



## St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church



Shown above is the cornerstone from the second church built by the St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church dated August 1851. This cornerstone is located near the site of both the original log church as well as the second house of worship.

Below are the headstones of George Ray (Reeg) and his wife Margaret Ray, who provided the land for the church.



after providing the plot of ground for the church and cemetery. Margaret Ray, who died in 1822, is buried alongside her husband. Examination of the 1800 census reveals the name George Ray listed as the head of household and living in what was then West Buffalo Township. In addition to George, the census data reveals that his wife, four sons and five daughters were then living in the same home.

While both groups met at Ray's on alternate Sundays, during the early history of the

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Many people who zoom by the former Ray's Church each day in their automobiles are perhaps unaware that the proper name for this church was - St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church. Located at 13330 Old Turnpike Road in Lewis Township, the present brick structure is the third house of worship built by two denominations. Long known as the Ray's Church, the cornerstone of the Gothic style church was laid over 130 years ago on May 20, 1883. Completed and ready for use nine months later, the dedication service was held at the church on Sunday, February 24, 1884.

The original church was quite likely the first house of worship built in the West End of Union County. Constructed of hewed logs, this church was situated within a section of the present day cemetery on the opposite side of the road. The log structure was built on land provided by George and Margaret Ray. The Ray's turned the property over to the trustees of St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed on September 4, 1801 for a token sum. When the land transfer took place the "meeting house", as it was noted in the deed, had already been constructed. Situated east of the church was a burial ground. This cemetery holds the remains of some of the earliest settlers to this region.

One of the early interments in the cemetery was that of George Ray (also spelled Reeg). Ray died February 25, 1802 at age 59, only months

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



During two consecutive Friday night football games, a nighthawk showed up in the fourth quarter and put on quite a show gathering bugs that were flying in the lights.

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WCO Dirk Remensnyder reports that Union County should have another great bear harvest this year, based on sightings that have been reported.

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church neither the Lutheran nor the Reformed congregations had a regular pastor. Instead they were served by circuit riding ministers. Rev. John G. Heim became a regular pastor of the Lutheran congregation at Mifflinburg in 1809 and served that congregation until 1831. It is likely that Heim ministered to the attendees of the Ray's Church during this time. Rev. Yost Henry Fries (1777-1839) began ministering to the Reformed Church in Mifflinburg in 1811. While short in stature, Fries became known as a towering figure behind the pulpit. He ministered to the Reformed congregation until 1839. It also appears likely that he led worship services for the Reformed congregation at Ray's during that time. Rev. Fries is buried in the Mifflinburg Cemetery.

According to historian, Richard V.B. Lincoln, the original log church included a gallery that was never finished, nor was it equipped with seating. Whenever an overflow crowd was assembled at the church many of the people in the gallery were forced to stand.

Lincoln noted that after a lapse of time the church was used for funeral services but was otherwise neglected, resulting in its deterioration. He also wrote that the old log church developed a reputation as being haunted. Those superstitions were so widespread that some people feared to pass by the church in the dark.

Rev. John G. Anspach (1801-1889) began ministering to the Lutherans who assembled at Ray's Church in 1834. In a newspaper article published in the Mifflinburg Telegraph in February 1884, Anspach recalled some of the features of the old log church. He noted that the pulpit was tub-shaped and he remembered when bees made nests in some boards nailed to the wall. Anspach also noted that on occasion those bees made it "hot" for the preacher. Eventually the church became unfit for use and in 1851 the log church was razed and a new brick church was constructed. The new church included a gallery on three sides, and was erected on the same site as the original log church.

Members of the building committee included Jacob Ruhl, Sr. and Benjamin Mensch. The contractor for the new brick church was Samuel Noll. The cornerstone for the new church is dated August 1851. The house of worship was dedicated April 25, 1852. Present at the dedication service was Rev. Anspach who ministered to the Lutherans attending Ray's Church until 1884. He served that congregation long enough to be present at two church dedication services; the one in 1852 and again in 1884.

The congregation was never content with their new house of worship. It lacked size and like its predecessor the gallery was ill planned. Additionally getting to and from the pulpit was treacherous, and the pews were uncomfortable. Three decades after the church was erected older members of the congregation decided it was time to put up a new church. Those who served on the committee for the building project included Samuel Keiser, Joseph Sanders, Jacob Ruhl, Jr., J. Calvin Ruhl, and William Eberhart.

The congregation decided to build a new house of worship on the north side of the highway. Land for this building project was provided by Samuel P. Ruhl (1834-1883), a deacon at Ray's Church. A veteran of the Civil War, Samuel P. Ruhl died about two months before the new church building was completed. Some members of the congregation suggested that perhaps the church should be renamed "Ruhl's Church" in Samuel's memory.

The church was built by noted Mifflinburg architect and builder, Enoch Miller. Some of the material from the old house of worship was salvaged and reused in the construction of the new one story church. While the church was under construction the congregation met in a nearby schoolhouse.

At age fourteen Dr. Charles Finley Sanders (1869-1959) helped transport bricks during the construction of the church. Born in Lewis Township, this native son of the Ray's Lutheran congregation ministered to the Avonmore and Blairsville congregations in western Pennsylvania over a ten year period. He later became professor of philosophy at Gettysburg College, where he was head of the department. During the 35 years he spent at Gettysburg College Sanders authored numerous books and had a number of articles published in church periodicals.

A description of the interior of the new church noted the stained glass windows in the church were brightly colored and must be seen to be appreciated. There was a chandelier, a large Sunday school room located in the rear of the

The following pastors served the congregation at St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed:

Lutheran: Rev. John G. Heim, Rev. John G. Anspach, Rev. Samuel C. Finkle, Rev. Samuel Furst, Rev. J. I. Stonecypher, Rev. F. Aurand, Rev. J. A. Flinckinger, Rev. Arthur G. Harris, Rev. D. B. P. Barry, Rev. Harry R. Shipe, Rev. J. F. Winkelblech, Rev. David S. Kammerer, Rev. R. F. Fetterolf, Rev. Harry O. Reynolds, Rev. Robert R. Clarke, Rev. Theodore C. Scheifele, Rev. George Haaf, Rev. Earl Kutz, Rev. Luther Seeger and Rev. Emil Engelman.

Reformed: Rev. Yost H. Fries, Rev. Keiffer, Rev. J. C. Bucher, Rev. S. J. Weisz, Rev. Rittenhouse, Rev. George Addams, Rev. A. C. Whitmer, Rev. L. D. Steckel, Rev. S. L. Whitmore, Rev. Bushong, Rev. Gerhart, Rev. M. W. Schweitzer, Rev. J. W. Albertson, Rev. Kohler, Rev. Hartman, Rev. M. Keiffer, Rev. John W. Yeisley, Rev. Harold Ditzler, Rev. Custer, Rev. Ira Frantz, Rev. F. Nelson Schlegel, Rev. Joseph R. Stoudt, Rev. Marion E. Smith and Rev. Eli Fabian.

Editor's Note: This list may not be all inclusive.

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# Exploring the Bald Eagle State Forest

## Robert E. Klingman Office Building at R. B. Winter State Park



R. B. Winter State Park in Hartley Township, Union County attracts thousands of visitors each year. Many of those visitors take advantage of the myriad of activities at the 695-acre state park including swimming, picnicking, camping, fishing, and hiking. Some have probably visited the office building at the park in search of information or assistance. Perhaps they noticed the name Robert E. Klingman attached to the attractive mountain stone building that serves as the headquarters for the park staff. Those who have no knowledge of this individual may have asked themselves, or others, who is Robert E. Klingman, and why is his name attached to the office?

Robert Eugene Klingman was born and raised in Mifflinburg the son of the late Charles Luther “Dal” and Anna Mary (Doebler) Klingman. A 1944 graduate of Mifflinburg High School, Klingman enlisted in the U. S. Navy, where he served for two years. Following his discharge from military service in 1947, he worked for Bald Eagle District Forester, R. B. Winter.

Working for Winter’s provided Klingman with a greater appreciation of the responsibilities and duties of a district forester. Winter’s also encouraged him to pursue a college degree in the field of forestry. Over time Klingman recognized that Winter’s was a man that he both admired and respected. Today Klingman readily acknowledges that Raymond B. Winter was his mentor.

Klingman’s brother-in-law, Wilson B. “Eddie” Sayers (married to Pauline Klingman) also spent most of his working career employed in forestry related endeavors, including a stint as a professor at West Virginia University in Morgantown during WWII. Following his honorable discharge from the Navy, and while working in the Bald Eagle Forest, Klingman began searching for a college to attend. His brother-in-law, Sayers, persuaded him to make the trip to Morgantown so he could examine the university for himself.

By 1947, Sayers was no longer a faculty member at WVU. However, he was well acquainted with some of the professors, including Dr. W. C. Percival. Percival was the first director of the university’s Division of Forestry and a well-respected faculty member. Although the fall semester that year had reached its limit of students, Percival encouraged Klingman to enroll in a ten-week summer course at WVU in May of that year. By entering the summer course in the forestry program Klingman’s chances of continuing his studies when the fall semester started were much improved.

Klingman obtained his degree from WVU, graduating in 1951. Although he searched for employment in the forestry field, he was unsuccessful at landing a job. At that time the forestry department in Pennsylvania was still influenced by politics, a condition of employment that Klingman did not find attractive. Obtaining and retaining a job in the state during that era depended on which political party was in power in Harrisburg. As a result he spent the next thirteen years working in the private sector. One of those jobs included a lengthy stint at the Lewisburg Chair Factory (later Pennsylvania House Furniture), where he had a management position. However, Klingman never gave up on his goal of someday working for the forestry department.

In 1962 Maurice Goddard, Secretary of the Department of Forest and Waters, created the Bureau of State Parks. The role of the new agency, and those it employed, was to devote particular attention to the state parks scattered across the Commonwealth. This new agency also needed additional employees. By 1963 expansion of the civil service protection for various technical and administrative positions in Pennsylvania was also instituted. As a result Klingman considered applying for a job with the newly created Bureau of State Parks.

His superior at the Lewisburg Chair Factory was R. N. Parker. Parker served on the board of directors of the furniture company with State Senator Samuel B. Wolfe. Klingman appealed to Parker to assist him with his efforts at securing a job with the state agency. Part of that effort was his request that Parker pass the word along to Senator Wolfe about his interest in landing a job at the Bureau of State Parks. However, Klingman quickly realized that his pleas for help in finding employment apart from the furniture



The Robert E. Klingman Office Building at  
R. B. Winter State Park.

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Young boys and girls sled riding down the hill on the Old Turnpike. St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church can be seen in the background. This type of activity would most likely not be possible today.

building and an Estey organ. The building had a heater in the cellar, and a graceful spire and a fine tuned bell hung in the belfry. The reporter for The Mifflinburg Telegraph attending the dedication wrote that *"The service on Sunday morning last was long but interesting."* The service was conducted in both English and German. According to the newspaper article the church was debt free at the time of the dedication service.

Rev. Anspach, the highly respected Lutheran minister, who spent more than five decades at Ray's, retired from active service in the weeks following the formal dedication of the church. Anspach preached his farewell sermon on May 4, 1884. He died February 8, 1889 and is buried in the Mifflinburg Cemetery. Rev. Yost Henry Fries is also buried in the Mifflinburg Cemetery.

During a severe storm in 1897 high winds toppled the steeple of the St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church. The steeple and belfry ended up on the high-

way in front of the church. The bell was not damaged and was returned to the belfry once it was rebuilt. It was during this same year when the ladies of St. Peter's Aid and Missionary Society developed a clever fundraising idea. Together the ladies sewed a quilt that included the embroidered names of 551 children and adults. In order to have their names sewn with red thread into the quilt each person donated \$1.00 (or more). When completed, the quilt was auctioned off to the highest bidder. It was purchased by Mrs. Jennie (Reish) Frederick for \$100.00.

In January 1964 the Lutheran congregation voted to merge with several other area churches of the parish and erect a new church, just west of the Ray's Church. The Lutherans held their last service in St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church on November 29, 1964. Members of the United Church of Christ (Reformed) conducted their last service, which included communion, on December 20, 1964.

At a meeting held January 24, 1965 the trustees decided to transfer ownership of St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed property over to the Union County Historical Society. After taking possession, and making repairs to the structure, the society used the building as a museum. The museum was open on Sunday afternoons during the summer months through the mid 1970's.

In 1985 the society decided to sell the former church along with some of the contents at public auction. The former church did not reach the reserved amount on the day of the auction, and it was sold privately sometime later. The society donated the bell to Christ's United Lutheran Church, which at that time was widely known as the "Three Bell Church." With the addition of the fourth bell the moniker changed to the "Four Bell Church." The addition of the fourth bell was symbolic of the merger of the four Lutheran congregations in the West End of the county - Hartleton, Swengel, Laurelton and Rays.

In a February 1965 interview with a reporter from the Union County Journal, Haven Lukens (1880-1970) reminisced about the old days at the Ray's Church. He recalled making the trip from his farm north of Hartleton to the church on Sunday mornings in a horse and buggy. According to Lukens, who was 84 years old at the time of the interview, it took a half hour to travel the 3 miles from his farm to the Ray's Church. Lukens stated: "I believe we enjoyed the trip to church more in those days than we do today. We could see the countryside then. Now it's just a blur as we speed along in an automobile."

Despite the fact that it is no longer used as a house of worship, the former church had a long and interesting history. It is a delight to see that the building is being preserved and well maintained by its current owner, Victoria Raab of New York, NY.

TLS

Sources: History of Ray's Church (St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed) Millmont, R. R. 1, Penna. 1801-1965, by Mrs. Anna J. Kleckner and her daughter, Mildred M. Kleckner, life long members of the Reformed Congregation; Union County Heritage Volume XIV; History of the Hartleton Lutheran Pastoral Charge (Union County, PA) written by Robert R. Clark With a Foreword by Theodore C. Scheicle October, 1943; and The Mifflinburg Telegraph.



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Assistant Director Robert Klingman, at Lehigh Gorge State Park in 1982. Photograph courtesy of Charles Strauss of State College.

manufacturing company were falling on deaf ears.

Klingman took and passed the civil service exam in 1964. After interviewing with the bureau and being offered a job, he had a choice as to where he wanted to work. He chose Poe Valley State Park. He was awarded the job and appointed as the first superintendent of that Centre County state park. In addition to Poe Valley State Park Klingman was also responsible for several nearby state parks including Poe Paddy, Reeds Gap, Hairy John's, Ulsh Gap, Bear Gap, and Snyder Middleswarth.

He was faced with a number of obstacles when he first started at Poe Valley, including the lack of adequate office space and no telephone service. His office at the time was a storage building with a picnic table for a desk and his filing cabinets were cardboard boxes. If he had an emergency and needed to get in contact with someone by telephone he had to drive to the Poe Mountain Fire Tower, four miles from the park. His transportation consisted of an old pickup truck and a one-half-ton dump truck. By the end of his first summer on the job a telephone line was installed to the park, and he was furnished with a desk and filing cabinets.

Klingman's assistants at the state park were seasonal employees, one part time foreman and two part time laborers. Since Poe Valley State Park was more or less inaccessible after the arrival of winter weather, he spent several months each year working at R. B. Winter State Park in Union County. Despite the many challenges that came with his profession Klingman enjoyed working for the Bureau of State Parks and looked forward to going to work each day. The fact that he was able to enjoy a picnic lunch in the beautiful surroundings of a state park each workday made his job rewarding.

After two years at Poe Valley he was transferred to Black Moshannon State Park in western Centre County where he was appointed park superintendent. Black Moshannon not only encompassed a much larger area, the lake there was ten times the size of the one he left behind at Poe Valley State Park. The rustic cabins built during the CCC era, still in use today, also make this park near Phillipsburg unique.

In the summer of 1968, Klingman was transferred to the North Central Regional Office located in Emporium, Elk County. His responsibilities included overseeing 20 state parks in that region. In 1972 Klingman was briefly transferred to the northeast region of the state before being assigned to the Bureau of State Parks Central Office in Harrisburg.

The move to Harrisburg was an invigorating change in lifestyle for Bob and his wife Anna. After a long period of living in isolated sections of the state they were both happy with the move. They purchased a home about eight miles west of the state capital in the borough of Mechanicsburg. Although it was a relatively short commute to work each day, the scenery and traffic was much different than what he was accustomed to at any of his earlier assignments.

He began his duties in Harrisburg as Chief of Operations for the Bureau of State Parks. He was subsequently promoted to the number two position, Assistant Director of the Bureau of State Parks, working alongside the Director of State Parks, William C. "Bill" Forrey. Forrey and a number of other colleagues in the Harrisburg office were graduates of Penn State University. Whenever the WVU and PSU football teams collided on the gridiron it was sure to create a spirited office rivalry between Klingman and his coworkers. The Nittany Lion supporters in the office always outnumbered those who supported the Mountaineer's, which included WVU alumni, Robert Klingman.

In his new role as assistant director he dealt with problems in the field, regional office, as well as the central office in Harrisburg. In his role as assistant director, Klingman and Clifford L. Jones (1927-2008), who served as head of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Resources (DER), became close friends. Together, Secretary Jones, Bureau of State Parks Director Forrey, and assistant Director Klingman traveled across the Commonwealth visiting numerous state parks.

Robert E. Klingman retired from his position on July 9, 1986. He and his wife Anna decided to return to their native Union County, selling their Mechanicsburg home and relocating to Mifflinburg. It was a whirlwind 22-year career with the Bureau of State Parks that began at Poe Valley State Park and ended in the Central Office in Harrisburg.

While gathering information about Klingman and his duties and responsibilities with the Bureau of State Parks I contacted Dr. Charles H. Strauss, Director and Professor Emeritus of the School of Forest Resources in State College. Strauss first met Klingman when he was working as the lumberyard supervisor at the Lewisburg Chair Factory around 1962. At that time Strauss was coordinator of the Keystone Kiln Drying Association, a non-profit group dedicated to instructing others about proper wood drying procedures.

Strauss recalled that Klingman was responsible for the battery of dry kilns located on site at the furniture factory in Lewisburg, one of the largest dry kiln operations in Pennsylvania at that time. Since Strauss was a Penn State alumni and Klingman was from West Virginia University, this was another situation that elicited some friendly banter between two men as to which university was superior.

The paths of Strauss and Klingman intersected again in the early 1970's. This time Strauss was working on his doctoral thesis on ways to construct a quantitative model of a public recreation system. This led him into direct contact with personnel from the Bureau of Parks, including Robert E. Klingman, who was then serving as regional superintendent at Empo-

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rium. Strauss noted that: *“One of my biggest allies in completing this doctoral study was none other than my wood products and forestry friend, Robert Klingman.”*

Strauss noted some of the characteristics of Klingman that drew his attention were: *“His abilities of working with people in a cordial and effective manner, while also maintaining organizational control of complex service systems, was the secret to his rapid advance with the State Parks.”*

The working relationship between the two men continued even after Klingman transferred to the Central Office in Harrisburg. Strauss’s doctoral thesis relative to the 20 state parks in the North Central Region garnered the attention of Director William C. Forrey. As a result, information and facts Strauss developed through his study were instituted all across the Commonwealth. At that time the number of state parks in Pennsylvania numbered 110.

Another individual I contacted relative to Robert Klingman’s career in the Bureau of State Parks was his direct superior, William C. Forrey of Camp Hill. After corresponding with Forrey earlier this year I received a letter that included the following comments about his assistant director:

*“Bob was a fine man, devoted worker, and a loyal state park man. He was always the person who dealt with problems in the field, regional office and central office with calm determination. His relationship with his peers was always professional and courteous. His efforts were to solve problems for the betterment of the organization. He never sought to enhance his own position or reputation. He moved to many state park locations and never complained about having to relocate throughout the park system. Bob’s importance to the Department of Environmental Resources was shown when DER Secretary Clifford L. Jones named the office at R. B. Winter State Park after Bob. Bob was the kind of employee that every organization would have been proud to have on board. It was my great pleasure to have Bob serve as my assistant during those years.”*

In a March 2000 interview I conducted, Klingman noted how he was both surprised and honored when the decision was announced that the new park office at R. B. Winter State Park would be named after him. It was and is a fitting tribute to a humble man who served over two decades with the Bureau of State Parks.

The site of the Robert E. Klingman Office Building is where the washhouse and bathhouse was located when the Lavonia, or Half Way, Civilian Conservation Corps camp was located in the Fourteen-Mile-Narrows during the 1930’s and early 1940’s.

When the Bureau of State Parks organized a statewide celebration commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CCC, R. B. Winter State Park was selected as a place to honor those involved in the Depression Era program. That event took place June 4, 1983. Klingman was working in Harrisburg at the time and helped with organization and planning of some of those activities, including the manufacture of the large wooden sign that now stands at the entrance to the former CCC camp.

Bob Klingman was married to the former Anna Mae Wehr. At the time of her passing on February 1, 2011 they had celebrated over 60 years of marriage. Anna was the daughter of the late Charles Clay and Mary Ruth (Dale) Wehr. A 1945 graduate of Lewisburg High School she was the owner of Ann K. Hats. She both designed and made hats that were sold from their home on Market Street in Lewisburg, where they were living prior to Bob’s employment with the Bureau of Parks. Following his retirement, Bob and Ann spent 15 years volunteering at the Mifflinburg and Western Union County Food Bank.

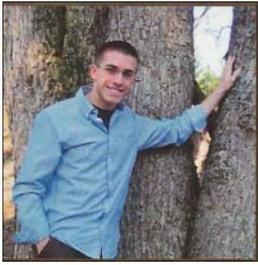
My first introduction to Bob Klingman occurred in March 2000 when I visited him in search of information and photographs relative to the CCC. He supplied me with a wealth of material and photographs. He also shared with me his personal knowledge about the local CCC camps, and provided names of other people to contact relative to that topic. Since that time we have remained in contact and I have always enjoyed our conversations and his helpful assistance. He is another individual that I am fortunate to have met. He has enriched my knowledge of forestry related topics in numerous ways and for that I will always be grateful. I consider it my privilege and an honor to call Robert E. Klingman my friend!

TLS

Editor’s Note: My thanks to William C. Forrey of Camp Hill, Dr. Charles H. Strauss of State College, and Robert Klingman of Mifflinburg for information and photographs they provided for this article.



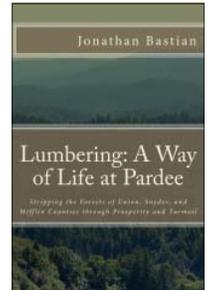
Robert Klingman on the left with Dot & William Forrey taken June 2013. Photograph courtesy of Charles Strauss.



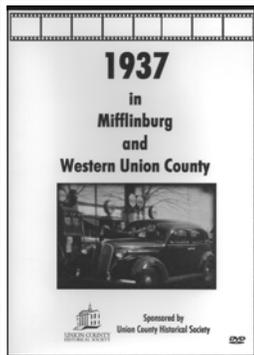
## Program About Lumbering at Pardee

The name Pardee may be new for some people and for others it may be the popular swimming hole in Penns Creek. Still others know Pardee as home to their cabin or a dead end road near the Union County Sportsman's Club. Yet there is much more to the name Pardee. Explore the history of this quiet corner in Union County while learning that history can have many surprises. Scandals, hidden secrets of the mountains, and a transformed region of Pennsylvania all have their roots in the village of Pardee. Learn about the lumbering operation at Pardee and the secrets it has held for over 110 years. Find out why its last years are shrouded in mystery and what remains of the company that transformed Central Pennsylvania.

On Thursday January 9th at 6:30 p.m. Jonathan Bastian will be presenting a program about Pardee and the lumber company at the Mifflinburg Bank Community Room. People can call 966-0831 to sign up for the presentation or stop in at the Herr Library to sign up for the program. Jonathan will have a limited number of copies of his new 98-page book featuring a number of maps and photographs available for sale following the program. The cost of each book is \$10. You can also purchase a copy of the book at Amazon by using the following link: <http://amzn.com/1480252506>



## History Found: 1937 in Mifflinburg and Surrounding Towns Comes Alive Again



Life as lived in 1937 in Mifflinburg and central and western Union County comes alive again for 36 minutes on a new DVD. Back in 1976, James Schwartz, Mifflinburg funeral director, now retired, rescued from the trash four reels of 16mm film as the old Mifflinburg Firehouse was being demolished to make way for the new larger firehouse. Schwartz kept the reels in his home until about 2010, when he offered them to the Union County Historical Society. At that time, Marion Lois Huffines was researching the history of Mifflinburg for her book, *Mifflinburg and the West End*, published by Arcadia in 2012. The reels contained 36 minutes of raw footage of Mifflinburg and surrounding towns, taken by an unidentified photographer in 1937. Under the sponsorship of the Union County Historical Society, Huffines contracted with McVicar Video Productions to have the film digitized and produced on DVD for sale to the public. She edited the film by reordering the segments more logically and

provided subtitles identifying places and locations.

The 1937 film footage opens up a view of everyday life in the towns visited by the photographer. The black and white images are not fancy, not staged, and without sound or technical effects. The photographer traveled around the county, filming daily life and its routine activities. In the film, for example, gas station attendants pump gas while washing windshields and checking oil and water levels. The photographer filmed workers at Kooltext Knitting Mills, Kurtz Overall Factory, and Snook's mills in Mifflinburg, Swengel, and Vicksburg. He shows shop workers and displays in shop windows: Gast & Sons Dry Goods, Edmund Shively's Appliances, and Pete Pursley's General Store and Post Office. Other workers are shown busy too: Ken Erdley delivers milk for Wehr's Dairy, Knepp's Grocery Bus sells peaches at 14 cents per pound and egg noodles for 8 cents, the men at Swengel Mill stack bags of flour in the back of a truck, and hunters with rifles and their hunting dog stand ready to leave outside of Mazeppa Mill. Vehicles line the streets, and 1938 Studebakers are already being advertised.

The photographer visited every school in central and western Union County. He filmed students and teachers at Mifflinburg High School, Hartley Township High School, and Lewis Township High School. He visited every elementary school, preserving for us today the images of students at recess while their teachers watch close by in Swengel, Millmont, Laurelton, Green Grove, White Springs, Pontius, Rand, Creek School, Red Bank School, Forest Hill, Mazeppa, Buffalo Cross Roads, Cowan Grammar and Primary Schools, and Vicksburg. Everyone who was in school in this part of Union County in 1937 is almost surely in the film. Another piece of history was not missed: he filmed the men at the Civil Conservation Corps Camps in Weikert, where one sees Raymond B. Winter, and at Halfway, even going up to photograph from the lookout.

Still other institutions were not missed: Mifflinburg Bank and Trust, Laurelton State Bank, Strunk Funeral Home, B.T. Lance Monument Works, Brown's Buggy Factory (later Sterling Bros. Throwing Mill), and Herbster's mills at Laurelton and at Laurel Park. Incredibly, the photographer filmed the residents at Laurelton State Village for Feeble-minded Women of Childbearing Age as they moved about the grounds and did their work. And he filmed a fire drill of town-wide proportions as the Mifflinburg fire trucks race to Gardner Gottschall's shop to douse a "fire" and remove a "victim" in an ambulance provided by Strunk Funeral Home.

Things have changed since 1937, but modern viewers will recognize places and some of the people. The DVD, *1937 Mifflinburg and Western Union County*, is on sale at the Union County Historical Society for \$15 plus tax. The Historical Society may be reached at (570) 524-8666 or by email at [info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org). It may also be purchased at Laurel Market and from Tony Shively in Millmont (570) 922-4297. It makes a great gift for those who want to know or want to remember what it was really like in 1937.



A scene from the film showing Chestnut Street in Mifflinburg.

The small photograph in the upper left corner of page one shows a view of the St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church, the Ray's Church, taken circa 1940's.

**Recipe of the Month**  
**By Janice (Dorman) Shively**  
**Easy Sugar Cookies**

2 C. sugar  
2 sticks margarine or butter (butter makes a better flavor)  
2 eggs  
1 C. vegetable or canola oil  
1 tsp. vanilla  
Mix above ingredients well.  
Blend and add the following dry ingredients:  
5 C. flour  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. baking soda

Mix well with mixer. Chill batter. If you don't bake them immediately, pop the dough into a baggie, refrigerate for at least a day or up to 2 weeks. When ready to bake, scoop off about a tablespoon of dough and roll in your hands to form a ball, or use a cookie scooper. You can roll the dough balls in sugar or flatten with the bottom of a glass that has been dunked in colored sugar. You can also add tiny chocolate

chips to the dough, or decorate with them.

Bake about 12 minutes at 350° on an ungreased baking sheet. Yields: 8-dozen cookies.

My friend, Wendy Styers of Hartleton, included this recipe with a Christmas greeting card she sent us 4 years ago. I loved that she sent a recipe with her Christmas greeting! I've made these cookies every Christmas since then. I prefer to use canola oil. Sometimes I use the dough right away, instead of refrigerating. I use a small cookie scoop to measure the dough. For decoration, I roll these cookies in colored sprinkles prior to baking. Sometimes I add mini chocolate chips to the dough. Wendy also noted that sometimes she drizzles chocolate over top of the cookies to make them real fancy. No matter how you decorate these cookies, they are sure to please the palate!

Thank you Wendy!  
ENJOY!



### Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Donald and Nancy Heckman of Swengel; Jean Marquardt of Hughesville; Eli and Kathleen Reiff; Edna Ammon and Shirley Kerstetter of Mifflinburg; William "Lee" Saxon of Millheim; Richard Rothermel of Millmont; and Leroy Wenrick of Laurelton.

Thank you to all those who renewed their subscriptions for another year. Your support is greatly appreciated and is what makes this newsletter possible.

I also want to thank George Sholter Jr. of Weikert for donating copies of old photographs including Al Goodlander's Restaurant (Bar) and Fay Galer and Ethel Galer, and a photograph of Zack Galer; Jean Ruhl of Lewisburg for donating a collection of carefully dated and marked newspaper clippings preserved by her late mother, Ethel (Dieffenderfer) Ruhl; Donald G. Shively of Millmont for donating a box of old newspaper clippings from the 1950's and Richard and Susan Boop of Millmont for donating letters and material relative to the West End of Union County.

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:

*Sat. Dec. 16, 1944 - 28 at 7, cloudy nearly all day. Helped mother in the house and did some reading. Had a Christmas card from Kenneth (Shively).*

*Sun. Dec. 17, 1944 - 25 at 7. Hazy, indications this morning are for a storm. "Christian Living At Its Best". Gal. 5:22-26, 6:1-10. G. T. Gal. 5:25. Spoke from Matt 3:3 and taught my class. Present 63. Con. \$7.66.*

*Mon. Dec. 18, 1944 - Cloudy and snowed this afternoon and evening. Jacob's got two letters from Billy (Shively) from Italy & we got a Christmas card and also a letter from David from Georgia. I was making some of the little booklets. It snowed last night and this morning, about six inches in some places. In the county they report eight inches. This was the coldest morning so far. One good thing it did not drift.*

*Tue. Dec. 19, 1944 - 20 at 7, clear. Put in my spare time at the booklets and wrote a letter to each of the boys, Kenneth, David, Billy and Donald (Shively).*

*Thu. Dec. 21, 1944 - 30 at 7, clear most of the day. Working at the booklets. Stapling machine must be repaired before I can finish this edition. Bro. and Sister Keister were here this afternoon, brought us a sack of flour and a piece of pork.*

*Fri. Dec. 22, 1944 - 14 below at Hartleton, clear, a beautiful winter morning. Rev. Sheesley had his car out last night and Jacob was supposed to run it in the garage and forgot about it. They thawed it out early this morning and it seems not to be damaged very much.*

*Sat. Dec. 23, 1944 - This is my Birthday - 26 at 7, a nice day. Edmund's (Shively) arrived from Baltimore about 11 o'clock last night. Edmund brought a beautiful evergreen tree from town, and Edgar and grandma put the trimmings on.*

# *Penlines* *From my* *Kitchen to Yours* *by Lucy Hoover*

October 19, 2013

Harry and Alta Oberholtzer of Millmont exchanged horses with their son Ervin and family. The live side by side and did not need to move far.

October 28

Clair and Marian Weaver of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Meredith Nicole. She has 1 brother. Grandparents are Melvin and Elva Weaver and David and Ruth Hoover.

October 31

Baby Lloyd joined the Jerry and Elva Martin family of Lewisburg. He has one brother and four sisters. Grandparents are Amos and Emma Nolt.

Mrs. John Nolt (Esther) of Mifflinburg has been wearing a splint on her right wrist, the result of a bad sprain.

November 4

Anthony and Mary Reiff of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Keturah Anne. She has one brother and two sisters. Grandparents are Allen and Dorothy Reiff and Joseph and Margaret Hoover.

Joe Marlin Zimmerman, son of Joe and Etta Zimmerman of WI, and Louise Zimmerman, daughter of Mervin and Ruth Zimmerman of Millmont have their wedding planned for November 21, 2013. They will reside in WI.

November 13

Louise Brubacker (8) daughter of Levi and Lauretta of Millmont, peacefully passed away in her sleep early this morning, at her home.

November 14

Bishop Levi Martin (82) of Mifflinburg has not been feeling well.

November 17

Timothy Hoover (7) son of Warren and Louise of Millmont is in the Hershey Hospital.

November 18

Cousin Edwin Brubacker of MO spent the night at our house and then went with us to Louise's funeral. There were more children at this funeral than there would usually be. Lunch was served at Zimmerman's Harness Shop, with approximately 335 people were there.

Louise M. Brubacker's obituary:

Louise Martin Brubacker, 8, of 704 Kaiser Run Road, entered into rest at 3:20 a.m. Wednesday, November 13, 2013, at her home.

She was born January 10, 2005 in Lewis Township, Union County, a daughter of Levi Z. and Lauretta (Martin) Brubacker. She was the maternal granddaughter of Linus H. and Irene S. Martin, of Mifflinburg; paternal granddaughter of the late Milton L. and Leah N. Brubacker; maternal great-granddaughter of Amos L. and Frances Martin, of Terre Hill, Lydia F. Leid, of New Holland, and the late Elmer B. Leid; and paternal great-granddaughter of the late Daniel H. and Minnie B. Zimmerman and the late Amos A. and Ruth H. Brubacker.

Louise attended Mountain View Old Order Mennonite Church and school.

Surviving, in addition to her parents and grandparents, are one brother, Kevin L. Brubacker, and three sisters, Renee M. Brubacker, Sharon M. Brubacker, and Matilda M. Brubacker, all of Mifflinburg. She was preceded in death by her aunt, Louise L. Martin.

Interment was in the Mountain View Old Order Mennonite Cemetery.

## Looking Back

The following article was published in a December 8, 1932 edition of one of the local newspapers.

### Ninety Years Old Recalls Having Voted for Lincoln

Mr. Samuel F. Ruhl, venerable old man of Swengel, celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary on Thursday, December 8. Mr. Ruhl is in splendid health considering his advancing years and declared that he feels like a boy. A number of his friends gathered at the home during the day to congratulate him and in the evening a party was staged and refreshments were served by his housekeeper, Mrs. Minnie Jones.

He is the son of the late Geo and Hannah Ruhl. His father at the age of 10 years, migrated from Lancaster County with his parents in 1806. He died at the age of 82 years in 1878. His mother died in 1888 at the age of 81 years. Both are buried at Rays Church. They had five children: Elizabeth, who married Amos Grove; Priscilla, who married Mr. Schrack; Samuel F.; Henry; and Sarah, who married a Mr. Schnure.

Mr. Samuel F. Ruhl was married to Miss Barbara Paul, who died in 1909. To this union there were no children. Mr. Ruhl possesses a remarkable memory and can recall many interesting events about folk he knew, giving exact dates and facts concerning their lives. As a boy he attended the old log church at Rays which was located on the south side of the road, where the cemetery is now located. This church was very poorly constructed and it was not an uncommon occurrence to find a sheep had sought shelter in it. He attended the laying of the cornerstone of a new structure on the same site. Rev. Eph. Kieffer was the Reformed pastor and Rev. Anspach, the Lutheran pastor, the latter for a period of 52 years. He recalls the building of the present Rays Church which is located on the north side of the road.

Modes of living were very primitive in his youth. Floors were mostly bare, little or no carpet used and the kitchen was white washed about once a year. The fireplace was replaced by a Hathaway Cook stove purchased from Charles Shriner of Mifflinburg. He harvested with the cradle and sickle, and mowing was done with a scythe. The wheat threshed by means of horse trampling it. Later the first machines using horse tread power came into existence. Flour was milled at Ruhl's Mill, where P. P. & L., Co., plant is now located. Staple foods were purchased in Hartleton at the Shem Spigelmeyer store. Brown sugar and stick candy were among the purchases to be made. Mr. Ruhl took delight in helping his mother in the evenings to spin wool and flax. This was done every evening until "Candlemas." The weaving was done at Halfpenny's factory, which was located near Laurelton, about the same site where

*(Continued on page 11)*

# *Blessings from the Bible*

*By Brenda Weaver*

*“Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God:  
who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth,  
who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains...  
He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoar frost like ashes,  
He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?”*

Job 147:7, 8, 16, 17.

Freezing rain changed our neighborhood into a place of exquisite beauty. Rain pinged against the windows. Cold air crept beneath the doors. I heard strange crackling sounds occasionally. But I was unaware of the amazing transformation until I stepped outside to walk to my neighbor's house. Everything was covered in ice. Each branch, each twig, each post, each forgotten, frozen flower stalk was wrapped in a sparkling coat of ice. I stepped onto a crunchy carpet of ice-laced grass and made my way next door, stopping to trace the ice on an apple tree twig with my finger. Rain still fell, but I could hear it clicking into place as it froze on contact. Then quite suddenly all around me every ice-covered surface glistened and glowed gold. The revolving light of a snow plow truck reflected in the ice all around me. Even though I shivered with cold, even though cold rain stung my face, my senses exploded with one quick thought: *HEAVEN!*

Moments later I returned to my house, found a flashlight, and circled the house to check rain spouting and trees heavy with ice. I had no problem knowing I was still on earth. I realized I would be responsible for any damages this storm might bring, but my thoughts kept turning to heaven. I don't expect these elements of weather in heaven, nor do I expect to see snow plows, but the ice was so crystal-like I couldn't help imagining the crystal and glowing gems of heaven. With my imaginations came the sweet peace of knowing loved ones have already experienced a transformation and they wait to explore the crystals of heaven with me when I get there. Later in a warm house I checked my imaginations with scripture:

Revelation 4:6 *“And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal...”*

Revelation 21:11 *“light like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal...”*

Revelation 22:1 *“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God...”*

I went to sleep praying the large tree by my bedroom window would stay intact, and wondering what winter beauty may greet me in the morning. But daylight hours held only a trace of the beauty that had entranced me the night before.

For now I am kept in earth's grasp; but the crystal of heaven awaits!

*Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for showing me, through a winter storm, a glimpse of Your creative powers, a preview of the glories of heaven.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*“Lead me to the rock that is higher than I;  
For thou hast been a shelter for me,  
and a strong tower form the enemy.”*

Psalm 61:2b-3.

The route has become quite familiar after traveling it with our family for many years. I have good memories of our many trips on this highway to a nearby city where we visited friends. This morning I traveled the same route alone. The morning sun warmed my face and I spent the miles praising God for His faithfulness.

As always I watched for my favorite spot on the hundred mile trip, a place where the mountain forms a cove around the stream far beneath its peak. The scene always reminds me of the protecting care of God, and I often think of the security of being sheltered by a mountain on three sides. I imagine hiding my soul in the cleft of the rocks when I observe the rifts on the side of that mountain. Frequently I find myself singing or humming an old hymn:

*“In the rifted rock I'm resting, safely sheltered I abide;  
There no storms or harms molest me while within the cleft I hide.  
Now I'm resting, sweetly resting, in the cleft once made for me,  
Jesus, Blessed, Rock of Ages, I will hide myself in Thee.”*

It is good for the soul to have physical places with imagined abode.

*Oh Lord, Thank You for providing rest for my soul in the rifted Rock of Ages, Your Son Jesus.*

(Continued from page 9)

the West End Fair is now held. The family physician was Dr. Seebold of Hartleton; the blacksmith, Jacob Catherman, who lived on the hill about a mile north of Swengel; John Oberlin, the tailor, lived about ¼ -mile north of Swengel, and Mr. Ruhl recalls the horror of his hand being torn off throwing wheat heads in a machine.

Mr. Ruhl, in partnership with his brother, Henry, did the farming at the old homestead, which is located about ¾ -mile east of Swengel, until 30 years ago when he retired and moved to Swengel. He was a Sunday School teacher for a period of about 65 years and is a member of the Lutheran church. He is interested in politics and voted for the re-election of Abraham Lincoln and in the last election supported Herbert Hoover.

The following is a list of visitors who called on Mr. Ruhl on his natal day: Mrs. and Mrs. James Geiswite, White Springs; Mr. and Mrs. James Bollinger and son Bruce, Laurelton; Byron Leffler, Mifflinburg; Mr. and Mrs. Clark S. Dieffenderfer, Montandon; Mrs. Ellen Smith, Laurelton; Mr. Seymore Morningstar, Mr. and Mrs. Herendeen and daughters Louis and Irene, Mrs. Charles Knauss and daughter, Irma, Mr. J. G. Royer, Mrs. William Shipton and sons, Jimmie and Donald, Miss Beatrice Pontius, of Swengel; Mrs. Phia Libby, Millmont; Wilbur Libby, Mrs. Katherine Diehl, Swengel; Mrs. and Mrs. Harry Mitchell, Mrs. Kate Heller, Mrs. James Catherman, Mrs. Ellen Coleman, Millmont; Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Burd, Swengel; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schnure, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Schnure, Laurelton; Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Schnure, Millheim; Miss Mary Schnure, Laurelton; Miss Rosamond Frank, Millheim; Miss Helen Schnure, Millmont; Keith Schnure, Mifflinburg; Shirley Benner, Millheim; Mrs. Minnie Jones, Swengel.

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Editor's Note: The following is Samuel F. Ruhl's obituary. He died one week after his 93rd birthday in December 1935.

## **SML. F. RUHL SUCCUMBS AT SWENGEL HOME**

**Esteemed 93 Year old Retired Union C. Farmer Laid To Rest Yesterday. Was Ardent Church Worker.**

Samuel Franklin Ruhl, esteemed and respected resident of Union County, passed into eternal rest at his home in Swengel, Sunday morning, December 15, at 7 o'clock, just one week following his 93rd birthday anniversary. Mr. Ruhl had been confined to bed since Thanksgiving Day. His death resulted from infirmities of old age.

The deceased was born on the Ruhl homestead in Lewis Township, one and one half miles east of Swengel, December 8, 1842, the son of the late George and Hannah Kauffman Ruhl.

His wife, the former Barbara Paul of West Lewisburg, preceded him to the grave twenty-three years ago. He was the last of his line. Two children died in infancy. A half brother, George P. Ruhl, and David Ruhl; his sisters Elizabeth, wife of Frank Schrack; Sara, wife of Christian Schnure; and brother Henry W. Ruhl, have all passed into the great beyond. Mr. Ruhl was homesick for these dear ones and former associates and often lamented the fact that he was "living beyond the days of old friends."

Surviving are several cousins, nieces and nephews. Mrs. C. L. Burd of Swengel, the former Elizabeth Bingaman, was very near to Mr. Ruhl, the couple having taken her into their home as their own child when she was three years old. And she did a great deal for him to make the sunset of his life pleasant. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock from the Swengel Union Church with the Reverend H. O. Reynolds, pastor of the Lutheran church at Hartleton officiating. Burial was made in the Ray's Church Cemetery.

Mr. Ruhl was a man of sterling character and lived true to his convictions. He deeply loved his church and his Master. At the age of sixteen he became a member of the Lutheran Church of which Rev. Anspach was the pastor. He was active in Sunday School work for a period of more than fifty years. He was active in a revival meeting which was held in the old school house south of Swengel. He became interested in the church built in 1879 by the Baptists under the Reverend David Williams, Baptist minister of Lewisburg, this church is now known as the Swengel Union Church. Mr. Ruhl was superintendent, treasurer and for many years taught a class in the Sunday School. He believed in the family altar and conducted family worship in his home.

Politically he was a Republican. His first presidential ballot was cast for Abraham Lincoln for a second term of office. He also voted for Herbert Hoover for his second term as president. He was not active in politics and never held a public office. A number of years ago he was urged by his friends to be a candidate for Associate Judge in Union County. After some deliberation he declined stating that were he elected his opponents might become his enemies. He was loved by all and all his associates had only the highest respect and regard for him.

He lived through many changes in the farming occupation which he followed until his retirement from activity. His farming experience dated from the time when hay was mowed by scythes and grain by cradles to the use of the present mowers and reapers.

Mr. Ruhl was fond of his home and never traveled extensively. He did, however, leave his work for a visit to Philadelphia in 1876 where he attended the Centennial which he greatly enjoyed and never tired of talking about.

During latter years one of the bright spots in his existence was his birthday anniversary. His friends always remembered him and gathered at his home for the occasion. Among those who visited him on these anniversaries included Mrs. Kate Heller of Millmont who was born ten years after Mr. Ruhl on the same date; Mrs. Kate Diehl of Swengel is also ten years younger and Mrs. Mary Miller, formerly of Laurelton, is six years younger. Since the death of his wife Mr. Ruhl has had the following housekeepers: Mrs. Ellen Coleman, Mrs. Frank Troxell, Mrs. Sue Fox, Mrs. Ellen Smith. Mrs. Minnie Jones was his housekeeper at the time of his death.

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All of the newsletters published between January 2004 through the current issue are now available on the website. Please use the following address if you are interested in contacting the editor, subscribing to the newsletter, making a donation, sending a gift subscription, or changing your address: Tony Shively, Post Office Box 3, Millmont PA 17845, telephone: (570) 922.4297 or E-mail: [tshively@dejazzd.com](mailto:tshively@dejazzd.com)

### December Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 - Eli & Anna Shirk - 1960  
1 - Terry Witmer  
1 - Kyle Blyler  
1 - Robert Katherman  
2 - Tom and Cindy Potoeski - 1978  
2 - Robert Wagner  
3 - Thelma Pontius  
3 - Marian L. Zimmerman  
3 - William "Bill" Levan  
3 - Myrna Walter  
3 - Gordon Libby  
4 - Mark Hartman  
5 - Gordon & Polly Libby - 1960  
5 - Perry & Brenda Klingman - 1987  
5 - Kimmy Smith  
5 - Perry Klingman  
6 - Mary Doebler  
6 - Betty Motter  
6 - Sandra Wagner  
6 - Doris Fultz  
7 - Orvis & Betty Wallace - 1940  
7 - Melvin & Doris Walter - 1956

7 - Ivan Oberholtzer  
8 - Ruth Ely  
8 - James Gross  
8 - Nicole Gross  
8 - Catherine Martin  
9 - Cheryl Shively  
10 - Wilma Brubaker  
11 - David Schneeberg  
11 - Nancy Heckman  
11 - Curvin Hoover  
11 - Mike Hackenberg  
13 - Dennis Susan  
13 - Robert Vanatta  
14 - Levi Martin  
14 - Joe Schnure  
15 - Jane Benner  
15 - Terry Mensch  
16 - Galen Graham  
17 - Oscar Maust  
17 - Anna Maria Maust  
19 - Donna Maust  
21 - Anthony Guida

22 - Robert Page  
23 - Kurwin Martin  
24 - Ernest Boney  
24 - Jeremy Beaver  
24 - Charity Yarger  
25 - Donald L. Shively  
25 - LaRue Lyons  
27 - Colin Camp  
28 - George Sholter Jr.  
28 - Fred & Margie Yarger - 1950  
28 - Etta Zimmerman  
28 - Phares Zimmerman  
29 - Bob & Bernice Duge - 1948  
29 - Charles & Lois Feaster - 1957  
29 - Linda Dorman  
29 - Bob Wagner Jr.  
31 - Jayden Beaver  
31 - Leon & Lydia Zimmerman - 1992

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