburg Church of the Nazarene at 6:00PM.

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Shown above is the author wearing the Improved Order of Red Men outfit that was once owned and worn by the late Harry Mitchell, a member of Washeaugah Tribe 529 of Millmont. This outfit was purchased at Delphia Shirk's estate auction in May of this year.

teen youngsters Lois had little interest in the politicians or their speeches. She also remembered someone walked around the grove handing out buttons. Perhaps they were politicians as well.

Judge Albert W. Johnson (1872 - 1957) was a frequent attendee and speaker at the Red Men picnics at Mohn's Grove. His speech at the 1916 picnic centered on the country being prepared for the future. The newspaper reporter noted that: *"The judge delivered his usual good and forceful address"*. Hostilities were raging in Europe when Johnson spoke to the crowd at the picnic that year, estimated to be somewhere near two thousand. Little did the attendees know that in less than eight months the United States would be embroiled in the "War to End all Wars".

The Red Men picnic offered opportunities to engage in entertaining activities for both young and old. The following excerpt is from a newspaper article from the year 1916:

*Immediately after the dinner hour there were various contests, including a cracker eating contest, a watermelon eating contest, and bag and three legged and potato races. A baseball game between Laurelton and Hartleton teams was one of the attractions of the afternoon and furnished a great deal of amusement for those interested in the sport.*

At the 1917 gathering the headline was: *Finest Weather Prevailed During Entire Day – Citizens Band Furnished Music for Occasion and Judge Albert W. Johnson, of this place, and Rev. Dorsey N. Miller, of Lewistown, Were Speakers.*

Miller's speech continued for over one hour and was reported to be *"one of the most humorous and very logical addresses ever heard"*. Judge Johnson, who had spoken at three other picnics earlier in the day, presented a brief account of the struggle for liberty. U.S. Congressman Benjamin Focht was expected to be present that year but business in Washington, D.C. prevented his attendance.

On December 7, 1914, Emmaus and Henrietta Royer sold a building located north of 1440 Millmont Road to Washeaugah Tribe 529 for a meeting place. The two-story Red

Bingaman recalled that every family brought their own picnic basket to the gathering. While picnic tables were available many families merely placed a tablecloth on the ground and their family members gathered together to eat their lunches. Bingaman also recalled the bandstand at the grove from which politicians and other speakers could address the crowd.

There were folks at the picnic selling soft drinks and ice cream, and each year there were bands present to entertain. Bingaman also recalled one year when there was a dwarf dressed in a fancy suit advertising and selling Cracker Jacks. Other regular attendees at the picnic each year, according to Bingaman, were the yellow jackets. The pesky little bees became quite a nuisance at the one-day affair each August.

Nonagenarian Lois (Shirk) Pick of Laurelton also recalled attending the Red Men picnics with her parents when she was a young girl. For Pick and her parents, Ray and Sarah (Kleckner) Shirk, the August event *"was a big affair and everybody went and took goodies and took a picnic lunch."* Lois recalled how her family traveled to the picnic at Mohn's Grove by horse and buggy.

Lois also recalled a well-groomed path that led from Palman Road into the picnic grove located in the nearby wooded area. During the era when the picnics were being held at that location a number of pine trees towered overhead. She said the trees blanketed the floor below with soft pine needles so that it was comfortable for families to eat their picnic lunches while seated on the ground. Pick recalled the large crowd that was present each year, many of them were strangers to her and her parents.

As a youngster Pick recalled the entertainment that was there as well as the political speakers who addressed the attendees. The picnics at Mohn's Grove offered opportunities for politicians to work their way through the crowd, shaking hands and soliciting support. Like most pre-

### The Red Men's Picnic

The Red Men's annual picnic in Mohn's Grove, up the valley, on Saturday last, was a big affair in every way. The weather was choice, a little warm, to be sure, and the attendance large, very large, beyond the usual.

Our good friend, Mr. David R. Pursley of Laurelton, better known as "Pete" Pursley, was chairman of the public meeting, filling the position with appropriate dignity and with pleasure to all.

Two splendid addresses were made, the first by Hon. Emerson Collins of Williamsport, deputy attorney general, and the second by Hon. Albert W. Johnson of Lewisburg. Both did themselves proudly and were liberally applauded.

The Citizens Band of Lewisburg rendered the music, which was greatly appreciated.

All in all it was a great day for the Red Men and their multitude of friends from far and near.

Editors Note: The article above is from the August 25, 1916 edition of one of the local newspapers.

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Men Hall, as it was commonly known, was used by Tribe 529 and their sister organization, Pocahontas Council No. 191 until they disbanded.

By the mid 1920's the Washeaugah Tribe 529 was losing membership and the group folded. In April 1930 Oscar Bowersox and David R. Pursley, trustees of Tribe 529, sold the property to Greene Shively. A large portion of that building was razed in the early 1950's and only a small section remains standing today.

Harry Bingaman stated that after the Red Men disbanded, and they no longer held picnics at Mohn's Grove, the once popular picnic site also withered.

A book published by Thomas K. Donnalley, pertaining to the Improved Order of Red Men, noted that there were five Red Men tribes located in Union, Montour, and Northumberland Counties in 1908. Those tribes included: Lewisburg (Tilittling Tribe No. 130); Danville (Mahoning Tribe No. 77); Milton (Wannetta Tribe No. 85); Shamokin (Taghneghdoarus Tribe No. 225); and Sunbury (Alpharetta Tribe No. 98). According to the website, [www.redmen.org](http://www.redmen.org), Taghneghdoarus Tribe No. 225 of Shamokin is still in existence.

When the Improved Order of Red Men was at its zenith a century ago they were able to boast a membership roll in excess of 500,000. While the organization is still in existence, membership today is only a fraction of what it was a century ago.

The ideals and principles the group was founded on remain the same. Love and respect for the American Flag, preserving our nation by defending the principle of free government and the democratic way of life and the traditions of this great country, and linking members together in a bond of brotherhood and friendship. In addition the Red Men philosophy of helping their fellow man through charitable programs, and perpetuating the legends and traditions of a once-vanishing race by keeping alive some of the traditions, customs, ceremonies, and philosophies remains unchanged. In essence the Improved Order of Red Men is and remains committed to - *Freedom, Friendship, and Charity.*

TLS

Sources: The Improved Order of Red Men published by the J. Adams Company 1907; [www.redmen.org](http://www.redmen.org); Lewisburg Saturday News; The Mifflinburg Telegraph; and Harry Bingaman.

I would also like to thank Lois (Shirk) Pick of Laurelton for information she provided for this article.

### Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Mildred Long, Doris Wilson, and Donald and Shirley Flinchbaugh all of Millmont; Donald and Betty Zechman of Carlisle; Leon and Dianne Sheesley, Robert and Lois Page, and Fannie Chupp all of Mifflinburg; and Naomi Peachey of New Berlin.

I would also like to welcome the following new subscribers: Ezra and Andrea Sassaman of Mechanicsburg.

Thanks also to everyone who renewed their subscriptions for an additional year. Your support is what helps to make this newsletter possible, and is greatly appreciated!!

I would also like to thank Emilie Jansma of State College and Weikert for donating a copy of "Reminisces by Virginia Kathryn Ely Schneeberg December 1989"; Doug and Sharon Denison of Millmont for donating numerous items of historical significance relative to Millmont, the U. S. Postal Service, the Blyler family, and the Shively family; Robert and Jeanne Jolly for donating a number of items including material about the Union County Sesquicentennial, the Hironimus Church and other items of historical interest; and Sandra Winegardner for donating numerous Mifflinburg Telegraph and newspapers, obituary clippings, photographs, Millmont memorabilia, as well as items relative to the Shively and Dorman families.



### *Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder*

I received a call about a hawk that had been staying in a tree near a residence. It seems that every time the homeowner would be outside or let their dog out the hawk would swoop at them until they went back inside. Upon investigation it seems that the hawk has a nest in the tree and is rearing young.

During the month of June my three deputies logged 281 combined hours of work on their time and activity sheets which resulted in numerous game law warnings and some citations.

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows a view of the wooded area where Mohn's Grove picnic area was once located (Glen Iron Gap on Penns Creek Mountain can be seen in the background). The annual Washeaugah Tribe 529 Red Men picnics were held at this location each year in August from 1912 through the mid 1920's. Picnics were held in the wooded area while baseball games and activities for children were held in the fields north of the grove.

# Biography of The Samuel Shirk Family



Samuel and Mary Catherine (Weidensaul) Shirk and their children - Clara and Annie (standing behind their father), Bertie (fourth from the left), Clayton (standing behind his mother), Newton (seated on left), Stuart (seated next to his dad), and Leroy (standing next to his father). Photograph from the collection of Jack Shirk of Hartleton.

Samuel Shirk, the eldest of nine children, was born in Hartley Township in 1848. His parents were John and Lydia Shirk. On June 5, 1873, he married Mary Catherine Weidensaul. According to Hartley Township census records taken in 1880 and 1900 Samuel Shirk's occupation was listed as farmer. Samuel S. Shirk died in 1904. He was only 56 years old. His wife Mary died in 1923. They are buried in Long Lane Cemetery.

Samuel and Mary Shirk were the parents of eight children. Seven of those children lived to adulthood. The eldest was a daughter, Clara M. She was followed by Annie C., Bertie A., Clayton W., Newton S., Stuart E., and the youngest child was Leroy S. Shirk.

Clara M. Shirk was born about 1875. She was married to a man with the surname Smith. They resided in the vicinity of Troy, Pennsylvania where Clara assisted in managing a hotel.

Annie C. Shirk was born in 1877. According to marriage documents in the Union County Courthouse, Annie C. Shirk was married to Francis H. Reed. Annie was 24 years old when she married Francis, who was then 41 years old. They were joined together in marriage in Hartleton by Rev. J. J. Stonycypher on December 24, 1901. Reed, the son of John and Clara Reed, was a traveling salesman and a resident of Oxford, Chester County at the time he applied for a marriage license. It is unknown how long Annie and Francis were married.

Pauline (Annie's only child) was born in Hartley Township on November 22, 1897. Birth records located in the Union County Courthouse record Pauline's father as Truman Thomas, who was then a resident of Millmont. Census records from 1900 reveal that Pauline's surname was Thomas. Sometime after 1900 her surname was changed to Shirk.

Annie Shirk is perhaps best known for the ice cream parlor she operated for many years in the borough of Hartleton. In the April 15, 1921 edition of *The Mifflinburg Telegraph* was an article that contained the following advertisement: *Miss Annie Shirk has opened an ice cream parlor at her home and will have on hand at all times Velvet Ice Cream, made by the West Branch Creamery Co., of Milton.* Later Annie and Pauline later sold ice cream at their parlor that they made themselves.

Annie's ice cream parlor was later located next door (west) of the home (307 Main Street) she shared with her daughter and brother, Clayton. Inside were several round parlor tables and chairs where customers could sit and enjoy Shirk's homemade ice cream. Shirk's ice cream parlor was subsequently owned and operated by Annie's daughter, Pauline. In addition to operating the ice cream parlor that once belonged to her mother, Pauline Shirk also served as postmaster at Hartleton from 1954 until 1963. Although handicapped by poor vision Pauline continued to operate the store into her latter years. The building that once housed Shirk's Ice Cream Parlor was razed about 1993 or 1994.

Annie Shirk died in 1955 and her daughter Pauline died in 1979. They are buried in the Hartleton Cemetery.

Bertie Alvesta Shirk was born in 1880. She was married to Henry "Hen" Schnure on December 22, 1903. Henry and Bertie were farmers who lived at 688 Laurel Road. They were married for over 50 years. Henry and Bertie Schnure were the parents of two children: Mary C. who married Matthew Burrell, and Warren "Toby" Schnure, who married the former Hilda Jane Ruhl. Henry Schnure died in 1962 and Bertie died in 1966. They are buried in the Ray's Church Cemetery.

Mary (Schnure) Burrell was a well-known teacher at the Laurelton Elementary School. Following in his father and grandfather's footsteps Toby spent much of his life farming in Lewis and Hartley Townships and Hartleton Borough. Toby and Hilda Schnure spent a number of years living on the farm located at 865 Davis Road, Millmont. This was the same farm once owned by his grandparents, Sam and Mary Shirk.

Clayton W. Shirk was born in 1882 and remained a bachelor during his lifetime. He served as postmaster at Hartleton from 1916 until 1952. He was the longest serving postmaster in Hartleton's history. He was also the operator of a general store in the borough for a number of years, and was for a period of time in partnership with his younger brother, Stuart. Clayton W. Shirk died in 1963. He is buried in the Hartleton Cemetery near his sister Annie, and his niece Pauline.

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## Mid-August Rural Heritage Days Events at Dale/Engle/Walker Historic Farm

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP, UNION COUNTY:**  
Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4:00 p.m.  
opens four days of special events at the Dale/Engle/  
Walker historic property for area families and their  
summer visitors.

Wednesday features old-fashioned children's  
games, hands-on crafts, pony rides and pony cart  
rides. Activities include making cornhusk dollies;  
making butter, soap, and paper; spinning wool, do-  
ing Celtic calligraphy, scratching designs on eggs  
dyed with onion skins; making pottery and building  
a stone wall. Learn about beekeeping and black-  
smithing, and tour the 1793 hearth furnished with  
period cookware. Lunch of barbecued hamburgers  
and hot dogs, as well as fresh-made soft ice cream  
are available at low cost. School and childcare  
groups are encouraged to attend. There is no admis-  
sion fee.

Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., Eli M. Reiff  
will talk about the history of our Plain Sect  
neighbors: Dunkards who settled in White Spring in  
the 1770s, the Amish who followed in the 1830s, and  
the Old-Order Mennonites in the 1960s. Seating at  
this event is limited and reservations are required;  
call the Union County Historical Society at 524-8666.

Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> will feature a Celtic dance  
workshop by *Tier na Nog* dance school from Belle-  
fonte at 4 PM and later, an evening performance  
starting at 6:30 PM. Those attending should bring  
their own folding chairs. There is no admission fee  
for either event.

Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, is the final and largest event  
in *Rural Heritage Days*, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00  
p.m. There will be an all-day chicken barbeque and  
potato/corn roast, plus watermelon, headed by the  
Reiff family, horse-drawn wagon rides, and live mu-  
sic. Activities include rope making, charcoal making  
and shingle making, horseshoeing, potting and lime-  
stone masonry, tin- and blacksmithing, bee keeping,  
powder horn carving and gunsmithing. Hit-and-  
miss engine machinery will make souvenir wooden  
boxes, rolling pins, and bats. Draft horses will plow  
the fields, farm machines will bind and thresh wheat,  
and demonstrators will fill grain bags and bed ticks,  
and cut grass with scythes. Women — or the distaff  
side — will put seats in old chairs, make rye straw  
hats, quilts, and rugs; dye eggs with onion skins for  
scratch decorating; and demonstrate open-hearth  
cooking using many of the utensils made by black-  
smiths and tinsmiths such as those on site. Custom  
orders can be placed with the craftsmen such as fur-  
niture makers, blacksmiths, and more.

For the complete schedule visit the web site  
[www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org) or call 570-  
524-8666.

## Looking Back

The newspaper article below was originally published in the Au-  
gust 31, 1912 edition of the Lewisburg Saturday News.

### Red Men Have A Big Outing

### Upwards of Four Thousand Attend Picnic Last Saturday.

### JUDGE JOHNSON ADDRESSES BIG GATHERING IN HARTLEY

### County Superintendent Spigelmyer and Mr. H. M. Showalter Also Made a Few Remarks.

Upwards of four thousand persons were in attendance at the Red Men's reunion held last Saturday, in Dr. Mohn's Grove in Hartley Township. The day was ideal and early the people began to pour into the grove in automobiles, driving, afoot and horseback, as well as by train. The Troxelville Band arrived at 8:30. It is one of the best bands in this section, and they livened up the crowd and kept it in a good humor until eleven o'clock, when the exercises started. John T. Church, of Glen Iron, Chairman of the committee of Washeaugah Tribe of Red Men, under whose auspices the reunion was held, called the meeting to order and delivered the address of welcome. He outlined the day's program, and after the singing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee", the band played one of its catchy selections.

Chairman Church in his usual happy way introduced Judge Albert W. Johnson, who addressed the gathering along the lines of agriculture. The Swengel Band having arrived on the scene was called upon for a breezy selection, and they responded in fine style. Miss Margaret Kline, of West Buffalo, then gave the audience one of the finest recitations they had ever heard, and in a way that pleased every one of her audience.

Prof. W. W. Spigelmyer then gave an address along educational lines. He brought out some very good points. After a selection by the Troxelville Band the chairman called upon Harry M. Showalter, a Red Man and former farmer in Hartley Township, who spoke along the line of boys and girls leaving the farm. That part of the program completed all prepared to satisfy the inner man, and judging from the smile every one wore during the afternoon, the repast was ample.

During the afternoon the two bands alternately played some of the finest band music ever heard in this section. In a tug of war contest Red Men vs. a picked team, the latter won. The potato contest was won by Howard Dauberman. A team made up of Red Men played Mifflinburg at baseball, the Red Men winning 4-3. The hurdle sack

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**Recipe of the Month**  
**by Janice (Dorman) Shively**  
**Zucchini Muffins**

- ¾ C. all-purpose flour
- ½ C. Sugar
- ¼ tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. baking soda
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 egg
- ¼ C. canola oil
- 1 C. finely shredded, unpeeled zucchini
- ½ C. chopped walnuts
- ¼ C. dried raisins or raisins

In a bowl, combine the first six ingredients. Combine the egg and oil, stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in the zucchini, walnuts and raisins or raisins.

Coat muffin cups with nonstick cooking spray or use paper liners; fill ¾ full with batter. Bake at 350° for 22 – 25 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes before re-

moving from pan to a wire rack.

**Yield: 6 muffins.**

This is a recipe that I found in a *Cooking for 2* magazine years ago. The small batch size and ease of preparation, coupled with the fact that this is a good way to use up those zucchini in your garden, makes this recipe inviting.

The batter makes 6 large muffins. Sometimes I bake them in cupcake size tins and I get 12 muffins that way. Be sure to decrease the baking time by a few minutes for the cupcake size muffins. These muffins freeze well!

Typically I have a lot of zucchini in the summer. So, I shred and freeze the zucchini in containers. Then when I'm baking for Christmas gift giving I get out the shredded zucchini, drain it well and make these muffins for gift giving.

**ENJOY!**



*(Continued from page 7)*

race was a corker, and a credit to the committee, being won by Francis Church. The exercises of the day being completed the two bands continued to play until nearly every person had left the grove.

It is estimated by several parties who made an effort to be conservative, that there were between three thousand and four thousand persons on the ground, and with all this the host not an accident occurred to mar the day's pleasure, not an insult was passed, and no person was entitled to a reprimand for bad behavior. It was a day of merry-making, one of extreme joy and pleasure. Many old acquaintances were renewed and new friends were gained, and it was the consensus of opinion that the reunion was never equaled in this section.

The Red Men extend their thanks and good wishes to the Daughters of Pocahontas, the P. O. S. of A.; the Farmers Club and Sunday schools, and to all who helped to make the day a success, and hope that when the annual time arrives next year, the next to the last Saturday in August, all will again be present. No money was solicited to defray the expenses of the day, the Red Men desiring that all in attendance have a day of enjoyment and pleasure without expense. The committee extends its hearty thanks to the Millmont P. O. S. of A. for their kindness in securing the Swengel Band, which was a credit to the reunion.

The committee in charge was: John T. Church, Chairman; H. R. Mitchell, Carl VonNeida, Milton Catherman, and J. O. Sheats.

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:

*Sunday August 25, 1940. Text this morning Rev. 2:10. "Be thou faithful until death and I will give thee a crown of life". This afternoon brother George Strawser, son-in-law and family were with us for a short time. They were at the services this morning. I wanted Bro. Strawser to preach but he asked to be excused. Bro Strawser lives at Oriental. Here (Oriental) is where I preached my first sermon away from home forty six years ago. I held an evangelistic effort there some time later and at the close of the meeting on a Sunday evening after the service at about 10 o'clock I baptized his little daughter, Maggie, and a daughter of Bro. John Showers, Jennie, in the creek being covered with ice.*

**HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY**

Congratulations to Norman "Sunny" Strickler and his wife, Pearl, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Thursday August 25th. Cards of congratulations may be sent to their address:  
 2950 State Route 235, Millmont Pa. 17845.

**COMING SOON**

Watch for more details in the September issue about the upcoming Millmont Fall Festival, Flea Market, and Chicken Barbecue scheduled for Saturday October 1. This event is sponsored by the reorganized Lewis Township Village Green Recreation Association.

# *Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours*

*by Lucy Hoover*

Ted and Janelle Clouse of Perry County, who lost one son and six daughters in a house fire in March of this year, welcome a new son named Gabriel Nelson. He has one surviving sister.

June 25, 2011

Elsie brought a stray kitten along home from work for her cat-loving sister, Marie. Our mother cat has two kittens about the same size, who readily adopted another baby. The strange thing is the new kitten has almost identical markings and color as the mother cat, while her biological babies do not look like her at all. They named the kitten "Alphabet". Marie says, "she better have twenty six babies" because she wants to name them by each letter of the alphabet.

June 27

Mrs. Kenneth Martin (Eva), 27, of Lewisburg had one day surgery.

June 29

Curvin quit working early today when a split rim forklift tire blew up, hit him, causing a deep gash. We feel fortunate it wasn't worse.

July 1

Adin Zimmerman had hip replacement surgery.

July 9

Rufus and Vera Martin had a wedding reception for their son Daniel and Edna Jane.

July 10

Mervin and Mary Wideman, sign language interpreters of Canada, were at church today.

July 11

Eugene and Lydia Ann Oberholtzer of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Lisa. She has four brothers and five sisters. Grandparents are Allen and Lucy Oberholtzer and Harvey and Martha Hoover of Kentucky.

Alson and Minerva Martin of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Martha Ann. She has three sisters. Grandparents are Harvey and Martha Martin of New Holland and Allen and Lovina Zimmerman.

Esther Nissley wants to express a special "Thank You" for the many beautiful sympathy cards she received from her many friends. She especially enjoyed the home-made cards. May God bless you for caring.

July 13

Amos and Judith Martin of Mifflinburg have a son named Cody Lynn. He is their first child. Grandparents are Linus and Irene Martin and John Aaron and Lydia Reiff.

## Remembrance

Terry Neil Osgood, 70, of 163 Old Country Lane, Millmont, entered into rest at 9:24 a.m. Sunday, July 17, 2011, at his home.

He was born September 24, 1940, in Middleburg, a son of the late James and Alverna (Fisher) Osgood. On August 21, 1987, he married the former Loyce J. (Wertz) who survives.

Terry attended Middleburg High School. He was a self-employed woodworker. He built furniture, as well as, restored and refinished antique furniture. He was a member of the Christ Community Church, Glen Iron.

Terry enjoyed gardening, hunting, and working outside.

Surviving in addition to his wife of nearly 24 years, are one son and daughter-in-law, Daniel and Leslie Osgood, of Richfield; one stepdaughter and stepson-in-law, Londa and Gary Bennett, of Beavertown; two brothers and one sister-in-law, Larry Osgood, of Middleburg, and Joseph and Margie Osgood, of Mount Pleasant Mills; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Jacqueline Graybill, of Richfield, and Suzanne and Dean Walter, of Middleburg; four grandchildren, Amber Hayes, Daniel Osgood, Kaitlynn Osgood, and Emily Osgood; two step-grandchildren, Austin and Oakley Bennett; and two great-grandchildren, Miranda Hayes and Cameron Osgood.

He was preceded in death by one son, Curtis Osgood; and one brother, James Osgood Jr.

Interment was in the Lincoln Chapel Cemetery, Laurelton.

\*\*\*\*\*

Priscilla S. Chick, 88, of Millmont, passed away at 11:11 p.m. Monday, July 18, 2011, at RiverWoods, Lewisburg, where she had resided since 2007.

She was born on December 23, 1922, in Springfield, a daughter of the late Ralph B. and Lynette (Ballard) Shive. On May 8, 1954, she married George Leslie Chick, who passed away on July 21, 1985. Together, they shared 31 years of memories.

Priscilla was a 1940 graduate of Springfield Area High School. She worked for 15 years as an administrative assistant for Smith, Kline and French Pharmaceutical Co. In 1955, she chose to become a fulltime homemaker and assist with her husband's dairy farm in Bucks County. In 1965, they moved their family of three children to their present farm in the West End of Union County.

Priscilla was a charter member of the Deep Run Presbyterian Church, Bedminster, and a member of the Lincoln Chapel United Methodist Church, Laurelton. She belonged to the Union County West End Fair Association, serving on the board of directors from 1987 to 2005. She was an active 4-H Club leader and also served for many years on the executive committee of the Penn State Cooperative Extension. She was a member of the Laurelton Women's Club and West End Homemaker's Association.

Priscilla enjoyed all kinds of crafts, which included sewing, knitting, crocheting, basket making, upholstery, chair caning and quilting. She truly loved cooking and baking and was known for making numerous pies for the West End Fair Community Center stand. Her greatest enjoyment came from raising her three children and spending time with her grandchildren, family, and friends.

She is survived by one daughter and son-in-law, Linda C. and Paul J. Miskinis, of Lititz; two sons and one daughter-in-law, Stephen J. and Carmen M. Chick, of Chester Springs, and Brian T. Chick and his fiancé Shawn M. Padgett-Kollhoff, of Glen Mills; and six grandchildren, Christopher Chick, Sarah Miskinis, Brandon Chick, Morgan Chick, Abbey Chick, Katelyn Chick and Thomas J. Kollhoff.

Interment was in the Lincoln Chapel Cemetery, Laurelton.

# *Blessings from the Bible*

*By Brenda Weaver*

*“But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create:  
for, behold, I created Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.  
And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people...”*

Isaiah 65:18-19a.

In partnership with our daughter and son-in-law, God created a special little baby for us to enjoy! As grandparents we thrill at getting that call from the new daddy. The whole family rejoices as we learn of a new baby boy joining our number. Aunts and uncles rejoice. Our two grandchildren are excited about having a cousin, even if he lives too far away to hold or visit very often. Daily we check the computer for photos of a sweet little baby with lots of dark, curly hair. Yes, we rejoice!

God created people to enjoy. He rejoiced in Jerusalem. He joyed in His chosen people, Israel. Sadly, they did not always bring Him joy; often, when they went running after other gods, He grieved over them. The decisions they made, and the decisions we make, to obey or not obey, to worship Him or not worship Him, determine how much God rejoices over us. Scripture also says there is joy in heaven when one sinner repents.

I am rejoicing now in that which God has created. Will I pray fervently for this little one that he will someday repent of his sins and cause joy in heaven? Oh yes! I want to.

What else am I doing today to cause joy in heaven?

\* \* \* \* \*

*“But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence,  
not in heart, endeavored the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.  
Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again;  
but Satan hindered us. For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?  
Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?  
For ye are our glory and joy.” 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20*

I can relate somewhat to the desires of Apostle Paul when he wanted very much to see his friends. Of course travel was slow and difficult in those days, not to mention the threats on Paul's life because of his bold preaching of Christ. On several occasions he was imprisoned and unable to travel to see the new believers whom he very much wished to encourage. In the verses above he writes to the Thessalonians about his desire to see them. He was greatly comforted and encouraged by their walk of faith. Their faithfulness caused him glory and joy.

Upon the arrival of our new grandson, I also “endeavored abundantly” to see the faces of our daughter, son-in-law, and little Adryen. I prayed fervently. Through a series of blessings and reduced ticket prices we were able to make plans to travel to Alberta to see them. As I write this our suitcases are packed and we are anticipating a joyful reunion soon! How I thank and praise God for His provision. Like Paul, I will joy and glory to see those I love, and be convinced of their walk of faith.

*“For what thanks can we render to God again for you,  
for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;  
night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face...”*  
1 Thessalonians 3:9, 10a.

**Prayer for Today:**

*Dear Lord, Thank You for our loved ones, for new babies, and for the joy babies and reunions bring. Help me also to fervently desire to see the faces of new believers and to encourage them in their walk of faith. Amen.*

## **Free Newsletters!**

Would you like to receive The Millmont Times each month at no charge? Would you like to receive The Millmont Times in color each month? Well, it is as easy as visiting our website at: [www.millmonttimes.com](http://www.millmonttimes.com)

Find the year and month you would like to read. Using your “right click” on your mouse select an issue. Using your “left click” select “Open Link” and presto - there it is! You can save them on your computer or you can print it off at your leisure.



Photograph taken at Delphia Shirk's estate auction on July 22, 2011.

## West End News:

The passing of Delphia Shirk on April 7<sup>th</sup> of this year left a void, not only in the hearts and minds of her family and friends, but also in the Millmont community. This small community not only lost one of its prominent citizens, it also lost a part of its heritage. A general store had been operating at that location for 125 years - almost as long as Millmont has been on the map.

The store began about 1887 when Charles W. Orwig first opened for business at that location. Subsequent owners included Oscar F. Bowersox, J. George Royer, Harry R. Mitchell, and Newton S. Shirk. From 1962 until Donald L. Shirk's death in 1991 he and his wife Delphia jointly operated the Mom and Pop country store located at 1345 Millmont Road.

At one time Shirks' General Store was a bustling place. They sold groceries, meat, plumbing, electrical and hardware supplies, shoes, and hunting and fishing licenses. If you needed glass for your window pane, Donald could cut that to your specifications as well. Just about anything you needed you could find it at Shirk's Store. Competition from large chain stores drove many of the small Mom and Pop businesses out of existence, and by the late 1970's and

early 1980's it was having an effect on Shirk's as well. However, Donald and Delphia remained open for business and they turned to selling antiques and collectables as a way of drawing customers into their rural country store.

Donald Shirk's death in 1991 was a blow, yet Delphia continued to keep the doors open. The store was her life, and those who stopped to visit, be it daily, weekly, monthly, or sometimes annually, were part of the reason she was motivated to keep the doors open. She repeatedly stated that she had no desire to move away from Millmont. Her daily routine inside, as well as outside of the store, prevented her from sitting down and doing nothing. Even though there were many challenges, in reality the store was a form of physical therapy for her aging body.

In an effort to dispose of some of her personal property she scheduled a one-day public auction in May 2010. She subsequently made arrangements with auctioneers Wayne and Lori (Hess) Lauver to hold another one-day auction in May of 2011. As a result of her death in April it became necessary to have a two-day sale in May and schedule another two-day sale in July to settle her estate. The old store was chocked full of antiques and items of historical interest. Some of those items were likely in the store from the days when Charles W. Orwig first opened the doors.

*(Continued on page 12)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

Newton Samuel Shirk was born 1887. He married the former Stella Speese on September 10, 1910. They were married for over 50 years. Newton and Stella Shirk were the parents of six children. Those children were Dorothy, Eleanor, twins Donald and Harold, Charles, and Laird.

Like his brothers he was also engaged in the general store business for many years. "Newt" got his first experience in the general store business while working for Harry Mitchell in Millmont about 1908. He took over the business around 1918 and continued to operate the store until he sold it to his son and daughter-in-law, Donald L. and Delphia A. Shirk in 1961.

On a December evening in 1964, Newton walked from his 22 First Street Millmont home to Shirk's Store a short distance away. Donald and Delphia (Jolly) Shirk were then operating the business. On numerous occasions Delphia Shirk (1927-2011) recalled the eerie events that occurred on the evening of December 30, 1964. She remembered Newt entering the store and slowly walking up and down each aisle glancing at the shelves stocked with groceries, shoes, hardware and other items. When he was finished walking the aisles he left store and returned to his home without uttering a word to anyone. Within hours he was dead. Newt's last visit to the store appeared to be his way of saying goodbye to the place where he spent more than five decades of his life. His wife Stella died in 1971. They are buried in the Old Cedar Cemetery in Swengel.

Stuart Elwood Shirk was born 1889. He was married to the former Ella Louise Stout. They were the parents of nine children. Those children were Evelyn, Samuel S., Myron W., Neal F., Alice, Helen, Jack C., Doris, and John S.

Stuart E. Shirk kept store in Hartleton for a period of time, and as noted previously, he was in partnership with his brother Clayton. He was also a self-employed carpenter, and he served as constable for the Hartleton Borough for 40 years.

Ella (Stout) Shirk died in 1955 and Stuart died in 1969. They are buried in the Hartleton Cemetery.

Leroy Sanford "Mike" Shirk, the youngest of Samuel and Mary Shirk's children was born in 1893. He was married to the former Susie E. Dauberman. They were married for more than 50 years and were the parents of four daughters and one son. Their children were Caroline, Hazel, Barbara, and Robert.

Leroy lived on his parent's farm located at 865 Davis Road. He also operated a dairy and milk distribution business on the Davis Road farm, which continued through the decade of the 1930's. The name embossed on many of his milk bottles was "L. S. Shirk Millmont". Mike was also known for transporting students by bus to and from the Hartley Township School.

Leroy died in 1974 and Susie died in 1979. They are buried in the Hartleton Cemetery.

Editors Note: My thanks to Jack Shirk, Pauline (Bowersox) Shively, and Linda (VonNeida) Dorman for their contributions to this article.

TLS

(Continued from page 11)

In the span of fourteen months there five public auctions held at Shirk's Store. Having assisted at several of those auctions provided an opportunity for me to reflect upon Shirk's Store. As a former employee of the little general store (1968-1971) I was witnessing a part of my past being dispersed, much of it to people who perhaps never even knew Donald and Delphia Shirk. While it was inevitable, it was at the same time - sad. A lot of history and a lot of memories left Millmont by the time the last auction was held on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. While Donald and Delphia's material things were scattered to the winds, for many of us who did know the Shirk's, the memories will never fade.

TLS

### August Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 – Cory & Charlene Yarger - 1988	10 – Tommy Potoeski	17 – Levi Brubaker
1 – Anna Shirk	10 - Marlene Martin	20 – Forrest Hoffman
1 - Mae (Kuhns) Sullivan	10 – Angie Dorman	20 – Dennis & Lena Susan - 1966
2 – James Catherman	11 – Angela Brown	20 – Glenda Murphy
2 – Irene Musser	11 – Beverly Scheffler	20 – Henry Dorman
2 – Pat Kline	11 – Jeff Erdley	21 – Martha Stover
2 – James C. Catherman	12 – Grace Antol	22- Tim Osborne
3 – Chris Bilger	12 – Kenneth & Beverly Catherman	22 – Sue Blyler
3 – Brandon Bilger	1962	23 - Vada Erdley
3 – Adam Dorman	12 – Naomi Aurand	23 – Nancy Hendricks
3 – Sean Klingman	12 – Betty Zechman	22 – Kyla Mattern
4 – Carl R. Catherman	13 – Rodney Sholter	24 – Ruth & Sam Ely - 1964
5 – Ricky & Tina Sholter - 1995	13 – Mary Ellen Hoffman	24 - Grace Kuhns
5 – Sandra Winegardner	14 – Calvin & Diane Hackenburg - 1964	24 – Tom Guyer
5 – Alta Z. Oberholtzer	14 – Glenda Sheaffer	24 – Lois Feaster
7 – Jacob Sholter	14 – Tom Catherman	24 – Brenda Klingman
7 – Kim Blyler	15 – Sam & Shirley Diehl - 1948	25 – Norman and Pearl Strickler – 1961
7 – Carol Martin	15 – Galen & Esther Keister - 1959	27 – James Z. Zimmerman
7 – Carolyn Catherman	16 – Pearl Gower	28 – Menno Zimmerman
8 – Brandi Spotts	17 – Larry & Angela Brown - 1991	29 – William “Bill” Little
9 – Mary Ella Martin	17 – Steve & Pat Libby - 1968	31 – Norma J. Catherman

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