



The Mystery Surrounding the Death of William Kline

One hundred forty years ago this month inhabitants of the West End were captivated by the mysterious death of one of its residents. The incident pitted neighbor against neighbor as to who was telling the truth and what was nothing more than gossip. Idle talk can be cruel and hurtful, and so it was in this well publicized case, which led to the arrest of two individuals. The mystery was resolved to the satisfaction of the court following an investigation and the use of forensic science techniques available at that time. However, it was not before the body of the deceased was exhumed from its burial place on two occasions.

The mystery revolved around the death of 42-year old William Kline, which occurred July 4, 1874. Questions arose in the days immediately following his death. Was it suicide? Was there foul play? Was it some obscure disease? Was his death due to an unnatural cause? Was his wife, Mary E. Kline (ten years younger than her husband and the mother of his five children), somehow responsible? Newspaper articles published at the time provided various twists and turns to the story. Rumors were rampant. Was the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the whole truth ever revealed?

The story unfolds as the construction of the Lewisburg, Centre and Spruce Creek Railroad made its way westward through Union County and into neighboring Mifflin and Centre counties during the 1870's. This major construction project resulted in numerous employment opportunities. While local residents filled some of those jobs, workers from outside the area also made their way to Union County in search of work. Some of these workers were transient, therefore they looked for temporary housing in close proximity to the job site.

While I was unable to determine the precise location of William and Mary (Knauf) Kline's home, newspaper accounts state that it was located about 4-½ miles west of Laurelton, near the railroad right-of-way. Based on various sources, their home was most likely located somewhere near Trails End. According to deed records in the Union County courthouse, the property where the Kline family resided was purchased in April 1867. The deed for the 35-acre property reveals that it was in Mary's name only.

William Kline was listed as a pump maker in the 1870 census. However, according to newspaper accounts, by 1874 he was employed on the railroad construction project. In addition, he and his wife also took boarders into their home. Some of those boarders were transient workers employed on the railroad project.

On June 22, 1874, while at work, William Kline became ill and went home. Dr. Martin L. Mench of Hartleton was summoned and Kline remained under his care. During his treatment Dr. Mench stated that: *"he could not determine clearly the nature of the disease - it being very obscure"*.

Mary Kline reported to Mench that her husband had complained of pain in his stomach for the previous two years. The doctor speculated that perhaps Kline was afflicted by cancer. Kline's vomiting and purging continued for days while the doctor was unsuccessful at bringing relief to his patient. His suffering continued over the next 13 days when death ended his torment on July 4th. William Kline was laid to rest in the Hartleton Union Church Cemetery on July 6, 1874.

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Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder



When I go to different places on Military assignments I like to learn something about the wildlife native to the area. This year while on a Military exercise in France I learned that Northern France has vast agricultural lands and because of that food source the wild rabbits grow extremely large. The ones that I saw would have tested the endurance of a hunter just to carry two of them out of the field.

I can report that hunter success during spring gobbler season has been excellent and the turkeys were still very active and talking until the end of the season.

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Rumors and accusations swirled throughout the West End concerning the cause of Kline's illness and death. Some neighbors were certain that his death had all of the earmarks of deliberate poisoning. Idle gossip soon turned to finger pointing, and those fingers were aimed directly at his wife, Mary E. Kline. Speculation that she surreptitiously fed her husband rat poison reached a crescendo in the days following his demise. A prudent question for any reasonable person to ask would be - why? Why would a mother of five young children, including a set of twins, want their father dead?

One of the boarders who came into the Kline home was a man by the name of Edward Clark. Clark was an English Canadian who either migrated to the West End of the county with one of the railroad construction companies, or perhaps came here in search of employment. Whether real or imagined, folks speculated that Mary Kline and Edward Clark were involved in a romantic tryst. As these rumors churned and gained momentum an outcry for justice circulated the neighborhood. Mary and Edward refuted all accusations of intimacy. Clark's supporters encouraged him not only to flee, but leave to the country. However, he stated that if he were to run away it would provide evidence that he played a role in Kline's demise.

Did William Kline possess an irritable and jealous disposition? Mary Kline accused her husband of being jealous without cause. She also said that he frequently threatened suicide in her presence. She told authorities that on one occasion he took laudanum, a highly potent narcotic, with the intention of committing suicide. On another occasion he held a bottle of iodine to his mouth threatening to do himself harm. This information came to light after William Kline was dead and buried.

Because of the controversy swirling around the cause of death, Dr. Mench requested permission from Mary Kline to have her husband's body exhumed. This would allow further examination to determine if he died as a result of poisoning. She refused. According to the newspaper account she told Dr. Mench that: *"there was no poison about; that no one could have given him poison and that he requested of her, previous to his death, that his body should not be disturbed"*. Dr. Mench stated that citizens were accusing her of being responsible for her husband's death, and if she would allow a post mortem it might quiet the many rumors afloat. Mary's response was *"they had better be careful what they say or she would make them suffer for it"*.

Despite her opposition, permission was granted to raise Kline's body from his burial plot on July 10. Dr. Mench (1845-1913), along with his mentor, Dr. William Seebold (1817-1901) of Hartleton, examined various organs, gathered tissue for further analysis and placed the items in an airtight jar. At the time they failed to detect any visible signs of a "cancerous affection" in his stomach, and both doctors entertained the possibility of poisoning. Upon completion of their examination Kline's body was lowered into the grave for the second time.

On the following day Dr. VanValzah of Mifflinburg was asked to come to Hartleton and aid in the investigation and examination of the deceased. He arrived the following day, Saturday July 11, whereupon the body was exhumed again. Dr. VanValzah was disadvantaged by the condition of the body, but nonetheless proceeded with his examination. This he performed while in the company of Dr. Mench and Dr. Seebold.

VanValzah gathered additional substance to be analyzed, which was added to the jar of contents from the previous examination. The presence of poison could not be ascertained from this examination. They concluded that the tissue would have to undergo minute and careful analysis. For the third time Kline's body was lowered into the grave. While his body had at last found eternal rest, two exhumations only served to add fuel to the speculation surrounding his death.

Mary Kline admitted that she went to David Bower's store north of Laurelton in early June 1874 where she inquired of clerk Harry Rhoades about purchasing rat poison. However, she claimed that she was sent there to purchase the poison at her husband's request. She stated that they were having problems with rats around their home. Rhoades informed Mary that they did not carry rat poison although they did sell arsenic, which was used for the same purpose. She purchased a one-ounce packet, and claimed that the arsenic was mixed with cornmeal and used to eliminate the rats. After it served its purpose she threw it away so her children would not get into it.

Today forensic science can provide answers to perplexing challenges faced by law enforcement. However, in 1874 forensic technology was not the norm. Detecting traces of arsenic in body tissue might be easily accomplished in a laboratory today using modern equipment. But how sophisticated were the tests, and how easy was it to detect those things 140 years ago?

Based on the evidence of the physicians who did the post mortem examination an inquest was held in Hartleton with Squire Wilson empanelling a jury to listen to the evidence. Members of that jury included Robert V. Glover, James Reed, William Wolfe, Martin Wagner, Wesley Fees, and Hiram Border. After listening to the evidence, based primarily on the information from the doctors, the jury authorized a warrant for the arrest of Mary Kline and Edward Clark.

On Monday July 13, 1874, Edward Clark and Mary Kline were placed under arrest. Clark was sent to Lewisburg on the evening train where he was placed in the Union County jail. The Mifflinburg Telegraph reporter who observed Clark as he was carted off to jail stated: *"he did not look at all frightened or grieved on account of his arrest, and acted like a wrongly accused man, so far as murder is concerned."*

Mary Kline was allowed time to make provisions for her five children prior to being taken to Lewisburg. She was not subjected to a jail cell, but rather remanded into the custody of the Union County Sheriff Lafayette Albright, who lived above the jailhouse.

The commissioners of Union County authorized District Attorney Alfred Hayes to have an analysis of the matter removed from Kline's body in an effort to determine if any poison existed. The expense of this analysis was to be borne by the county. Hayes turned the dilemma over to two professors at the University of Lewisburg (now Bucknell University). Those two professors included Dr. Justin R. Loomis, president of the university, and Professor Francis W. Tustin. They were asked to ana-

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Exploring the Bald Eagle State Forest

Civilian Conservation Corps

Part II



Shown above is a stone chimney that was erected by the enrollees of the Woodward CCC Camp S-115. It is one of two chimney's that remain standing at that site. This chimney is situated on the north side of Route 45, just east of the village of Woodward.

An interesting fact about the CCC camps located in the BESF is that five of them were situated on private land rather than on state forestland. Camps situated at Beaver Springs, Woodward, Weikert, Milroy and Coburn were all on private land. In some instances establishing a camp on private land seemed valid. In other instances it appears to be ill planned.

The Woodward CCC Camp S-115 was located on private land. The lifespan of this camp was less than a year, June 1933 until April 1934, a remarkably short lifespan. The fact that the camp closed after 10 months raises questions as to whether there were issues between the private landowner and the government. Fourteen months after the Woodward camp closed the Joyce Kilmer CCC Camp S-148 opened on state forestland a few miles to the east. The Kilmer camp was in operation from 1935 until 1937.

At the time the Weikert Camp S-68 was established on private land in 1933, there was no vehicle bridge across Penns Creek. The closest bridge across the stream was located several miles to the east at Glen Iron. The primary work area for the camp was thousands of acres of forestland on the south side of the stream opposite the village of Weikert. As a result the government leased farmland just east of the village where the camp was established. One of

the first projects undertaken by this camp was the erection of a 143 foot steel truss bridge across Penns Creek at the village of Weikert. The camp at Weikert was made up entirely of white veterans from WWI. It remained a veterans camp until it was abandoned in 1941. The longevity of this camp on private property not only attests to the number of work projects to keep the men occupied, but also a cordial relationship between the parties involved.

The other three camps built on private land - Beaver Springs S-69 and Milroy (Havice Valley) S-64 were each in operation for four years (1933-1937) while Coburn S-63 operated a total of eight years (1933-1941).

In addition to Joyce Kilmer mentioned above, the other camps situated on state forestland include Tea Springs S-114, Reedsville S-113, Lavonia (Half Way) S-67 and Loganton S-66. Of these, Tea Springs operated for the shortest period of time (1933-1935). Lavonia operated over the longest period (1933-1942).

Each of the ten camps in the BESF had various works projects assigned to them. While all of the camps had road, bridge, trail and numerous other forestry related projects, some were tasked with the creation or major improvements to area parks. The young men who first came to Lavonia were responsible for the construction of the cement and stone dam that created the lake at the present day R. B. Winter State Park. This was the first structure of that design built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This dam is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The men assigned to the Coburn camp were responsible for the construction of the dam at Poe Valley State Park as well as the original bathhouse and other facilities at the state park. In addition they were also involved in constructing picnic pavilions and other facilities at Poe Paddy State Park. The men from Tea Spring worked at Ravensburg State Park and the men from Reedsville camp were responsible for work projects at Reeds Gap State Park.

In addition to many of the roads and trails that we use today, relics of the handiwork of the CCC boys can still be found at various places across the BESF. Some of the more obvious vestiges from that era include stone dams, picnic pavilions, a springhouse as well as stonewalls lining streams in order to prevent erosion. A dwelling that the enrollees of the Weikert camp erected near Hickernell Spring serves as home to a forest ranger and his family. More subtle remnants of that era might be a large pine tree plantation in the forest that were mere seedling when they were planted by the CCC boys eight decades ago.

When the camps were established and operating they were alive and teeming with activity. If you have an opportunity to visit a campsite try to envision what life was like for those involved in the program. Each camp had four long barracks that were home to about fifty enrollees per barracks. In addition, each camp had a mess hall, bathhouse, recreation hall as well as officers quarters and other buildings associated with maintaining and operating the camp.

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Recipe of the Month

By Janice (Dorman) Shively

Pesto Sauce

3 C. fresh basil leaves
 1 ½ C. chopped English walnuts
 4 cloves garlic, peeled
 ½ C. grated Parmesan cheese
 2 tsp. lemon juice
 ½ - ¾ C. olive oil
 Salt and pepper to taste

In a food processor, blend together basil leaves, walnuts, garlic, cheese and lemon juice. Stream oil slowly while mixing. Use enough oil to make a thick sauce. Add salt and pepper to taste.

This is a recipe that I adapted from one I found on-line many years ago. While traditional pesto sauce recipes call for pine nuts, this one is less costly due to the use of walnuts. And, I like

the taste of this pesto better than most I've tried.

Pesto sauce is hard to keep "looking pretty" because it turns brown quickly. And you can't can it. An alternative is freezing pesto sauce! Place a large piece of plastic wrap on the palm of your hand and drop a heaping teaspoon of pesto sauce in the middle. Pull up the sides and place the plastic wrapped pesto sauce in each well of an ice cube tray. Once frozen, remove the "cubes" of pesto sauce and wrap the plastic wrap around each. Place in a freezer bag and use within 6 months.



Pesto sauce is delicious served over pasta, chicken and seafood. My favorite way to eat pesto sauce is as a condiment in place of mayonnaise on sandwiches. Yummy!

If you've got an abundance of basil in your garden, give this recipe a try! Yield: 1 ½ C. pesto sauce.

ENJOY!

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. July 1, 1933. Temperature 72-90. Cloudy and rainy. Worked in the garage this PM. Mervyn (Mensch) and I went to visit Anna Criswell. We anointed her.

Sun. July 2, 1933. Temperature 70-90. Lesson Joshua 1:19. Pres. 96. Col. \$2.91. I spoke from Luke 15. Mother and I went with Bro. Linn Wert then stayed for dinner and supper. The storm recently partly unroofed Wert's barn & did lots of damage to things around Dreisbachs.

Mon. July 3, 1933. Rain then clear. Temperature 58-72. Worked in the garage this AM. This PM we went to see Anna Criswell. She wants to be baptized so we baptized her in a bath tub they had ready with warm waster & we got along nicely.

Tues. July 4, 1933. Temperature 50-80. Clear. Worked in the garage this AM. This PM Bro. Rupp & friends of Lewisburg were here to see the relics.

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While all but a few of the buildings associated with that era have long since disappeared, each campsite holds reminders from the past. Some of the noticeable remnants may include a stone chimney, steps that once led to a particular building, the location of the flagpole or perhaps a cement foundation. At some locations the Company Street, or the primary gathering area, is visibly evident as pine trees line the street.

This year marks the 81st anniversary of the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps by President Roosevelt. There has been a rapid decrease in the number of men alive today that were employed in this Depression Era program. I interviewed six men who worked at various CCC camps for a book published in 2000 by the Union County Historical Society. All six of these men have passed away. However, their legacy lives on through the work they did to rehabilitate the forest and parks in the Bald Eagle State Forest and other areas of Pennsylvania's forestlands. Equally important is the work that an estimated 3 million participants in the CCC performed throughout this state and across this nation.

TLS

Editor's Note: While the CCC camps that were located on state forestlands are open to the public, those on private lands are not. Before exploring any of the CCC campsites that were located on private land please find out who owns the property and ask for permission before entering.

Sources: The CCC Camps of Union County (1933-1942) Life and Work in the Civilian Conservation Corps, by Tony Shively; At Work in Penns Woods by Joseph M. Speakman, published in 2006 and <http://www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/maps/index.html?campid>

GPS Coordinates for CCC Camp Locations in the BESF

Milroy S-64: Latitude 40.752817 Longitude 77.493583 (P)
 Beaver Springs S-69: Latitude 40.733033 Longitude 77.2285 (P)
 Tea Springs S-114: Latitude 41.046867 Longitude 77.14365
 Coburn S-63: Latitude 40.81145 Longitude 77.501 (P)
 Weikert S-68: Latitude 40.8615 Longitude 77.285367 (P) (open to the public)
 Joyce Kilmer S-148: Latitude 40.901783 Longitude 77.267917
 Woodward S-115: Latitude 40.90275 Longitude 77.323367 (P)
 Lavonia S-67: Latitude 40.991117 Longitude 77.19425
 Loganton S-66: Latitude 41.0647 Longitude 77.355133
 Reedsville S-113: Latitude 40.761733 Longitude 77.3842
 (P) Private land

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Shown above is a photograph of the Hartleton Union Church and a small portion of the adjacent cemetery. This undated photograph was provided to me courtesy of Jack Shirk of Hartleton.

lyze the material taken from Kline's body and render their opinion as to whether or not any traces of arsenic could be found.

At 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday July 29, 1874, Judge Joseph Casper Bucher* called a special session to order at the Union County Courthouse at which time testimony was taken in the case involving Edward Clark and Mary Kline. District Attorney Hayes represented the Commonwealth and Lewisburg Attorney Andrew H. Dill represented the defendants.

Six witnesses took the stand during the proceeding. Those witnesses included Harry Rhoads, Dr. Mench, Dr. Seebold, Dr. VanValzah, Professor Frances W. Tustin, and Patrick Shields. Shield's was a co-worker of Edward Clark. Neither Mary Kline nor Edward Clark took the stand.

The outcome of the case hinged on the testimony of Professor Tustin. He provided the court with details about his analysis. He explained that he secured pure chemicals and the best apparatus, and with great care and patience tried every infallible method known in chemistry to detect arsenical poison, none of which gave the least indication

of its presence. After making his analysis and satisfying himself with the result he put a very minute portion of arsenic in the analyzed matter and again subjected it to the same tests. In every case the evidences of its presence were distinct and unquestionable. At the conclusion of his tests the professor stated: "*there was not the slightest trace of poison - none can be found*".

Following the examination of the witnesses Judge Bucher summed up the evidence and gave a brief synopsis of the case. He stated that following William Kline's death there appeared to be sufficient grounds to warrant the opinion that he died as a result of poisoning. In order to set the matter right, a post mortem analysis was necessary. He stated that had the matter been passed over, a pall of suspicion would have followed the prisoners to their graves. He remarked that they would have also been denied proper legal evidence to prove their innocence.

Bucher stated that the attorney for the Commonwealth had carefully and exhaustively examined every witness on the side of the prosecution yet failed to find any testimony that would implicate either of the parties as accessories to the death of Kline. As a result, no grand jury impaneled in the county would be able to find a bill against them. The judge sympathized with Mary Kline in the bereavement of her husband and the humiliating position in which she had been placed. However, he nevertheless congratulated her upon the fact that any semblance of suspicion had been swept away. He gave credit to the witnesses and the infallible tests of chemistry.

The judge went on to explain that the two defendants were forced into their present situation because of public opinion. Having their innocence established, the judge discharged Mary Kline and Edward Clark and ordered the costs to be paid by the county. According to the reporter for the Lewisburg Chronicle the prisoners arose and disappeared while a general smile of approbation and satisfaction was perceptible on every countenance.

This case illustrates how gossip, innuendo, hearsay and rumor can lead to disturbing results. In this case charges of murder were directed at Mary Kline and Edward Clark because of the speculation from some of their neighbors.

William Kline was the son of David and Susanna Kline. David and Susanna appear in the Hartley Township census records of 1840 and 1850 as well as the Hartleton Borough census records from 1860. David's occupation was blacksmith in 1850 as well as 1860. Based on census data from 1850, William is listed as the son of David and Susan (Susanna) Kline. At the time the census data was collected he was 18 years old and had no occupation.

When Mary B. Lontz and Charlotte Walter recorded the names and dates from the legible headstones in the Hartleton Union Church Cemetery in 1966, the headstones of both David (1804-1863) and Susanna (1798-1869) were legible. These headstones are still standing and while the names are legible, the dates are becoming difficult to read. In 1966 there was no headstone recorded for William Kline, which is a good indication that no stone was ever erected for him following his burial. Since no records of this cemetery are known to exist, Kline's precise burial site in this cemetery remains a mystery. In March 1876 Mary E. Kline sold her 35-acre Hartley Township property to one of her neighbors, Abraham Rudy. Whatever became of Mary Kline and Edward Clark following their exoneration for the murder of William Kline? That is another mystery.

TLS

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Blessings from the Bible

By Brenda Weaver

“But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.”

Psalm 52:8

We planted it the year our oldest daughter graduated from high school and our youngest daughter started first grade. It became a sort of memory tree to mark those important milestones in our family.

I'd always admired Red Bud trees with their delicate early-spring blossoms. After the pink blooms, which line each branch, come the heart-shaped leaves. I always hoped to have one in our yard.

It was just a weak-looking sapling when I brought it home from the home improvement store, but we dug the hole and planted it with hopes for a lovely tree. It grew a few years before it bloomed, but finally we welcomed the beautiful blossoms.

With a family of youngsters each taking their turn at learning to mow the grass the little tree sometimes took a beating. One year a neighbor child cut off a few branches leaving the tree a bit lop-sided. But it stood. It grew. And every year it bloomed.

In early spring of this year I noted that most of the tree was not pushing buds. Much to my disappointment, as spring advanced, I realized that at least two-thirds of our memory Red Bud tree had died during our harsh winter. How sad our beautiful tree looks now!

I can't help comparing my life to that tree. In one short year a big part of me died. When I lost my husband to death by cancer I felt very much like only part of me was living. Our dreams of growing old together became dead wood. For a time I didn't know how to live and bloom as only “half a tree.”

For weeks I watched our mostly dead tree try to go on living. It bloomed. The leaves appeared. I tried to decide what to do. Cut it all down? Cut the dead part down? And then something happened that spoke hope to my spirit. Close inspection revealed new tender sprouts at the base of the tree, coming from the dead branches. I didn't count to see if there were five, but the sight of green on our dead tree reminded me of our five children. Our marriage may have ended in death, I may still sometimes feel like half a tree, but our children carry on the legacy passed down to them. There is growth, and hope for the future, from that which is dead.

At this writing my tree is still standing, one third of it garbed in heart-shaped leaves, the other two-thirds bare-branched and dead, except for sprouts that have me hopeful. Maybe one day it will be a beautiful tree again, marred, scarred by harsh winter winds, but blooming and growing into a new whole. It reminds me that God can restore and renew. He is a redemptive God—He binds up the wounds from harsh winds, and causes good to grow again.

Even on the days when I feel much like my Red Bud tree looks now, I can trust in the God who “has made everything beautiful in its time.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

“...even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you.”

Isaiah 46:4

Seeing people I love age and near the end of earthly life fills me with a mixture of emotions. I sorrow to see them losing health, losing skills, becoming frail, experiencing diminishing senses, and searching to make sense of facts that used to be easily under-stood. The writer of Ecclesiastes describes aging: “...*In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened...*”

On the other hand, I joy to think of my loved ones being so nearly home! Soon the troubles of this life will be over. Made free by the blood of Jesus, they will enter a blissful eternity in the very presence of God and our Savior Jesus Christ. What Glory!

Watching others grow older also causes me to feel a bit apprehensive. *What maladies may I face? How will I handle losing the sharpness of my five senses? How will I act if I become confused or suffer intense pain? Who will take care of me?*

I thought about making a list of requests for those who may one day be my caregivers. It would go something like this:

When I am old, and frail in body and mind, care for me in the way I should think would be kind. Park my chair or push my bed out to an orchard and let apple blossoms fall on my wrinkled face. Take me for rides in the country, and through the woods on old mountain roads. Let me feel raindrops on my cheeks, and rushing streamlets on my feet. Sing to me. Let me whistle if I am still able. Play beautiful music while I try to sleep. Read the Holy Scriptures to me, especially the Psalms that are tear-stained or underlined in my Bible. Pray aloud when I am discouraged. Ask me to pray blessings on you.

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If my confused mind is living in another world, give me a doll to cuddle and love me even if I have become a very different person than I am today. Please do not put me in a windowless room, or one that is painted boring white. Paint it yellow and put flowers in vases and clean sheets on my bed. Fluff my pillow and turn it, like good nurses are still taught to do. Let me do what I can, and give me words of affirmation and encouragement instead of condemnation. Show me Christ-like love.

When I draw near the River Jordan, hold my hand and be near to watch my eyes grow wide when I see the other side, and the loved ones who are waiting, and my Lord—Oh the joy of seeing my Lord!

You will be rewarded. And I will be grateful.

Prayer for Today:

Dear Lord, I pray "... even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come." Psalm 71:18

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Editor's Note: The information contained in this article was taken almost entirely from contemporaneous newspaper articles. Therefore it was based on what newspaper reporters provided, which as many of us know is not always entirely accurate. Despite my best efforts no court documents could be located that would provide additional facts or shed more light upon this incident. While that is not to say that no documents exist, only that I was unsuccessful in locating them in the Union County Courthouse.

Sources: United States census data from 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870. The Mifflinburg Telegraph; The Lewisburg Chronicle; Union County Pennsylvania, A Bicentennial History by Charles M. Snyder 1976 and Tombstone Inscriptions of Union County, PA published by Mary Belle Lontz 1967, 1992.

*According to the late historian Charles M. Snyder, Judge Joseph Casper Bucher (1834-1908) of Lewisburg was a much-admired jurist who in private circles was known for his immense wit and good humor, and served on the bench for 20 years. Judge Bucher presided over another high profile murder trial in the 1880's. That trial took place in Snyder County and involved the prosecution of Emanuel Ettlinger, Jonathan Moyer, Uriah Moyer and Israel Erb. These men were prosecuted for the robbery and killing of an elderly Troxelville couple, John and Gretchen Kintzler in December 1877. Following their jury convictions Judge Bucher sentenced three of the four criminals to death by hanging.

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Robert Reigle, Irene Musser and Arnold and Dorothy Gilkey of Mifflinburg and David Hoover of Millmont.

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

I would like to thank Rita O'Brien of San Antonio, Texas for donating a copy of a book entitled Snyder and Union Counties Pennsylvania, a compilation of historical writings published by Barbara Rebok and Doug Rebok of Tucson, AZ and Eugene Hoffman of Mifflinburg for allowing me to copy a photograph and the complete list of names from the Class of 1951/1952 from the Red Bank Schoolhouse.

Family Reunions

The 61st K/Catherman family reunion will be held at Mifflinburg Community Park on Saturday, July 12. There will be a covered dish lunch at 12:15 and many activities for children and adults beginning at 10 AM. Contact Carl Catherman at 570-966-6236 or crcath@dejazzd.com for details.

The Annual Joseph Hartley reunion will be held July 20th beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Anthony Selin Park in Selinsgrove, PA. Attendees are invited to bring a covered dish to share, personal place settings, and a table cloth. For more information or directions you can contact Jim Hartley at 570.374.4067 or email at jash312@ptd.net.

The small photograph in the upper left corner of page one shows a view of the Hartleton Union Church and cemetery that was taken by Jacob G. Shively in 1956. This church and cemetery, which dates to 1841, is located off Catherine Street in the borough of Hartleton. The remains of some of some early residents to the West End are buried in this cemetery.

Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

by Lucy Hoover

May 15, 2014

Larry and Miriam Nolt of Middleburg have a healthy son named Gerald. He has four brothers and three sisters. Grandparents are Lester and Martha Nolt and Phares and Anna Horning.

Our neighbors Janice (13) and Emily (12) Reiff came to stay at our house for two days while their parents went to a funeral in Ohio.

May 18

It's a little bit too chilly to have an outdoor volleyball game, but we are having one anyway. At least it's not raining.

Lydia Ann Horning sprained her ankle while playing volleyball.

May 28

Curvin and Maureen Oberholtzer of Millmont became first time parents when baby Marlee Alayna Oberholtzer was born. Grandparents are Harry and Alta Oberholtzer and Luke and Vera Weaver. Baby is at Geisinger Medical Center and will need to stay seven to ten days.

May 29

Ascension Day! The wedding was at Alvin and Ellen Zimmerman's for their daughter Lisa and Richard. In the evening they also had a singing for the youth.

Curvin took Pauline and Isaac fishing. Isaac (5) was delighted when he caught an 18" catfish.

May 30

Jonathan and Barbara Ann Martin of Millmont have a son named Jaylon Andrew. He has one brother and two sisters. Grandparents are Thomas and Lydia Martin and Allen and Lovina Zimmerman.

Norman and Alta Reiff of Lewisburg have a son named Isaac. He has three brothers and one sister. Grandparents are Isaac and Ruth Reiff and Aden and Irene Weaver.

Luke, Kathryn and Timothy Shirk of KY are visiting in Pennsylvania. The family went to meet them at grandparent Hoover's today.

May 31

David and Priscilla Zimmerman of Mifflinburg have a Zimmerman reunion today. There were 421 people for lunch. The weather was perfect.

June 6

Marlee Alayna Oberholtzer came home after a ten day stay at Geisinger. She is doing well.

June 14

Tim and Ella Zimmerman have their first child named Raylon Joel. Grandparents are Ervin and Carolyn Hoover.

Looking Back

The following newspaper article was originally published in the July 28, 1955 edition of The Mifflinburg Telegraph.

THE COUNTY LINE

A Buffalo Valley Folktale involving the point where three counties meet.

Written for the Telegraph by Dr. Charles M. Steese

The story here related was told to the writer by the late David Galer, who was not only a good neighbor, but a fine conversationalist with an exceptional memory.

In 1877 when the Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad was being extended from Laurelton to Tyrone, one of the men employed in the construction gang was Jerry Sloan who hailed from somewhere down around Wilmington, Delaware. Little was known about him, but he was a good worker. In the construction job the men were paid once a month. Usually on the last day of the month the "Pay Car" attached to a special locomotive would steam up from Sunbury and the men would line up, enter the car and be paid in cash for the past month's work. On the particular occasion about which our story is concerned, the locomotive met with some mechanical trouble on the way up the line, and at Mifflinburg the paymaster was forced to continue his journey to Weikert (at which point the construction gang was then working) by making use of a horse and buggy.

When the paymaster arrived at the construction camp it was late in the evening, and just before the men were called to fall in line to receive their wages an armed masked man appeared at the buggy and robbed the paymaster of the money. Before an alarm could be sounded, the robber fled into the nearby forest. All of the men in camp were lined up at once, and only one was missing - Jerry Sloan. This led to the immediate belief that he was the robber.

Now, just a few miles east of the construction camp there was a party of fishermen from Lewisburg, who were camping along Penns Creek, and among the party was Judge J. C. Bucher, who then presided over the courts of Union and Snyder counties. It was to this camp that the foreman went at once for advice. The Judge of course told him to get word as quickly as possible to the Sheriff in Lewisburg, and a messenger was dispatched at once for the County Seat. The next noon Thomas P. Wagner who was at that time the High Sheriff of Union County, and by virtue of his office its chief law enforcement officer, arrived at the camp and after swearing in three deputies began a search for the bandit.

After a search of two days, Jerry Sloan was discovered in a lean-to up on the Blue Rock, which is a high point just west of the place where Cherry Run empties into Penns Creek. Now it just so happens that at or about this point - three counties, Union,

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Centre and Mifflin meet. This point and the county lines were well known to Sheriff Wagner, and strange as it may seem, they must have been known to Jerry Sloan. As we have said the Sheriff was the chief enforcement officer of the county, but his jurisdiction ended at the county line. In those days there were no State Police. As the enforcement officers of Union County approached Sloan's hideout, he merely retreated a short distance over into Mifflin County and from that point of vantage laughed at his pursuers. In order to arrest him in Mifflin County, an officer of that county would have to be summoned to "do the trick". You can well imagine how long it would have taken to get word over to Lewistown and to have some officer make the journey over the mountains to the spot where Jerry Sloan had located himself. Then again, if indeed such an officer would appear, it would be only a matter of minutes and Sloan could step into Centre County which would mean that some officer from Bellefonte would have to be there to make a legal arrest. This was a real problem for Sheriff Wagner, but he solved it, and without additional human aid.

The Union County sheriffs simply sat tight in the lean-to, which Sloan had built, and in which all of his provisions were stored. After several hours of patient waiting, the sheriff suddenly got help from an unforeseen source. Down along the mountain came a large bear. The animal evidently did not see the Sheriff and his party, but did see Sloan, who by ill luck was resting in a favorite haunt of the wild animal. When Sloan finally saw the bear he looked around for a place to retreat, but found none. There were no trees to climb. There was nothing to do but run for cover - into the arms of his pursuers, and this is just what he did in his fright. He was arrested at once, and shackled, and the bear disappeared into the forest.

The Sheriff and his deputies took the prisoner, and after securing the cash, which he had purloined from the paymaster, started back to the construction camp. The money was returned to the proper officials there and the journey to the jail at Lewisburg was begun.

This story has a strange ending too. Shortly after being incarcerated in the Union County "Bastile", the prisoner became ill and before the time of his trial died. And stranger still the day after his death, a middle aged lady came and claimed his body, which was taken down the river for burial at some unknown point.

Tony

I love your paper and am sorry to see it go away. Having spent a lot of time up there as a camper and camp director at camp Karoondinha, also fishing and hunting I really love the area. I am writing a book on the History of the Susquehanna Valley Area Council Boy Scouts of America that merged with the West Branch Council in 1975. While doing research I found that the land where Camp Karoondinha was purchased from a Dr. Libby and for the first few years was Camp Libby. I would like to learn what ever I could about him. Also prior to using the land for Camp Libby they held a couple of camps at a place called Spanglers Woods that was to be across Penns Creek somewhere near Camp Libby or now Camp Karoondinha. I would like to pin point where it was if possible. I don't know if you have any answers but maybe some of your readers might. Feel free to give me my email ajapeu@verizon.net or my address 108 Vermont Lane, Levittown, Pa. 19054-1029.

Thank you

Nelson E. Clements

Editor's Note: If anyone is able to assist Nelson in his search for more information about Camp Libby, and about Dr. Libby please feel free to contact him at the address above, or you can contact me and I will be happy to pass along any information that might be helpful to his project on the history of Camp Karoondinha.

Join Us for Worship this Summer and Celebrate

Millmont PA – MILLMONT – Christ's United Lutheran Church, also known as the "Four Bells Church," is inviting all to worship with us this summer while we celebrate what we have. Each Sunday's service has a specific theme. Children's Sunday School runs simultaneously during the service. Adult Sunday School follows the worship service.

Dates and Worship Themes are as follows:

July 6: Celebrating Our Freedom. July 13: Celebrating Our Families **. July 20: Celebrating Our Forgiveness.

July 27: Celebrating Our Formation. August 3: Celebrating Our Fortune. August 10: Celebrating Our Future.

Worship Services for all Sundays except July 13 start at 9:00 a.m. The July 13 worship service will be at the Mifflinburg Community Park, starting at 10:30 a.m. Christ's United is located 3 1/2 miles west of Mifflinburg on Route 45.

For more information, call Christ's United Lutheran Church at (570) 922-1860. The church's email is culc@dejazzd.com. Visit our website at www.4bellschurch.com.

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Internet subscriptions can be obtained FREE by visiting: www.millmonttimes.com

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, making a donation or changing your address: Tony Shively, Post Office Box 3, Millmont PA 17845, telephone: (570) 922.4297 or E-mail: tshively@dejazzd.com

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 – Carolyn Bowersox	12 - Harvey & Brenda Ilgen - 1959	22 – Elva Brubaker
2 – Shanda Bingaman	13 – Barry Cooper	22 – Jonathan Martin
3 – Olivia Hackenberg	13 – Mary C. Kahl	22 – Esther Nissley
3 – Kody Catherman	15 – Donald R. Miller	23 – Shelby Hackenberg
4 - Independence Day	14 – Adran Martin	23 – Donald Long
4 – Robert Steimling	17 – Randall Aikey	24 – Sarah Hoover
5 – Joan Lyons	17 – Robert & Carolyn Wagner – 1971	25 – Tiffany Lyons
5 – Roger Shoemaker	18 - Tom & Peggy Reimensnyder - 1954	25 – Frank Raker
7 – Dennis Shively	18 – Dolores & Gerald Starks - 1965	26 – Becky Wenrick
7 – Scott Kline	18 – Esther Keister	26 – Michael Jones
8 – Catana “Tina” Zimmerman	18 – Aaron Reiff	26 – Bailey J. Koonsman
9 – Rachel Shively	18 – William Fultz	27 – Donald Bowersox
9 – Brooke Catherman	19 – Kass Beebe	28 – June Rowe
9 – Jeremy & Elisa Beaver - 2005	19 – Glen G. Catherman	28 – Phyllis Ruhl
9 - Franklin Gross	20 – Nancy Prutzman	29 – Oakley Whitesel
9 – Jerry L. Starks	20 – Ruth Hoover	30 – Eli Shirk
10 – Neil Shoreman	21 – Ralph Sheesley	30 – Jeannette Lasansky
10 – Neil & Alice Shoreman – 1966	21 – Ricky Sholter	31 – Shirley Eberhart
11 – Lucas & Angelia Southerton - 2010	22 – Blanch “Becky” Calder	31 – Baris Göktaş
11 – Bill Chappell	22 – William & Doris Fultz – 1955	
11 – Mervin Zimmerman	22 – Donald & Carolyn Bowersox - 1972	

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