



The Millmont Times

JULY 2004

Corporal Joseph R. Ruhle, & Corporal Joseph J. Gutelius "150th Bucktail Brigade"



Corporal Joseph R. Ruhle
Photograph Courtesy of Ethel
(Dieffenderfer) Ruhl

Some of the darkest days in this nations history occurred at the onset of War Between the States, which began in April 1861 and continued until General Robert E. Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865. During those four years the people of this war torn nation were polarized, as young men took up arms against their fellow Americans in a costly and horrific Civil War. The war was costly for both sides, not only financially but also in the number of lives that were lost during the conflict. For three days during the summer of 1863 the scene of one of that wars bloodiest conflicts occurred in south central Pennsylvania. An estimated 85,000 Union troops and 75,000 Confederate troops converged on the outskirts of Gettysburg, less than 100 miles from the border of Union County. That three-day conflict left more than 51,000 soldiers (Union and Confederate) wounded, dead, or missing. Despite the fact that the war continued for another 21 months, the battle at Gettysburg proved to be a pivotal juncture in the war.

Prior to the epic struggle in Gettysburg young men from Union County were caught up in the excitement and fervor as news from the battlefields spread throughout the area. Local rallies were held in various locations in the county in an effort to entice young men to enlist into military service. Harry M. Keiffer, in his book entitled *"The Recollections of a Drummer Boy"*, provided insight into the spread of "war fever" that occurred in the summer of 1862. "war fever was a terrible malady in those days. Once you were taken with it, you had a very fire in the bones until your name was down on the enlistment roll." At a rally held in August 1862, Keiffer, and twelve other young men from Mifflinburg and the surrounding countryside, enlisted for a three-year period into Company D One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment.

Describing the scene during his enlistment Keiffer wrote: "we had a grand procession, which marched all through the village street, from end to end, and this was followed by an immense mass meeting, and our future captain, Henry W. Crotzer, made a stirring speech, and the band played, and the people cheered and cheered again, as man after man stepped up and put his name down on the list. Albert Foster and Joe Ruhl and Sam Ruhl signed their names, and then Jimmy Lucas and Elias Foust and Ike Zellers and several others followed; and when Charlie Gutelius and his brother Sam stepped up, with Joe at their heels, declaring that "if they

(Continued on page 2)

Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

Taking a bat to a mailbox, or hitting it with a brick, or setting off a firecracker inside may sound like fun to some teens. However, it's not a rite of passage, "boys being boys." It's a criminal act that hurts our neighbors and our community. Mailboxes are considered federal property, so crimes against them and the mail they contain are considered a federal offense. Violators can be fined or imprisoned for each act of vandalism. Damaged mailboxes must be replaced, costing money, time and inconvenience. Mailbox vandalism affects all of us. We don't feel as secure in our neighborhoods, property values can drop and prospective new residents may think twice about relocating. Teenagers should be reminded of the penalties, impact on the victims, the possibility of injury, and that the Postal Service doesn't take such crimes lightly. If you have information on mailbox vandalism or mail theft, report it to your local Post Office or to the Postal Inspection Service at 1-800-275-8777

(Continued from page 1)



Corporal Joseph J. Gutelius

went he'd go too," the meeting fairly went wild with excitement, and the people cheered and cheered again, and the band played "Hail Columbia!" and the "Star Spangled Banner," and "Away Down South, in Dixie" and – in short, what in the world was a poor boy to do?"

Samuel and Joseph Ruhle were the sons of Jacob and Sarah (Stitzer) Ruhle. At the time of their enlistment the Ruhle brothers were living on the family farm located immediately west of the Rays Church (now owned by Mrs. Robert Heimbach). Like the three Gutelius brothers, (Charles, Samuel, and Joseph), the Ruhle brothers (Samuel and Joseph) were persuaded to enlist at the same rally that enticed 16 year-old Harry M. Keiffer. Perhaps it was their fervent patriotism that lured the Ruhle brothers into Company D One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment. It may also have been their desire to follow in the footsteps of their older brother, Valentine Ruhle. He enlisted for a nine-month tour with Company A One Hundred Thirty First Pennsylvania Regiment one month earlier, in July 1862.

The men of Company D rendezvoused at Camp Curtin, near Harrisburg, in September 1862. Here they were sworn in, uniformed, equipped, and drilled, before being assigned to guard duty at President Lincoln's summer home near Washington, D.C. By February 1863, Company D moved to Belle Plain. During May of that same year they were sent to Chancellorsville, where they were responsible for erecting a defensive barrier around that city. The first taste of battle for the men of Company D did not occur until July 1, 1863.

It was one hundred forty one years ago this month that the town of Gettysburg was forever altered. The ridges, hills, and fields surrounding that town have been hallowed ground ever since. The tension leading up to the battle on July 1, 1863, was evident in this passage from Keiffer's book: "Passing down along the line of glowing fires, in the gathering gloom, I come on one of my company messes squatting about a fire, cooking supper. Joe Gutelius, corporal and color guard from our company, is superintending the boiling of a piece of meat in a tin can, while Sam Ruhl and his brother Joe are smoking their pipes near by.

"Boys, it begins to look a little dubious, don't it?.....Yes Harry, it begins to look a little as if we were about to stir the Jonnies out of the brush, says Joe Gutelius, throwing another rail on the fire.

"If we do," says Joe Ruhl, "remember that you have the post of honor, Joe, and if any man pulls down that flag, shoot him on the spot!" "Never you fear for that," answers Joe Gutelius. "We of the color-guard will look out for the flag. For my part, I'll stay a dead man on the field before the colors of the One Hundred Fiftieth are disgraced."

Within hours, Corporal Joe Ruhle, and Corporal and Color Guard Joe Gutelius, along with six comrades from Company D, were killed in the fiery battle that ensued on the opening day.

About the One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment, and the events of July 1, Harry M. Keiffer wrote: "Of the five hundred and fifty men that marched under our regimental colors in the morning, but one hundred remain. All our field and staff officers are gone. Of some twenty captains and lieutenants, but one is left without a scratch, while my own company only thirteen out of fifty four sleep that night on Cemetery Ridge, under the open canopy of heaven. There is no roll call, for Sergeant Weidensaul will call the roll no more; nor will Joe Gutelius, nor Joe Ruhl, nor McFadden, nor Henning, nor many other of our comrades whom we miss, ever answer to their names again until the world's last great reveille."

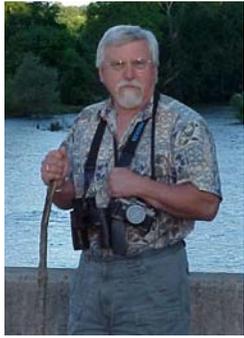
Years later, Sergeant Charles A Frey, of Company D One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment, made this observation regarding the death of his friend and comrade, Corporal Joseph Ruhle: "Of two brothers, Corporals Samuel and Joseph B. Ruhl, one was killed in the battle, and the other had to march away leaving him upon the field. Word was sent to the family that Joseph was killed. His sister Sarah, on receiving the sad news, said she would go and bring him home. Ordering two horses hitched to a spring wagon, she started on her mournful journey, and by night of the same day on which she received the news of his death she was many miles on her way towards Gettysburg. Reaching the battlefield, she began the search for his body – or, rather, his grave, as he had been buried in the meantime. After a long search she found it, had the body unearthed, and placing it in a coffin conveyed it home, where it was laid to rest in the quiet graveyard by the side of the fields through which he roamed in boyhood days."

There is a longstanding family tradition concerning Corporal Joseph Ruhle, and the premonition that his older sister, Sarah (Ruhle) Stover, had regarding his death at Gettysburg. Ethel (Dieffenderfer) Ruhl, who was born in 1912, a resident of Tressler Boulevard, Lewisburg, recalled hearing the story of Sarah's dream as told to her by the late Anna "Elizabeth" (Spigelmyer) Ruhl (1875-1976) many years ago. According to Ethel, Sarah (Ruhle) Stover was living in Millheim at the time Joseph was in uniform. Sarah traveled to Union County to visit to her parents, Jacob and Sarah (Stitzer) Ruhle, to inform them about the premonition she had concerning the death of their son. Within days of revealing her premonition to her parents, the family received the tragic news of Corporal Ruhle's death on the battlefield. After receiving this grim



Corporal Joseph R. Ruhle's grave site, and headstone located in the Rays Church Cemetery in Lewis Township, Union County.

(Continued on page 4)



BIRD TALK

By Jim McCormick

Fly little Icarus, Fly!!! We have reached the high point on the sun's trip to the north—the Summer Solstice. If you have never followed the sun on this cyclical journey, this would be a good time to start. Watch the return journey to the south—you will simply be amazed at how far the sun moves on the eastern (sunrise) and western (sunset) horizons. The Summer Solstice has universally been celebrated as the symbol of fertility; some even claim that the popularity of June weddings is an extension of this ancient belief. June is for me the most beautiful summer month; everything is so new, clean and vibrant. Vegetation is at its peak and there is such a feeling of optimism—all of summer still ahead. It is also an especially busy month for birds.

Early in June I was walking south of Millmont when I noticed a pair of Tree Swallows. The Tree Swallows had returned in early March and I had been watching them as they swooped down from the wires and swiftly flew just inches above the fields, feeding on the insects. Normally their flying seemed effortless, almost playful, as these sleek iridescent blue-green birds glided through the air, but today their flying seemed so purposeful, determined, even frantic. As I watched, I saw one fly up into a tree near the side of the road, and there, up on a dead branch, were three immature swallows. They were awkwardly balancing at the very end of a dead branch, bobbing up and down. Suddenly one flew off the branch and landed in the brush below, the others remained in place, waiting for their food. Looking more closely, I noticed two more fledglings on another nearby branch. I watched for a while as the parents repeatedly flew up to feed the young, nearly knocking them off their perches. I returned later in the afternoon and saw the fledglings flying around. I saw one of them start to fly faster and higher than the others, going higher and higher. I remember thinking, "***Fly little Icarus, Fly!!!***" While it was highly unlikely it would suffer the same fate as the Icarus of Greek mythology, whose wings melted when he flew too close to the sun, I wondered if a little bird could fly too high. Still, I couldn't help but admire, and yes, even envy, this little bird's newfound freedom and ability. Immature Tree Swallows have brown upper-parts and would have been difficult to recognize if I had not seen the parents feeding them. The next day the fledglings were playfully chasing each other through the air. Amazing.

The last two years have been quite wet. Penns Creek has remained higher than normal continuously for longer than I can remember. This has had a major effect on the waterfowl along the creek. Normally in late May, early June there would be flotillas of pairs of Canada Geese and as many as thirty goslings traveling up and down the creek. Pairs of Common Mergansers with eight to ten ducklings each also should be a common sight. This year, however, I saw no Mergansers and only two pairs of geese, and they only had two goslings each. The high water must have interfered with their nests and the swift water had its toll on the young. All this is going on just outside your door, so grab your binoculars and take it all in.



Field Notes by Union County Wildlife Conservation Officer

Dirk B. Remensnyder

The months of April and May have been very busy with bear complaints. During one day, I had two bears in traps and one road kill bear. Because of other incidents, I decided to wait until that evening to process one of the bears and to do it at the monthly sportsmen club meeting. Deputy Tilghman Smith had been helping all day with the incidents and suggested that since we were taking the bear to the sportsman's club that he could hitch the trap to his vehicle and tow it. With that decided we went our separate ways and planned to meet later at the club. An hour before we were to meet at the club Tilghman called and said he had a problem. He had locked his keys in his vehicle. I said that's no problem, I'll just come to your house and tow the trap with my truck. He then said that the problem was that he had backed the bear trap into the garage before locking his keys in the vehicle and that there was no way to get the trap out. All ended well, as the locksmith got there on time and we were able to do a program for the club, but I bet that's the first time the locksmith had to unlock a vehicle to get a bear out.

The seventh annual St. Jude's Children's Hospital Trail Ride on Jack's Mountain was held on June 6, 2004. There were 45 participating rider's who raised \$4,431.50 while enjoying a three hour ride, a Chinese auction, and a picnic on a beautiful spring day.

The organizers would like to thank all the sponsors with a special thank you to those who donated more than \$100, Deb Clark, AFSCME Local #166, Juniata Saddle Club, Lozier Corporation, Maust Trucking, and Buddy's Cleaning. We could not have raised the amount we did without your help.

Hope to see you all again next year and bring your friends. Tom Guyer and Pam Pepper.

(Continued from page 2)

news, Sarah traveled to Gettysburg on a horse-drawn wagon with the intention of retrieving her brother's body, and returning him to Union County for burial. Other members of the Ruhl family believe that Valentine Ruhle accompanied his sister. Since Valentine was discharged from military service on May 23, 1863, it is likely that he accompanied his sister on the long buggy ride to Gettysburg. A funeral for Corporal Joseph R. Ruhle was held under a large evergreen tree on the lawn of the family homestead next to the Rays Church. The young soldier's body was then interred in the nearby cemetery.



Ruhle family homestead located west of the Rays Church. Today this home is owned by Mrs. Robert Heimbach.

The circumstances surrounding the death of Ruhle's friend and comrade, Corporal Joseph J. Gutelius, have been recorded in various historical publications. Samuel Bates narrative of the young color guard's actions at Gettysburg is as follows:

"Up to this time, says Major Chamberlin, our colors were safe. The Color Sergeant had been killed in the orchard, and all of the color guard had been killed or wounded, except one, some of them receiving three or four balls. The colors were held by Corporal Gutelius, of Company D, who carried them to the town, and insisted on keeping them, although he was slightly wounded. Stopping a moment to rest,

the rebels were on him, and he was shot dead with the colors clasped in his arms. This is the same flag which was presented to Jefferson Davis, with a flourish of trumpets, at the request of a North Carolina Lieutenant, who, it was alleged, with a handful of sharpshooters, scattered a Pennsylvania regiment, and captured their colors; but in doing so, was himself mortally wounded. The flag was found with Jefferson Davis' effects, when he was overhauled in Georgia, in the spring of 1865. This flag was held by the Secretary of War, until October 25th 1869, when it was transmitted to the Adjutant General of this State, with a letter, in which he says: "I am directed by the President to send herewith, the flag of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Pennsylvania Volunteers, said to have been captured at Gettysburg, and re-captured in the baggage of Jeff. Davis." It is now deposited with the other tattered ensigns of the State, in the Capital at Harrisburg."

Reporting the death of Corporal Gutelius to his family in Union County must have been a difficult task for Captain Henry W. Crotzer of the One Hundred Fiftieth Regiment. Gutelius was Captain Crotzer's nephew. The assignment as color guard was a hazardous duty but those who carried out that mission did it with great pride.

In a December 9, 1897 letter written to relatives of Corporal Gutelius, Harry M. Keiffer provided the following observation relative to his heroics: *"your ancestor, Joe Gutelius, of the Color Guard of the Regiment, was the last man in whose hands the colors were found.- all the rest of the Color Guard having been killed or desperately wounded. Riddled with balls, and yet defending his flag to the last, he fell on the streets of Gettysburg, and lies buried amongst the immortal "unknown" in the National Cemetery above the town."*

The deaths of Corporal Joseph Ruhle and Corporal Joseph Gutelius at Gettysburg are just two of the many interesting stories relating to the battle at Gettysburg. Sarah (Ruhle) Stover's premonition relating to her brother's death is one of those stories. While that account cannot be verified with any degree of authenticity, it is nonetheless interesting and intriguing. Members of the Ruhl family have passed this narrative down from generation to generation.

Joseph R. Ruhle was born August 14, 1841. He enlisted into Company D One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment on August 29, 1862, leaving behind his family, his friends, and his childhood home to volunteer. On the opening day of that battle, July 1, 1863, the twenty-two year old soldier from Lewis Township, Union County, was among the casualties. The determination of his sister, Sarah, to return the mortal remains of her brother to his birthplace is not only a family tradition, but the account has also been recorded in at least one historical book. Prior to his death Corporal Ruhle was photographed in his military garb at a studio in Washington, D.C. That photograph shows him with his rifle, and wearing his kepi with its distinctive buck tail attached. Corporal Ruhle's headstone, located next to his parents, was uniquely designed so that it could hold a photograph of the young soldier.

The One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment, was sometimes referred to as the "Bogus Bucktails" due to the fact that they were mustered into service after the 1st Pennsylvania Rifles, who originally earned that moniker. However, Samuel Bates summed up the efforts of the One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment, by writing: *"At Gettysburg, on the 1st*



It was near this barn (McPherson's barn) where the men of Company D One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment first engaged the enemy on July 1, 1863. A monument commemorating their service is located to the rear of this barn.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)



Headstone of Corporal and Color Guard Joseph Gutelius located in the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

of July, it met the enemy, and really fought its first battle, winning a reputation for valor that will be imperishable.” Following the battle at Gettysburg, the remnants of Company D One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment were active in numerous engagements during the remainder of their enlistment. Wilderness, Laurel Hill, Spottsylvania, Bethesda Church, Petersburg, and Hatcher’s Run were some of the battle sites where the One Hundred Fiftieth Regiment faced the enemy.

The soldiers of Company D One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment were mustered out of service on June 23, 1865. In the closing chapter of his book, Keiffer wrote: “Of the thirteen men who had gone out from our little village..... but three had lived to return home together. One had already gone home, the day before. Some had been discharged because of sickness or

wounds, and four had been killed. As we rode along over the dusty turnpike from L___ (Lewisburg) to M___ (Mifflinburg), in the rattling old stage coach, that evening in June, we could not help thinking how painful it would be for the friends of Joe Gutelius and Jimmy Lucas and Joe Ruhl and John Diehl to see us return without their brave boys, whom we had left on the field.”

Samuel P. Ruhle was born January 27, 1834. He was promoted to Corporal on May 1, 1865. One year prior to his discharge, June 23, 1865, he received a Minie ball to his right foot during the fighting that took place at Petersburg, Virginia. This necessitated the amputation of his third toe. He died, a bachelor, on December 14, 1883, nearly one month shy of his fiftieth birthday. He is buried alongside his parents in the Rays Church Cemetery. Valentine Ruhle was born February 14, 1831, and died July 14, 1893. He and his wife, Rebecca R. (Stains) Ruhl, are also buried in the Rays Church Cemetery.

Jacob and Sarah Ruhle watched three of their sons leave home during the Civil War. Two returned home alive. Frederick and Lydia (Crotzer) Gutelius also watched three of their sons venture away from home during the Civil War. Like the Ruhle family, only two returned.

A tour of the Gettysburg National Military Park is a sobering experience. If a visit to that battlefield is part of your vacation plan this summer, be sure to visit and reflect on the sites that have a direct connection to Union County. One of those sites is McPherson’s barn, just off of the Chambersburg Pike. A monument honoring the men of the One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment, the “Bucktail Brigade,” is located near that barn. It was at this location where the young men of Company D fought with great valor.

A walk through the Gettysburg National Cemetery is yet another stark reminder of the human cost of the Civil War. The remains of thousands of young men who died during the three-day conflict are buried in that cemetery. Located at plot number 11 in the Pennsylvania section (number 19) are the remains of Corporal Joseph J. Gutelius. His burial plot is within view of where President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863. The last paragraph of that enduring address concludes with these words: that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that this government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from this earth.



The monument to the left was dedicated to the men of the One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment, the “Bucktail Brigade”, on September 11, 1889. It was near this site, on McPherson’s Ridge, that soldiers from Company D One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment first engaged the enemy. In his remarks during the dedication of this monument, Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Chamberlin stated:

“What the One hundred and fiftieth contributed is written here upon this sculptured stone. Upon this field of Gettysburg, chiefly on

the first of those anxious days of carnage, and for the most part within musket range of this spot, fifty-three of our immediate comrades, or over thirteen and one-half percent of our actual number, went suddenly to their death, or received injuries which within a few hours, or days at most, carried them to their graves. While the inscription places the number of our wounded at one hundred and thirty four, or nearly thirty four percent of the entire company, the figures should really be greater, for of the seventy-seven recorded “missing,” many were wounded and subsequently turned up in army hospitals.”

Of those fifty three young men who died here on July 1, 1863, eight were from Company D, Union County. Those men included Second Lieutenant Elias B. Weidensaul; Corporal Joseph R. Ruhle; Corporal and Color Guard Joseph J. Gutelius; Corporal William E. Henning; Private Henry A. Fees; Private E. A. McFadden; Private John May; and Private William R. Miller. This monument is located on Reynolds Avenue, a short distance off of the Chambersburg Pike, and to the rear of McPherson’s

(Continued on page 7)

Meanderings

by Hertha S. Wehr

Summer Memories

May was a busy month. My sister and I went to Ithaca to visit my daughter and her husband. While there we attended a play, went to a paleontology museum, saw some of the many falls and gorges in and around Ithaca. I knew Ithaca had a lot of hills, what I didn't fully realize was how much natural history is prevalent in the area we covered. Driving in and around Ithaca to see the sights is somewhat difficult if you don't have a driver who is familiar with the area. We had an accomplished driver and a commentator so touring around Lake Cayuga and Ithaca was a day well spent.

The next week I attended two graduations. One for a bachelors degree, one for a masters degree. I feel very fortunate to be included in these special occasions.

Some of you no doubt heard of the sales of the accumulations of Karl's many years of collecting. The sales went well but the real bonus was having my children home for the first sale and the whole week before the second sale. Daughters-in-law helped with the cooking and we out-sourced some sleeping arrangements. (No, we didn't send anyone to India, just to Mifflinburg.) Of course the Sunday they all left was a real let-down, but I survived.

Memorial Day came and went, a really soggy wet day. It was the first time for many years that I hadn't attended a service to honor the veterans. Since practically all festivities were canceled I didn't know until too late that there were services at the Lutheran Church.

Then came June, a month to finish up a lot of details. I'm still working on those details, but enough about me.

This year June was a day of remembering for a lot of people. The 60th year of remembering D-Day, and then the dedi-

cation of the World War II memorial which brought back many memories, both for veterans and their families. It made me think of how many died and were wounded, the wounded in body, mind and spirit. I thought of the people in the U.S. on the home front. We were inconvenienced by shortages and restricted travel but we actually didn't suffer physically. Most of Europe was another story.

While traveling in Germany and Austria a number of years ago it was just about dusk when we came across a cemetery. We found a pension near by where we got lodging for the night. But I couldn't get that cemetery out of my mind. I got up early the next morning and drove back to the site. I discovered it was maintained by the British Grave Commission, and in it were interred British flyers who were shot down over Germany. Each cross had a name and rank engraved upon it. Mist was rising from the ground as I took a picture of the rows and rows of crosses. It was almost as if their spirits were going heavenward. It was a very somber me who went back to the pension for breakfast.

June also has a day earmarked to honor our flag. Washington is supposed to have said, "We take the star from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty." June 14, 1777 was the day the Stars and Stripes was adopted by the Continental Congress. A national Flag Day Bill was passed by the 81st Congress and signed into law by President Truman in 1949.

It's interesting to note that at one time there were 15 stars and 15 stripes. In 1818 it reverted to the original 13 stripes and provided for a star for each state.

We declared our independence in 1776 but it's sometimes discerning to know that sometimes not everyone thinks we are free, as evidenced by the following story: My daughter and I were on a river/canal cruise in Russia. There were quite a few British on the ship. We were standing in line one morning waiting to go into the dining room. The two of us were discussing the days proposed activities. In front of us were a British couple. He turned to his wife and remarked, "I hear the Colonists are on board this morning." Makes one wonder how many hundred years have to pass for everyone to consider us a bonafide country.

Bible Quiz

Anna Mae Martin, Millmont, PA was the winner of the June Bible Quiz. As a result, she won the \$10. The answer can be found in Matthew 4: 18 - 22. The Bible Quiz question for July is : How old was Noah when God sent the flood, and where is the answer found? The person whose name is drawn with the correct answer will receive \$10. The person responsible for the Bible Quiz would like to thank all those who submitted an answer in June, including, the Millmont Methodist Youth Group, Melanie Houtz, and Regina Martin. Send your answer (prior to the 20th) along with your name and address to:

Bible Quiz
PO Box 8
Swengel, PA 17880

The photograph in the top left hand corner of page 1 is the Millmont Railroad Station circa 1908.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our subscribers who sent us greeting cards and notes of congratulation via e-mail. We appreciate your words of encouragement, well wishes, and prayerful support.

We would also like to thank Brenda Weaver, Millmont, for her beautifully written account of our wedding day, despite the fact that she was not present at our ceremony.

Tony & Janice

Have a Happy and Safe 4th of July!

A vacation is having nothing to do and all day to do it in. Robert Orben

(Continued from page 5)

Editors note: My research into this story was not only interesting, but enlightening as well. During the research I discovered a number of discrepancies that require an explanation. I felt it was necessary to resolve those discrepancies not only for myself, but also for others who have a particular interest in this story. One of my first objectives after first hearing the story surrounding the death of Joseph Ruhle was to send for his military records from the National Archives in Washington. When filling out the request form I used the information that I obtained from his headstone in the Rays Church Cemetery. The stone is inscribed with the name Joseph Ritner Ruhle, and records the date of his death as "July 3, 1863." Sending for his records using that criteria was unsuccessful. I resubmitted my request for his records using information obtained from Volume I, page 352, of the book, *History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys*, published in 1886. That book includes the name of Joseph "B." Ruhl, with the date of death as July 1, 1863. With that information I subsequently received copies of Joseph's military records.

According to his headstone, as well as the 1860 census records, the correct spelling of Joseph's surname is Ruhle. While his military records give various spellings of his last name, in most instances the "e" was dropped. (The same was true for the military records of his brothers, Valentine and Samuel). How his middle initial became "B" rather than "R" remains a mystery.

The inscription on Joseph's headstone - "Died July 3, 1863 from wounds received at Gettysburg July 1, 1863" is even more difficult to understand or explain. A copy of the casualty sheet and the military records obtained from the National Archives clearly indicates that Corporal Joseph "B." Ruhl was killed at the battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. That same report also included this information: "*effects in hands of the enemy.*" The July 1st date also corresponds with the account given by Harry M. Keiffer in his book, "*The Recollections of a Drummer Boy.*" Keiffer was present in Company D alongside Ruhl. Because he maintained a journal during his military service, Kieffer's account is no doubt accurate.

There are two versions of the story concerning who the last soldier to carry the flag of the One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment on July 1, 1863. One version indicates that Gutelius was the last color guard to carry the flag, while another version mentions the name of another soldier. That flag purportedly was in the possession of Confederate President Jefferson Davis at the time of his capture. Once again I rely on the facts provided by Harry M. Keiffer who wrote that Joe Gutelius was "*the last man in whose hands the colors were found.*" One additional discrepancy is the misspelling of Joseph Gutelius' middle initial on his headstone at Gettysburg. The stone is engraved with the letter "S" for his middle initial while everything I've read indicates his middle initial is actually "J."

My thanks to: Elwood Showalter for providing me with some of the details concerning the story of Joseph R. Ruhle. I would also like to thank Ethel (Dieffenderfer) Ruhl for providing me with a wealth of information relative to the deaths of Corporal Ruhl and Corporal Gutelius, as well as a photograph of Corporal Ruhl. Other sources used in this article include: *Bates, Samuel P. History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861; Harrisburg, 1868; 1871; The Recollections of a Drummer Boy, by Harry M. Keiffer, 1888* (reprinted in 2000 by Michael P. Sanders, P. O. Box 184, Mifflinburg, PA. It is a book that I would highly recommend to anyone interested in learning more about the One Hundred Fiftieth Regiment, and Company D in particular); *Pennsylvania at Gettysburg, and the dedication of monument One Hundred Fiftieth Regiment Infantry September 11, 1889, address by Lieutenant - Colonel Thomas Chamberlin; History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valley, Volume I, by Everts, Peck, and Richards, 1886; Union County Pennsylvania - A Celebration of History, by Charles M. Snyder; "A Strange and Blighted Land", Gettysburg: by Gregory A. Coco.*



The gravestone on the left is that of Corporal Samuel P. Ruhle, Company D One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Regiment.

On the right is the gravestone of Private Valentine Ruhle, Company A One Hundred Thirty First Pennsylvania Regiment .



My Guiding Light

by Miriam Hoffman

When I awoke this morning
I saw a little star
Shining through my window
A radiance from afar

I could not reach to touch it
But I alone could see
That this star was placed
In the heavens just for me

The other stars all seemed so dim
Because this lone star
Was sent by Him
To guide me through this world of sin

It shed no light
For me to see
The dark, rough path
Life dealt to me

And yet I see the pathway clear
Somehow I know that He is near
By this little star I'm being led
The little star He placed overhead

Dear Lord, if I should stumble or fall
Should I struggle and toil in sin
Pick me up and set my feet
On solid rock again

So Lord let me have courage
And faith in your little star
To lead me to my heavenly home
Through Your Redeeming Power

Opening Available!! Postmaster Leave Replacement

The position of Hartleton Postmaster Leave Replacement is currently available. Anyone interested in learning more about this position is encouraged to call the Hartleton Post Office at: 922.1363.

Penlines from my Kitchen to Yours

By Lucy Hoover

May 11

Mervin and Mabel Stauffer's 4-year old son Marlin, of Mifflinburg, fell off the chicken house steps and was taken to the Emergency Room. He has a concussion and fractured skull.

May 15

There was a benefit auction for Jadon Stoltzfus at the Youth Center, along New Berlin Mt. Road.

Curvin, Elsie, and Marie went to church to help mow the lawn.

My Mom and Ruth Sauder went to Cumberland County to meet the others that will be traveling with them to Wisconsin; they plan to be home by May 22nd.

May 17

Our friend Sonny, of Schuylkill Haven, came to visit today. He will stay with us for 2 days.

May 19

Tonight brother Merle Hoover caught a 27 ¼-inch catfish. When Marie looked at the fish she asked, "How big was this whale?" I guess we will keep Merle's fishing spot a secret so that he won't need to worry about getting his line tangled up in a dozen other fisherman's lines.

May 20 (Ascension Day)

And when Jesus had spoken with His apostles: while they beheld, He was taken up: and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come, in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."

Acts 1: 9 – 11

May 21

Daniel & Verna Zimmerman of Mifflinburg have a son named Marcus Daniel. He has five brothers and two sisters. Grandparents are the late Martin and Fannie Zimmerman and Leroy and Verna Zimmerman of Millmont.

May 23

Jason and Pauline Martin of Mifflinburg have a son named Gerald. He has two sisters. Grandparents are Mervin and Annetta Martin of Mifflinburg, and Samuel and Alice Horning of Mifflinburg.

May 26

Menno and Elaine Zimmerman of Millmont have a son named Nathan. He has three brothers and three sisters. Grandparents are Esra and Lena Zimmerman of Mifflinburg, and Phares and Anna Horning of Mifflinburg.

May 27

Last evening we had a thunderstorm including strong winds and hail. It was hard on my garden. But by this morning most of the plants had gotten up again.

Last week Amos Hoover had surgery. The stent that they put in when he had a heart attack had been closed. His address is: 274 Hoover Road, Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

May 28

Luke and Kathryn Shirk of Alta Vista, Iowa have a third son, named Timothy. He also has one sister. Grandparents are Eli and Anna Shirk of

(Continued on page 9)

Looking Back

The article below was originally published in one of the local newspapers on July 23, 1892. It is copied here verbatim.

Mr. John Braucher

Sudden Death of the Well Known Citizen of Lewis Township

Early Tuesday morning, July 22d, 1892, the people of the western end of the county were startled by the announcement of the death of Mr. John Braucher, for many years one of the most prominent and highly esteemed citizens residing in Lewis Township. Having been a man of life-long diligence, economy and frugality, he became a man of means and had some years ago ceased to engage in any work that required severe bodily exercise. On the morning of his death, being in the midst of harvest and not having sufficient help, he ate a heavy breakfast and in the best of spirits and apparently in good health, went to the barn and pitched off a load of wheat. Descending from the wagon he took hold of the wagon tongue intending to back it off the barn floor to make room for another, but just as he was in the act he suddenly reeled and fell and died almost instantly. It is believed that death was caused by apoplexy, superinduced by over exertion.

The funeral of the deceased took place on Friday last, the services being conducted by Rev. Aurand. His remains were interred in the cemetery at Hartleton, the following friends acting as pall-bearers: Sephars Gemberling, David Royer, Henry Klan, John Hufford, J. R. Smith and John Watson.

Mr. John Braucher's ancestors settled in Hartley Township nearly a century ago and they were a sturdy, industrious, hard-working and God-fearing people. Like his fathers before him, deceased was a kindly, loving man who believed in right and justice, who loved his home, his fields and horses, and who gave a warm welcome to his host of friends when they called on him at the old homestead. A wife and three children, two sons and a daughter mourn with all who knew their husband and father at the loss of one whose virtue, integrity, and usefulness were so universally recognized.

Note: Although the above article was written verbatim from newspaper, the date of John Braucher's death recorded on his gravestone in the Hartleton cemetery is July 12, 1892.

In the June issue of The Millmont Times Looking Back column, the date of that clipping was omitted. That article was published in the Lewisburg Chronicle on June 24, 1884.

(Continued from page 8)

Mifflinburg, and Lewis and Verna Hoover of Lewisburg. Baby Timothy is our nephew. If our own son Timothy had survived he would have just recently had his 9th birthday.

May 29

I spent the day with Mom; Mrs. Weaver Zimmerman of Mifflinburg was also there. Elsie and Marie walked up the road to Nathan and MaryElla Hoover and played with their cousins.

May 30

Sonny is spending Memorial Day weekend with us, he is a fisherman. We go fishing with him because we enjoy it too.

Wilmer and Annetta Hoover of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Janelle. Grandparents are Amos and Elizabeth Hoover of Mifflinburg, and Harvey and Rachel Burkholder of Shiloh, Ohio.

June 1

Our whole family had a turn at churning cream in our big old butter churn; it gave 34 lbs. of butter.

June 3

Nathan and MaryElla Hoover of Millmont have twin babies, Martha 5 lb. 12 oz. and Marvin 4 lb. 8 oz. They have three brothers and three sisters. Grandparents are Lewis and Verna Hoover of Lewisburg, and Esra and Lena Zimmerman of Mifflinburg.

*A tiny hand to guide and hold,
A tiny life to shape and mold,
Each child, a gift from God above,
A symbol of His strength and love.*

June 5

MaryElla and the two babies came home from the hospital tonight. They were born at Evan.

June 6

We were to Vicksburg Church. Minister Eli Burkholder Jr. of Penn Valley were there, also our local ministers, Amos Nolt's, Lloyd Zimmerman's and Deacon Weaver Zimmerman's were present. This afternoon there was a singing at Norman and Ella Mae Martin of Lewisburg, in honor of Leonard and Miriam Schrock and children of Michigan. They are here to visit family.

Some of our Hoover family planned a picnic at Dreisbach Church Pavilion for supper tonight. We got there early. The girls enjoyed the play area. While we were there our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Dalvet of Pottsville, stopped in at our home to visit us. Since we were not home they searched for us among family and finally located us at the pavilion. Then we shared our picnic with them.

June 8

Mrs. Leroy Zimmerman of Millmont had open heart surgery to replace a valve.

Thank You!!

I'd like to thank the following people for their donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Irene Musser, Mifflinburg; Hazel Benfer, Milton; Robert Vanatta, New Columbia; Edward and Helen Susan, Mifflinburg; Russell Vanatta, Mifflinburg; Mary Campbell, Mifflinburg; Mervin Kline, Swengel; and Joe and Cindy DiAscro, Mifflinburg.

The people listed below have agreed to accept this newsletter over the Internet as a PDF, thus allowing me to reduce the monthly expenses associated with printing and mailing this publication. My heartfelt thanks to: Robert & Mary Catherman, Lewisburg; Joseph and Cindy DiAscro, Millmont; Ronald Rowles, Jim Walter, Mifflinburg; Herr Library, Mifflinburg; Martha Baker, Millmont; Mary Lytle, Harrisburg; and Melvin Walter, Penns Creek. Anyone interested in signing up to receive a color version of the newsletter each month at no charge is urged to contact: tshively@evenlink.com

In addition, I want to thank the following new subscribers: Kenneth Rishel, Mifflinburg; Steve and Becky Forcheskie, Millmont; Gary Struble, Millmont; Edward and Helen Susan, Mifflinburg, and Harold Noll, Lewisburg. Thanks also to all those who renewed their subscription to the newsletter for an additional year. Your support is what helps to make this newsletter possible, and as always it is greatly appreciated!!

Thanks to Miriam (Lohr) Hoffman of Mifflinburg for providing several of her poems, and to Richard and Nancy Gemberling for their help in obtaining the copies.

As always, my thanks to Pauline Shively, Weller Lane, Millmont for help with the newsletter.

Mifflinburg Wildcats girls softball team takes state title!

The Mifflinburg Wildcats softball team won the PIAA Class AA state title on Friday, June 18, 2004 at Shippensburg University. Shelby Hackenberg, daughter of Steve Hackenberg and granddaughter of Eugene and Darlene Hackenberg, all of Millmont, is a member of the team that beat Bald Eagle Area 3 – 0, bringing home the first state title in the history of the Mifflinburg softball program. Our congratulations go out to Shelby and the entire Wildcats team and coaching staff!

The road to happiness lies in two simple principles: find what it is that interests you and that you can do well, and when you find it put your whole soul into it—every bit of energy and ambition and natural ability you have. John D. Rockefeller III

Hartleton, PA - AS I REMEMBER IT

1930 - 1950

by Eleanor (Hoffman) Hoy

George Dorman sold blocks of ice to his many customers. He had a small building in the alley in back of his house where the cakes of ice were kept insulated with sawdust. It sold by the pound. A lot of people had ice box refrigerators rather than the electric ones of today to keep their food cool and from spoilage. With a lot of campers going through town to their cabins along Penns Creek and Weikert, he did a very good business. The Shirks were another family in Hartleton; Clayton, who owned the Hartleton Grocery Store, lived with his sister Annie and her daughter Pauline. Clayton's brother Stuart and his wife raised a large family in town.

Hartleton had a blacksmith shop located on Water Street, for the shoeing of horses. The blacksmith at that time was Jim Hackenburg. He made his own horse shoes and then people took their horses there to have the shoes put on. One time Jim was wearing a brand new pair of bib overalls and he asked the farmer who brought his team of mules to be shod if the mules kicked. The farmer said no, and just like that the one mule kicked and ripped his overalls to threads. They were overalls in my day, and today they are known as jeans. The difference being, in the 40's you bought them for \$1.98 a pair and they only came in dark blue.

Fred Edelman was the local barber in Hartleton at this time, and he cut men, women, and children's hair. Generally the whole family came to the barber shop on one given day or night. The barber shop was also a place where the men gathered in the evenings for the telling of gossip of the area, or discussing world problems. The joke was that you were in and out of the barber chair so fast at Fred's Barber Shop, meaning he never cut too much off, as he wanted you back in a week or so.

Editor's note: I would like to extend my thanks to Eleanor (Huffman) Hoy for allowing me to reprint the information she wrote a number of years ago relating to the town of Hartleton. The article above is the final installment of the information she originally provided to me in April 2003. I began including sections of her story with the May 2003 issue of the newsletter, and I have tried to feature a portion of her work in each subsequent issue. *Hartleton, PA - As I Remember It 1930-1950* has been of interest to many people who receive this newsletter each month.

Public meetings to be held in the Lewis Township Municipal Building

- ▶ Municipal Authority of Lewis Township, the first Tuesday of the month, beginning at 7:30 p. m.
- ▶ Lewis Township Board of Supervisors, the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:30 p. m.

Camp Karonndinha Camp Nikomahs & Camp Penn Lick

Newsletter subscriber, Nelson E. Clements, 108 Vermont Lane, Levittown, PA, 19054-1029, is searching for information, history, or memorabilia relating to the three camps listed above. Nelson grew up in Shamokin, PA, and as a young boy he visited Camp Karonndinha, and later served on the camp staff, before becoming Camp Director. He has been away for the area for 32 years, but still has many fond memories of the scout camp, and nearby Penns Creek. Since his retirement, he has been trying to write a history of Camp Karonndinha, Camp Nikomahs, and Camp Penn Lick.

If you, or someone you know, has any information regarding any or all of the camps listed above, please contact Nelson Clements at the above address.

Recipe of the Month

Buttery Blueberry Cobbler

from *A Taste of The Country 6th Edition* cookbook

2 Cups fresh or frozen blueberries

1 Tablespoon lemon juice

1- $\frac{1}{2}$ Cups sugar, divided

$\frac{1}{2}$ Cup butter or margarine

1 Cup all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt

$\frac{3}{4}$ Cup milk

1 egg, beaten

Whipped cream or topping

In a saucepan, combine berries, lemon juice and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar. Bring to a boil; remove from the heat. Set aside. Put butter in a 12-in. x 7-in. baking pan; place in oven until butter melts. In a small mixing bowl, combine remaining sugar with flour, baking powder, salt, milk and egg. Pour over melted butter. *Do not stir.* Spoon reserved berry mixture over batter.

Do not stir. Bake at 350° for 40 - 45 minutes or until golden brown.

Serve at room temperature with whipped cream or topping. Yield: about 10 - 12 servings.

Lewis Township News

Village Green Recreation Association - No minutes available.

Municipal Authority of Lewis Township - No minutes available

Lewis Township Board of Supervisors - June 8, 2004.

Henry Sanders, Chairman; Wayne Klingman, Vice Chairman, Doug Pepper; Karen Watters, Secretary/Treasurer; Thomas Boop, Solicitor; and Kenneth Catherman, Road Master. Also present at the meeting: Tom Watters, Rev. Richard Purchase, Ben Stahl, Scott Tice, Scott Smith, Herbert Tice, Dan Smith, and T. Shively.

>Wayne Klingman made a motion to accept the minutes as printed with one minor revision. Doug Pepper seconded the motion. Motion carried.

>Wayne made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report with additions. Doug seconded the motion. Motion carried.

>Doug made a motion to have the Union County COG serve as the townships construction code enforcement agency. Wayne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

>Nothing was received relative to the Lewis Township Municipal Authority lease.

>Ken Catherman informed the supervisors that he and his grandson, Cody, pulled the weeds around the flag pole. The guy who mows the township property is responsible for weeding around the municipal building, but not out on the green.

>Several people responded to the letters they received from the township regarding the improper installation of their driveways. Members of the Calvary Chapel on Orchard Road were at the meeting to discuss the letter they received, and their desire to resolve the problem. They indicated that the cost of repairing the problem could cost the church thousands of dollars. Solicitor Boop stated that there is a township ordinance regarding the installation of driveway connecting to township roads, which was effective as of September 1997. He also stated that it is the responsibility of the property owner to make certain a permit is obtained, and that the driveway is installed properly. He further stated that anytime someone builds, or alters, that person must check to see what the rules and regulations are before proceeding. Boop informed Rev. Purchase that if the church is unable to correct the problem immediately, they can send a letter to the township requesting an extension.

>No one applied for the part time township job vacancy that currently exists. The position pays \$11.50 per hour, and that person must possess a CDL.

>The 2004 road project bids were: HRI \$39,786.38 and American Paving \$36,466.83. Doug Pepper made a motion to award the bid to American Paving. Wayne Klingman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

>A bid from Northeast Tree of Bloomsburg was received relative to removal of the trees near the township ball field on Libby Road. That bid was in the amount of \$220.00 per hour. Doug Pepper made a motion to not accept that bid. Henry seconded the motion. Motion carried. Doug indicated that he would contact Brian Mabus to see if he is still interested in removing the trees. If Brian is interested he will need to provide a written letter stating that he is not an employee of the township, that he is an independent contractor, and that he is covered by his own insurance policy.

New Business:

>Two permits were issued, one to Josephine Herman, and another to Sandra Houdi.

>Ken Catherman informed the board that he plans to install some drain pipes on some township roads, and also do some shoulder cutting.

>Doug indicated that he spoke recently with representatives of neighboring Limestone Township regarding the possibility of sharing equipment and sharing manpower. Limestone Township owns equipment that would be useful to Lewis Township. The idea of sharing manpower might also negate the need to hire a part time employee for Lewis Township.

>Karen informed the supervisors that she met with a representative of Purdy Insurance to inquire about obtaining a quote.

Meeting adjourned.

What's Happening at the 4-Bell Lutheran Church - Courtesy of Shirley Kerstetter

The Four Bell Lutheran Church will once again be operating a food stand at the Union County West End Fair at Laurelton from August 2 - 7. Meals and platters available at their food stand:

Monday, Baked Ham Dinner with mashed potatoes and stuffing, your choice of applesauce, cucumbers, pickled cabbage, or vegetable. Also available: Barbecue Platter with macaroni salad and baked beans

Tuesday: Roast Beef Dinner or Turkey Dinner. Meals include mashed potatoes and stuffing, along with your choice of side dishes - applesauce, cucumbers, pickled cabbage, or vegetable

Wednesday: Smoked Turkey Dinner or Turkey Dinner. Meals include mashed potatoes and stuffing, along with your choice of side dishes - applesauce, cucumbers, pickled cabbage, or vegetable

Thursday: Pot Pie Dinner or Turkey Dinner. Pot Pie Dinner includes your choice of side dishes - applesauce, cucumbers, pickled cabbage, or vegetable.

Friday: Sauerkraut and Pork Dinner. Meals include mashed potatoes, and your choice of side dishes - applesauce, cucumbers, pickled cabbage, or vegetable. Roast Pork Dinner or Turkey Dinner meals include mashed potatoes and stuffing, along with your choice of side dishes - applesauce, cucumbers, pickled cabbage, or vegetable.

Saturday: Roast Beef Dinner or Turkey Dinner. Meals include mashed potatoes and stuffing, along with your choice of side dishes - applesauce, cucumbers, pickled cabbage, or vegetable

Take outs are available. The cost of the meals is \$7.00 each.

51st Annual K/Catherman Reunion

The 51st annual K/Catherman family reunion will be held at the Mifflinburg Community Park on Saturday July 10 and Sunday July 11. Activities on Saturday begin at 10 a.m. Genealogical information and consultation will be held at the pavilion. At 12 noon a picnic lunch will be held. A family history tour by automobile begins at 1:30 p.m. The tour always includes a visit to the farm where David Kattermann first settled in Union County around 1780. On Sunday July 11, a breakfast buffet will be held at the Old Turnpike Restaurant at the east end of Mifflinburg. The all you can eat buffet is \$6 per person and includes tax and gratuity. If you have any questions, or if you would like more information about the reunion, you can contact Carl R. Catherman at the following email address: crat@ptd.net

July Wedding Anniversaries

Merlyn and Miriam Hoffman, Mifflinburg, will be celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary on July 5. William and Doris Fultz, Millmont, will be celebrating their 49th anniversary on July 22. Mark and Dawn Shreckengast, Millmont, will be celebrating their 36th anniversary on July 29. Donald and Carolyn Bowersox, Mifflinburg, will be celebrating their 32nd anniversary on July 22, and Kimber and Joanne Groff will be celebrating their 4th anniversary on July 29.

People celebrating a birthday during July

2 - Carolyn Bowersox	22 - Jonathan Martin
2 - Shanda Bingaman	22 - Esther Nissley
3 - Kody Catherman	23 - Donald Long
7 - Scott Kline	24 - Sarah Hoover
7 - Matt Siegrist	25 - Grace Englehart
11 - Mervin Zimmerman	25 - Franklin Raker
13 - Mary Kahl	26 - Bailey Koonsman
15 - Donald R. Miller	26 - Miriam Hoffman
18 - Aaron Reiff	27 - Donald Bowersox
18 - William Fultz	29 - Ethel Stover
19 - Glen G. Catherman	
20 - Ruth Hoover	
22 - Elva Brubaker	

The Millmont Times is distributed during the first week of each month, and is available through mail subscription and the Internet. Mail subscriptions are \$8.00 per year for 12 issues. Internet subscriptions are available FREE of charge to those who would like to receive the newsletter as a PDF each month.

Please contact the address below if you are interested in subscribing, submitting a story or article for publication, sending a gift subscription, changing your address, providing me with your email address, or contacting the editor and publisher. So that your material can be included in the next issue, please be sure to submit your information or photos prior to the 20th of the month.

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Post Office Box 3, Millmont PA 17845
Telephone: (570) 922.4297 or E-mail:
tshively@evenlink.com

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