

Volume 13 Issue 2
June 1, 2012



Changes to the Forest Landscape

1754 – 2012

Part I

It is estimated that as much as 95% of Pennsylvania was covered by forestland prior to the arrival of the European settlers. If that is true, that would mean over 27 million acres of this state were at one time covered by trees. It also explains how the state got its name – Penn – after William Penn’s father, and Sylvania – meaning forestland – or woods.

While the Native Americans are believed to have cleared small opening’s among the trees for their villages and for agricultural purposes, most of the state was covered with virgin timber when the white man first stepped foot in this region of the state.

In the book Otzinachson, published in 1889, author John F. Meginness periodically paints a visual picture of the landscape of Central Pennsylvania. Included in that mosaic are sections from the 1742 journal of Nicholas Zinzendorf, the first Moravian to visit this region of the state. Zinzendorf was accompanying Conrad Weiser, a close friend of the natives, Chief Shikellamy in particular. Heading north along the Susquehanna River from Sunbury, in what would likely be the vicinity of Winfield, Zinzendorf describes his surroundings in the following diary entry from September 30, 1742:

The country through which we were now riding, although a wilderness, showed indications of extreme fertility. As soon as we left the path we trod on swampy ground, over which the traveling on horseback was altogether impractical.....The foliage of the forest at this season of the year, blending all conceivable shades of green, red, and yellow, was truly gorgeous, and lent a richness to the landscape that would have charmed an artist. At times we wound through a continuous growth of diminutive oaks, reaching no higher than our horses girth, in a perfect sea of scarlet, purple and gold, bounded along the horizon by the gigantic evergreens of the forest. During the journey thus far I have not seen any snakes, although the banks of the Susquehanna are said to be the resort of species which lie on the tops of the low bushes in wait to spring upon the passing traveler. The country abounds in reptiles, bears, and other wild animals.

When surveying the landscape of Central Pennsylvania today, particularly the West End of Union County, it is difficult to envision what this area would have looked like when the European settlers first began arriving here in the mid 1700’s. Surely the primeval and virgin forestlands were a sight to behold.

According to the Annals of Buffalo Valley written by John Blair Linn in 1877, despite the fact that this area was inhabited by Indians, settlers continued to migrate into the valley. Many settled along or near Penns Creek. As early as 1754 John Turner had made improvements to his property in the vicinity of what is today 2565 Creek Road. Noted historian Richard VB. Lincoln and his family lived at this location for more that half a century.

Linn also recorded William Doran’s improvement in the area around White Springs as early

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Hartleton Mailbox by Postmaster Gail Hanselman

My pool is open...yes!!!! That means it's summer, my favorite time of the year. I think it is the favorite time of year for many children because that means no school. They get to sleep in, go to the pool, hang out with their friends and stay up late. AWWW the care free life.

Just a reminder to be on the lookout for children crossing streets, riding bike or chasing after a run away ball. Sometimes the children are distracted and not paying attention or they might have earphones in and can't hear you.

With the hot weather the bees are very active so remember to hang the no-vacancy sign at your mail box. Keep your mailman safe and make sure there are no unwanted critters or bugs in your mailbox.

Summer means vacation time so if you’re planning on going on vacation remember to put your mail on hold or have someone pick it up for you. This will help protect you from identity theft. To put your mail on hold you can call or email your post office.

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Atop a gently sloping hillside, and surrounded on all sides by farmland is one of the oldest cemeteries in the West End. The Lewis Cemetery is located about one mile east of the village of White Springs. The name "Lewis" was derived from Daniel Lewis, who owned the land and donated a parcel of his property for use as a burial place. Patrick Watson and his mother, both killed by Indians in 1780, are buried in this cemetery. There are at least fifteen men who served during the Revolution buried in this cemetery.

The above photograph was taken in October 2010, prior to the cemetery association having a new fence installed around the perimeter in February 2011.

as 1755. Numerous families lived in that section which is now Limestone Township during the same time, including John Jacob LeRoy. Many of those early settlers experienced first hand the dangers of settling in hostile territory, in what were the frontier regions of this country.

In October 1755 the LeRoy settlement, east of the village of Dice, as well as others, were attacked by a band of Native Americans. Some of the settlers that were attempting to carve a place in the wilderness were killed or captured, while others abandoned their property in order to flee for safety. It took years for some of those pioneers to return, while others never came back to the valley.

In his historical writings Richard VB. Lincoln references a number of the early settlers living in the West End of Union County, and their assessments in 1775. The time frame was two decades after the first Indian attacks that drove the settlers out. Lincoln noted the population of what today encompasses Hartley and Lewis Townships, as well as Hartleton Borough, was somewhat sparse prior to the Revolution. Four names that appear in the records as landowners in 1775 include Phillip Cole, John Shively, John Glover, and John Wierbach.

Phillip Cole owned the land where Hartleton is situated today. In 1775 he was assessed with twenty-five acres of cultivated land, two horses, and three cows.

John Shively settled in the vicinity of what is today 2565 Creek Road. At that time he was assessed with nine acres of cultivated land, two

horses, and two cows.

The Weirbach farm was located in the vicinity of 1040 Shirk Road. Weirbach was assessed with eight acres of cleared land, two horses and three cows.

John Glover was assessed with five acres of cultivated land, two horses, and two cows. A native of Ireland he came to Hartley Township in 1772, where he settled about one and one half miles west of Hartleton, on the south side of Old Turnpike Road.

By 1781 these families, and others, were once again driven from the property. Indians were again attacking settlers in this valley, spreading fear into the hearts of all those who lived here. Phillip Cole left the valley during the runaway and subsequently sold his land to Colonel Thomas Hartley.

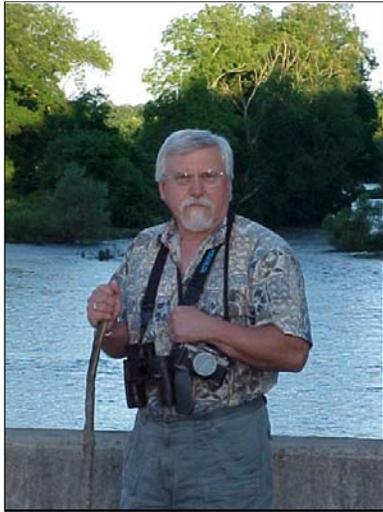
John Shively moved onto his land, 324 acres bordering Penns Creek, in 1774. Several years later, 1781, while engaged in fieldwork near his log home, he was captured and carried off by the Indians. He was never heard from again and was presumed killed. His wife Eve and their four children subsequently left the area.

At or about the same time that Shively was captured, the two daughters of John and Catherine (Best) Wierbach were also taken. The Weirbach farm was located about one mile northeast of the Shively home. Indians captured Catherine "Elizabeth" and Ann Weirbach and torched the Weirbach cabin.

John Glover and his family left during the runaway. It was nearly a decade before they returned to their Hartley Township land.

Combined, these four settlers were assessed with a total of forty-seven acres of cleared land. Since many of these settlers were farmers by trade, they endeavored to transform wilderness into farmland. Considering the rudimentary tools and equipment these pioneer farmers had to work with, that effort was not an easy one. Like the aborigines it was necessary for the early settlers to clear land in order to build houses, and also for agricultural purposes. Raising crops for personal use, as well as food for their livestock was essential. In the 1770's the tools and equipment available for clearing land were primitive. Historian Richard VB. Lincoln wrote the following about the pioneers who moved into this area:

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BIRD TALK

by Jim McCormick

Oh, glorious May, the month I look forward to all year long, the month of possibility and renewal, the month when Nature's wonderment bursts forth, the month when every bush and shrub and tree blossoms with flower and leaf, the month when the vines send out their tendrils and climb skyward toward the sun, the month when the bees again begin buzzing and the butterflies are seen chasing each other from flower to flower, the month filled with the sights and sounds and smells of the rebirth of the world we live in, May is the epitome of Spring! I hope each of you took the time to enjoy every second of it, this most wonderful phase of the Cycle of the Seasons.

May is one of the most active months for the birds, as well. The Baltimore Orioles arrived a few days late this year (I usually expect them on May 1st), but immediately they started building their nests. Unlike the male Red-winged Blackbirds that arrive in late February or early March who wait for weeks for the females to arrive, the male and female Orioles arrive together and waste no time in getting ready for breeding. By the end of the month there were signs that there must be nestlings already, because I saw a couple of nests where the female had already left and could be seen flying to the treetops. It is always interesting to hear their buzzing alarm call when I get close to their nests. I soon hope to see the nestlings emerge and start hopping around on the branches, getting ready to fledge. May was active for the Canada Geese, as well; pairs could be seen in many places with their golden goslings. As I have said before, the number of goslings has decreased dramatically since I first started observing them over twenty years ago. It was not uncommon then to see large numbers of pairs of Canada Geese with flotillas of forty or fifty goslings floating down Penns Creek. They appeared as a large, fluffy, yellow mass almost covering the Creek from side to side; now, each pair has only two or three or maybe five goslings each and they travel in groups of only two or three pairs of adults.

What is most unusual this year, however, is the fact that I have not yet seen a single Mallard or Wood Duck duckling. I know they are around, just by the behavior of the adults, but they have remained hidden all season. Perhaps it is because of how high Penns Creek has been all month and they are hiding in the small feeder streams safe from the swift current. One day late in the month, I was walking along the Creek upstream from the Covered Bridge when I scared up a pair of Canada Geese along the edge of a field. They went down the river bank and I followed them. There was a couple of fishermen fly fishing in the Creek. The Geese went into the water and their goslings followed them and they all floated far downstream, but a lone straggler gosling was caught in midstream and was struggling to stay afloat. Its family was far away and it was swimming low in the water, fighting the current, trying to get back to the shore and the safety of the tall grass. It finally made it to shore and I was hoping the family would return to it when the fishermen left or maybe it would just be abandoned. Nature can be both beautiful and cruel.



Photograph of goslings courtesy of Jim McCormick.

I have yet to see or hear a single Eastern Meadowlark and have only seen a few Indigo Buntings this year. Northern Mockingbirds, Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers, those members of the Mimic family, however, are all being seen in their usual places. Soon the fledglings of many species will start appearing everywhere, so get out there and enjoy this wonder of Nature.

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The early settlers endured many hardships of which we of the present day have but a faint conception, and many of them had a severe struggle to maintain existence. Their earliest occupation was for the most part farming, or rather getting ready for farming. It was a tremendous job to build houses, barns, make roads and clear land, all of which crowded on them at the same time. It was a constant struggle to keep body and soul together, yet in spite of their desperate exertions, the wolf really and figuratively, sometime came very near the door.....The early settlers were industrious, economical and honest, charitable and sociable, concealing kind hearts under a rough exterior. Necessity made them rigidly economical in dress, in furniture and food.

Rueben Haines was the owner of considerable real estate holdings in neighboring Centre County. In 1771 he proposed carving out of the forest a public road from Sunbury, through what is today Dry Valley, New Berlin, White Springs, Swengel, Hartleton, westward to Woodward and into the heart of Penns Valley. In the beginning it was little more than a horse path. As time went by the road was widened for use by wagons. The Haines Road brought new settlers into this area, and the road provided a means for people from this part of Pennsylvania to migrate west. Brush Valley Road, or what is today Buffalo Road, runs from Union into Centre County through the Fourteen-Mile-Narrows. This road was laid out in the 1790's.

Author, John B. Linn included a list of inhabitants (head of household) in West Buffalo Township in 1796, their occupation, and the type of dwelling they lived in when he published the Annals of Buffalo Valley. At that time West Buffalo Township included the area encompassing all of Hartley, Lewis, and Limestone townships as well as the borough of Hartleton. That list included the names of 192 individuals (families) residing in this section of the county.

The vast majority of township residents lived in log cabins or log houses. Linn offered no explanation as to what constituted a cabin and what a log house was. As expected, farming was the predominant occupation of those early settlers.

As they cleared trees from their lands the farmers used some of the timber to build homes, barns and fences. Acre by acre these settlers were transforming virgin forestland into farmland. As more of their land was cleared and put under cultivation the amount of timber was more than the landowner could use.

In some areas large hardwood trees were felled with an axe, rolled together and branches placed atop the pile. Following a period of drying time the large pile was torched. The end result of the burned timber was a product known as potash. Potash was a marketable product, and one of numerous surplus items that were sent floating on arks down Penns Creek. In his book, Navigation of Penns Creek by Jacob Shively, 1963 the author described these large-scale burnings:

Land was cleared much faster than the market could be found for the timber; in fact for many years there was no market for it. Many of the settlers bore a sort of hatred toward the trees because of the amount of toil necessary to dispose of them. The finest of the tree were often cut down, rolled on great piles and burned. These "log rollings" were usually carried on at night, the people of the neighborhood gathering together and making merry by the light of the great fires, which could be seen for miles. Enormous piles of ashes were produced and this was often leached and boiled until dry in large kettles. The black potash which resulted was sold for manufacture into pearl ash which was sold for two to three hundred dollars per ton.....

The state declared Penns Creek a public highway as early as 1771. This water highway included that section from where it

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Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder

After a mother bear was hit and killed on the road by a car, two of my deputies and I had to go and catch her three cubs so they could be adopted in with another mother. One of the cubs was up a tree and hanging on to the far right branch. We came up with the bright idea that the smallest of us – DWCO Barry Cooper would climb the tree, grab the branch, and with his weight bend the branch towards the ground until we could reach the cub. It all worked perfectly until about ten feet off the ground the branch broke sending Barry careening out of control, knocking us down and slamming him into the tree trunk. As we recovered we noticed that the branch came to rest about four feet off the ground with the cub still clinging to it and we were able to grab the cub and place it in a pet carrier. However, Barry accused us of being more concerned about the cub and not trying to catch him to break his fall. The three cubs were successfully transferred and adopted in to other mothers.

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New Stamps coming in June..... Mail a Smile (Disney Pixar characters), available June 1st on a pane of 20 stamps, five different designs; Bicycling, available June 7th on a pane of 20, four different designs; Celebrate Scouting, available June 9th on a pane of 20, one design; and Miles Davis/Edith Piaf, available June 12th on a pane of 20, two designs.

All Post Offices will be closed July 4th to honor Independence Day.

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Above is a view of Penns Creek with Paddy Mountain in the background. During the late 1700's and early 1800's arks laden with goods from Centre County were piloted through this section of the stream beneath Chimney Rock, located southwest of Weikert.

emptied into the Susquehanna River, upstream a distance of twenty miles. By 1792 an additional section of the stream (west to Spring Mills) was also declared a public highway. Efforts were undertaken to remove obstructions that interfered with the transportation of arks. As more land was stripped of its timber and transformed into agricultural use, farmers were able to grow surplus crops. One means of transporting those surpluses was by means of wooden arks on Penns Creek, primarily during periods of high water.

According to Lincoln there were numerous places along Penns Creek in Hartley Township where platforms for the construction of and launching of arks took place. One such platform was that of Henry Keister who lived on the south side of the stream near the village of Laurel Park, where he also operated a sawmill.

White pine timbers and planks were used in the construction of the arks. According to Lincoln, in the lower reaches of Penns Creek arks sixty to seventy feet in length were built and used to transport goods downstream. To make them as watertight as possible for their journey down Penns Creek (and occasionally down the Susquehanna River) the planks were sealed with tar and pitch.

Once they were partially constructed the arks needed to be turned, or flipped over into the water. As the ark was slid off the platform the top was now the bottom side. Lincoln stated that ark turning required a lot of manpower to perform the operation, and in some ways it was similar to that of launching a ship.

Ark running on Penns Creek was most prevalent in the West End during the late 18th and early 19th century. According to Lincoln, numerous ark runners lived in the West End during this period. One of those was John Fisher who lived near the village of Laurel Park. His father, Peter Fisher, owned and operated the gristmill near the mouth of Laurel Run, which likely supplied some of the cargo for the arks. In describing Fisher's pursuit as an ark runner Lincoln wrote:

He was a man of enterprise and a leading man in the community. He ran arks down Penns Creek laden with wheat, flour, whiskey, butter and other productions of the county. His ventures in this direction were not attended with success. He lost several whole cargo loads of produce, which so crippled his resources that he was eventually compelled to dispose of his landed estate.

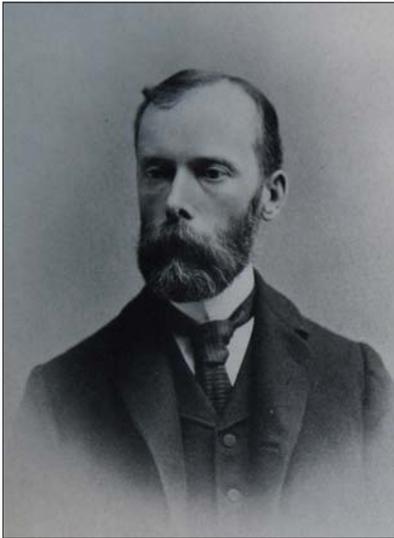
The Union Times published in New Berlin under the date March 26, 1825 stated that some one thousand barrels of whiskey were among the items sent to market from Union County. While there was no indication how much of that whiskey was sent on arks it seems likely that a portion of the distilled spirits were transported in that manner. According to Lincoln, farmers could turn their corn and rye into whiskey at any one of the 12 distilleries operating within the bounds of Hartley Township as late as 1829.

TLS

Future installments in this series of articles will include information about lumbering in the early days, the locations of some of the early log churches and schools, and we will discover why wood was so essential to the operation at the Berlin Iron Works. Who were some of the colliers and coopers living in the West End, and what did their occupations entail? We will look at the arrival of the large-scale lumbering operations at Laurelton and Pardee and the aftermath of the clear cutting era, the life of a Wildcatter, and the legend of Pardee Engine 59. The state of Pennsylvania purchases vast clear-cut areas and the effort of reforestation begins.

Sources used in this article: Linn's Annals of Buffalo Valley by John Blair Linn, 1877, and published in Harrisburg, Pa., by Lane S. Hart; Otzinachson: A History of the West Branch Valley of the Susquehanna, by J. F. Meginness Volume I, published by Gazette and Bulletin Printing House, Williamsport, Pa, 1889; History of that part of the Susquehanna and Juniata valleys, embraced in the counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, published by Everts, Peck & Richards 1886; Navigation of Penns Creek by Jacob G. Shively (self published) 1963; and A Penns Creek Companion, A History and Guide, by Douglas Macneal and published by the Penns Valley Conservation Association in 2005.

Biography of The Glover Family



Horace P. Glover

John Glover Sr., and his family, were some of the earliest arrivals to what is today Hartley Township, Union County. The homestead was located west of Hartleton off Old Turnpike Road. The log home that was in the Glover family for generations was located on what is today a section of State Game Lands 317. For many years the Glover home and farmland was part of the Laurelton State Village property.

The Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania, including the Counties of Centre, Clinton, Union and Snyder, published by J. H. Beers & Co, 1898, provided information about members of the Glover family, including Horace P. and his brother, Robert V. Glover. The biographical narrative also included information about John Glover's arrival in Hartley Township as well as the family's need to flee the area when hostilities with the Native Americans took place. The following are excerpts about the Glover's from the above mentioned book:

Hon. Horace P. Glover, a leading citizen of Mifflinburg, Union County, is not only a successful lawyer, but he has been for many years prominently identified with The Mifflinburg Bank, of which he is now the president, having succeeded his father, the late Robert V. Glover.

The Glover family is one of the oldest in this section, our subject's great-grandfather, John Glover Sr., having settled in what is now Hartley township, Union county (then Buffalo township, Northumberland county) in 1772, locating about one and one-half miles

west of Hartleton on the south side of the turnpike, where some of his descendents still reside. His ancestors migrated from England to the North of Ireland in the days of Cromwell, during the seventeenth century, and the above named American pioneer was always proud of the fact that in his veins flowed the blood of sturdy Protestant stock which, two generations before him, had taken part in the defense of Londonderry and had survived that famous siege.

Born in Ireland, December 25, 1774 (O.S.), John Glover Sr., came to America in 1766, landing at Baltimore and locating near Winchester, Va. He was accompanied by two nephews whose names are not certainly known, but it is family tradition that one of them settled in Kentucky and the other in New York. He was married to Sophia Duncan, born February 13, 1749 (O.S.), with whom he was probably acquainted before leaving Ireland, and who shared with him all the privations of early frontier life in this country. In 1778 occurred the "big runaway," when the Indians drove all the settlers out of Buffalo Valley, and John Glover Sr., took his family back to Virginia for safety, returning to Hartley township in 1789, where his subsequent life as a farmer was without special incident. He is taxed with one slave in the assessments books of 1804. His death occurred in 1825, and his remains, together with those of his wife, are buried at Laurelton.

John Glover Jr., son of the preceding, who was born in 1782, near Winchester, Va., inherited the homestead in Hartley, and became a man of influence in his locality. In 1822 he was appointed a justice of the peace by Gov. Hiester, holding that office until 1838, when the constitution of that date went into effect; and in the following year was elected register and recorder of Union county. In 1806 he married Elizabeth Gray (b. 1785, d. 1856), a native of Ireland, who came to America when about nine years of age. They had eight children: One daughter, Sophia, wife of Dr. Uriah Reed, of Jersey Shore, Penn., and seven sons, to wit: William, who was sheriff of Union county from 1837 to 1840; Andrew; John (3rd), a farmer of near Hartleton; George Gray, who remained on the old Glover homestead, where he died in 1885, and on which his descendents still reside; Thomas; Robert V., mentioned more fully below; and James, a farmer of near Laurelton, holding the southern portion of the old farm. John Glover, Jr., died in 1862, and is buried at Hartleton.

The late ROBERT V. GLOVER, the father of our subject, was born December 1, 1821, at the old homestead, and was educated in the local schools and at Mifflinburg Academy. After teaching school for a few years he engaged in mercantile business at Hartleton, continuing forty-five years. He was also identified with other business enterprises, notably The Mifflinburg Bank, of which he was the first cashier and afterward president. In religious faith he was a Presbyterian, and for thirty years held the office of ruling elder in the Church at Hartleton. He was married in Union county to Miss Helen Pellman, a native of

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Robert V. Glover

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Berks county, Penn., born May 3, 1827. She died November 13, 1893, and his death occurred on December 8 of the same year, Our subject was the eldest of their six children; James Oliver resides at State College, Penn., Mary married James C. Hayes, of Polk county Minn., Samuel P. is a physician in Altoona, Penn.; John Newton is a farmer in Union county, is in partnership with our subject.....

Horace Pellman Glover was born December 10, 1852, at Hartleton, Penn., the eldest son of Robert V. and Helen (Pellman) Glover. After an attendance at the common schools of his town and at the old Union Seminary at New Berlin, he entered Lafayette College, Easton, Penn., graduating with the class of 1871. In the following year he became cashier of the Mifflinburg Bank, and while there, having decided upon the legal profession, he pursued the required course of study under the direction of the late J. Merrill Linn, of Lewisburg, and at the March term, 1878, was admitted to the Bar. He then opened an office in Mifflinburg, where he won prompt recognition, and four years later was admitted to practice before the supreme court. On entering the profession he relinquished his position as cashier, became a director, and in 1893 succeeded his father as president of the bank. Mr. Glover has always taken a moderate interest in politics, and in 1886 was elected from Union county, on the Republican ticket, to the legislature, serving one term. He was delegate from his county to the Republican State Conventions of 1877 and 1883.

On November 30, 1886, he married Anna Kemble, a daughter of George S. Kemble, M. D., a noted physician and surgeon of Mifflinburg, Penn., who had served with distinction during the Civil war, holding the rank of corps surgeon and medical director. Mr. Glover is a member of the Masonic fraternity, being affiliate with Mifflinburg Lodge No. 370 F. & A. M., at Mifflinburg. He has one son, Robert Van Valzah, born September 27, 1887.

David L. Glover, youngest son of Robert V., was born December 17, 1866, at Hartleton, and after preparation at Bloomsburg, Penn., he entered Lafayette College, where he graduated with the class of 1890. Having studied law with his brother, he was admitted to the Bar of Union county at the September term, 1893, and in 1895 was elected district attorney, and is enjoying a successful practice of the law in association with his brother, Horace P., under the firm name of Glover & Glover, at Mifflinburg.

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:

Tuesday June 24, 1941. 69 degrees and cloudy at 6. My back gives me lots of trouble this morning. 82 degrees at 6 this evening. Have not been able to work on account of my back. Billy and Edgar (Shively) took some hay up for Donald (Shively) and they mowed some grass.

Wednesday June 25, 1941. 64 degrees at 5 this morning. 82 degrees at 6 this evening. I was lying down most of the day. The boys were mowing some grass this afternoon.

Thursday June 26, 1941. A day very much like yesterday. Clear 86 degrees at 6 this evening. Spent most of the day in bed. Billy, Donald, Edgar (Shively) and Walter Catherman, Jimmy Mitchell, and Jimmy Showalter were hauling in some hay. Mother gave them dinner and supper. Makes quite a busy time for her.

Friday June 27, 1941. Another day like other we have had. 68 degrees at 6 A.M., 86 at noon, 91 at 3 P.M. and 86 at 7 this evening. My back is about the same.

Saturday June 28, 1941. 76 degrees at 7 A.M. From the Sunbury Item – The mercury surged to 93 degrees at the Sunbury Airport weather station. This was 14 days this year that the mercury was into the 90's. I am feeling about the same. Donald and Edgar (Shively) took in some hay this afternoon.

Sunday June 29, 1941. 75 degrees at 7 A.M., some clouds, the first in some days. I am still the same. Remained at home while mother and Edgar (Shively) went to services. David's, Jacob, and Mr. Mitchell were here to see me.

Monday June 30, 1941. 78 degrees at 8 this morning. Clear, rained a little last night. Misty at dawn, some clouds during the day. 84 degrees at 8 this evening. I assisted Billy and Edgar (Shively) in getting the house ready for the little chickens. I received a card they were shipped today. I am getting 100 R. I. Reds from Berry's Poultry Farm, Clarinda, Iowa.

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Barry and Arlene Blyler of Levittown; John and Mary Dunkle, Edna Ammon, Harvey and Brenda Ilgen, and the anonymous donation all from Mifflinburg; and John and Janet Renninger and Wayne Benner of Millmont.

I would like to welcome the following new subscriber: Ruby Keller of Riverside, PA.

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

I would also like to thank Irene (Vanatta) Benfer of Mifflinburg for providing me with genealogical information about the Getz family from which she is a descendant; Donald Shively of Millmont for donating information about the Millmont Post Office, Union County Sesquicentennial information, and Shively family memorabilia, Wayne Nolen of Millmont for sharing with me his well preserved and arranged collection of obituaries; and Jay and Susan Rarick of Woodbridge, Virginia for allowing us to be included in their graveside memorial honoring the memory of George Getz, who is buried in the Ray's Church Cemetery, as well as all those who served their country during the Civil War.

Recipe of the Month

by Janice (Dorman) Shively

Fresh Squeezed Lemonade

2 Lemons
 2 C. sugar
 1 gal. water / ice

Slice lemons into 1/4" slices. Place sugar and lemon slices in a 1-gallon pitcher. With your hand, squeeze lemons and sugar to extract juice from the lemons. You will have a thick sugary liquid when you are finished. Add just a bit of hot water to the sugar and stir to dissolve. Fill the pitcher with ice & water to make one gallon of fresh squeezed lemonade. Serve immediately.

If you plan to keep the lemonade overnight, or for an extended time, remove the lemon slices from the lemonade. If the lemon slices are left in the lemonade for too

long it will become bitter.

Sam Beiler, my co-worker and our friend, brought a large cooler of lemonade to work on a hot summer day years ago. He was happy to share the recipe, or method as he calls it.



Tony and I have enjoyed many pitchers of this refreshing beverage. When I make strawberry jelly I always put aside some strained juice to freeze in ice cube trays. We like to add an ice cube or two to our lemonade and enjoy strawberry lemonade! I also freeze red raspberries when in season and put them in a glass of lemonade. They serve as ice cubes and flavoring.

ENJOY!



Do you recognize this soldier?

Each month The Millmont Times will place a photograph in the newsletter to see if the readers are able to identify the person or place.

This will not be in the form of a contest, but merely to see how perceptive the readers are at identifying the person or place shown in the photograph.

This month's photograph was taken in 1941 and shows a soldier from the west end of Union County. This former soldier is currently a resident of another state.

The answer to this month's photo can be found on page 12.

WANTED

I am looking for photographs of the Grace Chapel that was located adjacent to the former Smith's Restaurant on Old Turnpike Road, west of Fairground Road and the Dunkard Church that was situated along Weikert Road across from the Keister Cemetery. This cemetery was also referred to as the Dunkard Cemetery. Pomeroy's atlas from 1868 shows a church and schoolhouse located just east of the cemetery. This cemetery is located about 2.5 miles west of Laurelton.

I am also trying to locate information as well as an original photograph of Dreibelbis Mill that was situated in White Springs.

If you have any information or photographs please contact me at 570.922.4297, email -

tshively@dejazzd.com, or write to
 P. O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845.

Village Green Association News

Millmont Community Yard Sales will be held Saturday June 23, 2012.

The Millmont Fall Festival will be held Saturday September 29, 2012. Crafts, antiques, Chicken Barbecue and more. More information will be released in future issues of the newsletter. You can also contact Tom Catherman at 922.1662 for more information.

THANK YOU

Sandy Winegardner, of Mifflinburg, PA, requested that I include a note of thanks in the June issue of this newsletter. Sandy would like to thank all those who have sent cards following her recent illness and surgery. Those who wish to send Sandy a card may do so at 802 Borough Line Road., Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows the headstones of John Glover, Jr. (middle headstone) b. 1782 d. 1862, his wife Elizabeth (on the far left), b. 1785 d. 1856, and their son John Glover III (on the right) b. 1812 d. 1897. All are buried in the Hartleton Union Church Cemetery off Catherine Street.

Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

by Lucy Hoover

April 18, 2012

Curvin's mother, Mrs. Verna Hoover, had one day surgery to put a plate and pins in her broken right wrist. Seventeen months ago she had broken her left wrist.

April 21

A porcupine traveled through the horse pasture at parent Hoover's, and came up their walk. A curious pony had some needles stuck above its nose.

April 23

Eugene and Christine Martin of Swengel have a daughter named Melanie Louise. She has three brothers. Grandparents are Irvin and Esther Martin, and Paul and Louise Reiff.

John Elmer Martin of Mifflinburg and Elizabeth Reiff of Millmont have their wedding planned for May 24, 2012.

April 28

Janae Zimmerman (4) daughter of David and Priscilla has a fractured skull and a broken wrist. She had broken the same arm last year.

May 4

Our Zimmerman cousins were invited to Mahlon and Ada Burkholder of NY, where we met up with those relatives from Kentucky and aunt Nora of Canada.

May 9

After two days of setting up our yard sale at parent Hoover's, in the rain, it is a beautiful sunny day. People are out shopping at yard sales! I sold more whoopie pies than I expected, so our children came back to our house with the pony and cart to fetch more. As they were starting back again our pony made a quick turn to get back to the barn. It threw Marie (13) and Isaac (3) off the cart. Isaac was wailing "My arm is broken. I want to go to Heaven!" He only had a small brush burn. Marie has a cracked heel and will need to wear a splint four weeks and will need to use crutches.

May 10

We had our school picnic today, which had been postponed since Tuesday because of rain.

Kendra Hoover (8 months) daughter of Leon and Linda Hoover has been home since April 25, after having her second bone marrow transplant at Philadelphia Children's Hospital. She is still isolated, but may go outside if she stays out of the barn and garden.

Looking Back

The undated newspaper article below was originally published in one of the local newspapers.

Wolves, Panthers Once Roamed Union County Mountain Areas

By Jeanne Buck

One of the most fascinating and dangerous sports for settlers in early Union County was wolf hunting and one of the most famous wolf hunters of his time was William Pursley of Weikert. His grave, marked with a monument, can be seen today in the Weikert Cemetery.

Pursley died February 3, 1893 at the age of 87 years. In his lifetime, he had the thrill of killing 11 black wolves in their den on Weikert Run in 1857. While hunting with Jacob Moyer and Jonas Barnett, the three men surprised the wolf nest and cleaned out the entire "family". According to a written report of the hunt, the men were as courageous as their adversaries, until the latter lost the battle.

WOLVES AT MCCALL'S DAM

In the winter of 1863, wolf tracks were prevalent in the snow in the McCall's Dam area, and Jonas Barnett, born in 1838 in the Weikert area, told neighbors and friends of hearing the howling of wolves as they chased deer in the winter moonlight. The tracks of the beasts at the McCall Dam area would show a "meeting" had been held, with as many as 20 wolves in confab with a leader atop the ridge.

Packs of wolves traveled a regular crossing or path from Sugar Valley into sections of the county, and children were not allowed out at night, in the area of the well-worn path, because of animal traffic.

Charles and James Huff, White Deer, chased packs of wolves in the White Deer mountains in 1875. As late as 1915 some of the old wolf traps were used to catch foxes in that area.

FAMOUS WOLF HUNT

One of the most famous hunters in Pennsylvania, Henry Heizman, called the region near Mazeppa his home, and died there in 1895. Every fall, this man, who was a maker of wooden pumps, would place his trapping outfit in his saddlebags and take off for the White Deer mountains, where he would trap until spring. He captured many wolves, luring them out of the forests by imitating their cries.

Another great wolf hunter, and companion of Heizman, was Jakey Huffman of Hightown, near White Deer. His son-in-law, George Huff, who was born in White Deer in 1835, encountered a large gray wolf near the town in 1853.

Some of the last wolves killed in Union County were hunted at the headwaters of White Deer Creek and were found upon examination to have their stomachs filled with mud, showing that they were in a condition verging on starvation.

Not every male in Union County was interested in hunting wolves, but the last opportunity to embark on this dangerous sport was probably denied when Pursley and his friends wiped out the wolf den. Strays, or "loner wolves" were reported seen throughout the county for several years, but no organized or large wolf hunts were reported after that time.

Old-time hunters used traps, ropes, fish hooks and their rifles, as

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Blessings from the Bible

By Brenda Weaver

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

How will I ever do it? I ask myself every day now that strawberry season is here.

For almost all of our years of married life we helped tend or manage the Weaver Berries business. For the past dozen or more years John and I were the owners of the business and it consumed a great deal of our time, especially in June. And we loved it! Well, maybe I didn't love the hoeing, but I believe John honestly enjoyed all the hard work related to raising strawberries.

He did the job well, and was known for his consistent producing of beautiful strawberries. Now our chief strawberry grower is gone and our family is left to harvest the last crop of berries he planted. We didn't do as well as he did. And the weather extremes damaged the plants. Instead of being beautiful, many of the earliest berries are gnarled and small.

Every day John's presence is sorely missed in the strawberry fields. He isn't there to encourage me when the day looks overwhelming, or an order gets confused, or when I have to turn customers away when I don't have enough berries. His hearty laugh doesn't bounce across the rows, blessing his long-time customers or encouraging his faithful pickers. Oh, how we miss him! The customers and pickers miss him too; some of them are just now learning of his death, and are shocked. And then I find myself sad for their sorrow. At the end of each busy day I am weary with a burden of sorrow added to the work.

But all through the day my children and I, or the customers and I, share memories of the man who walked, and hoed, and tended the strawberry fields. He will always be remembered, even if others try their hand at the same demanding business.

Always in my distress I think of scripture. This one comes to mind: *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal...”*

(Matthew 6:22-23.) I open my Bible and then I remember—it was this chapter of Matthew—including these verses—that John wanted us to read several times in the days before his death. These were the scriptures John chose for a text when he asked his friend to preach his funeral message.

I believe John lived by these verses. He won't be remembered just because of beautiful berries, but because he had time to talk to customers, he had compassion for his thirsty pickers (providing them cold sodas every day), he cared about people in general, and he loved his family with all his heart. As much as he loved to grow strawberries, John understood of the next verse. *“...For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* (Matthew 6:21.)

Strawberries decay. Businesses change hands. Money doesn't last, and if you carefully save it, you still can't take it with you when you die. But the people you've loved or cared about, the ones you point to Jesus, are the only treasure you can take with you to heaven.

As you go about your business, be remembered for the people you treasured.

Prayer for today:

Dear Father in Heaven,

In our world full of change, decay, and loss, help us to treasure the right things. Help us not to focus so much on laying up things on earth, but on treasuring those whom we can influence for eternity. Help us to remember...

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well as poisoned meat to kill off the wolf population. Often the wily animal was a courageous foe, and would tear away from a trap leaving a paw or part of a leg behind.

PANTHERS ALSO IN AREA

The panther, a cunning, intelligent animal, according to historians on the subject of Pennsylvania panthers and their habitats, hasn't been seen in Union County in many a year. However, some times an eerie cry in the middle of the night, in isolated sections that can carry the sound to families residing in those areas, can still "chill the blood" and invoke visions of "panther on the loose."

According to chronicled conversations by Jonas Barnett, panthers were so prevalent on Penn's Creek in the early part of the nineteenth century that his uncle Jacob was unable to keep pigs on his farm for a period of seven years.

Mary Hironimus, also of Weikert, was followed for a distance of four miles by a panther, which resulted in her becoming an invalid. The huge animal would treat her as a cat would torment a mouse, letting her walk along a path a few feet ahead, stopping when she stopped and stalking her when she ran.

WILD ANIMALS STILL EXIST

All might not be lost, however, in the way of thrills and chills in Union County, when it comes to hunting the wolf and panther. Reports as recent as a few months ago, as told by a Mifflinburg hunter of some note, indicated there still might be a "critter" roaming the area. While spotting deer, a group saw at a distance of approximately 100 yards a "large black animal with gleaming eyes, the latter spaced about five inches apart," stationed in the woods. The men who were not equipped with rifles at the time, collectively shouted "Holy cow," but it wasn't. The animal has not been sighted since but it might have been a stray wolf.

Prior to this incident, a hunting party got organized in a hurry in the Mifflinburg area, when residents heard an eerie cry in the Dale's Ridge section of the county. Described as similar to a baby's screams, the bloodcurdling sound sent woodsmen and sportsmen scurrying for their rifles and spotlights. A party of eight was hastily coordinated and started a drive in an easterly direction from the Mifflinburg cemetery site for about a mile in circumference. All the party found were some large tracks, approximately three and one-half inches in diameter – but no animal. That drive reactivated the yen to hunt puma, wolves and panthers in the area, and every once in a while, a rumor will filter down to a few of the sports minded and off they go with guns, ropes and other equipment to catch a panther or a wolf. Recently, however, there has been no luck in killing these once famous wild beasts.



Celebrating 60 Years!

Richard and Hilda Zechman of Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg, will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this month.

Richard is the son of the late Charles and Florence (Snyder) Zechman. Hilda is the daughter of the late Bruce and Margaret (Walls) Boop.

Richard Zechman and Hilda Boop knew each other most of their lives. In fact, they were neighbors

in the small village of Millmont. One lived on the south side of the Village Green while the other lived on the north side.

Florence Zechman often told the story that at the age of ten, Richard cried because he did not receive a Valentine card from Hilda. This is where the love story begins.....Some flirting came into habit during their teenage years. It is said Hilda deliberately "struck out" during a softball game, just so she would have to pay the price of riding around the bases with Richard on his bicycle. Later, when they were both in their 20's, they carpoled together. Hilda could often be found sitting on Richard's lap while they rode together in the vehicle on their way to work.

Richard would repeatedly ask her "What time should I come see you tonight?", and Hilda's answer was always – "Oh same time as last night." The only problem with that is – he hadn't been there the night before. One day Richard approached Bruce Boop (Hilda's dad) and made known his intentions toward Hilda. Bruce sarcastically told Richard that - Hilda wouldn't have anything to do with a guy like him! Richard always chuckles at this memory knowing that Pappy Boop "got one over on him".

One day Richard finally got his courage up and drove over to Hilda's house, knocked on the door and when she answered asked, "Well, are you going to marry me or not?" Hilda, as cool as a cucumber, replied, "Oh, I guess so..."

They were married by Rev. Mervin Mensch and Rev. Paul Lemon at the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren on June 21, 1952. This is the same church they continue to attend each Sunday.

Richard and Hilda have three children: Michael Zechman and wife Kathy, Marilyn (Zechman) Rhoades and husband Rich, and Penny (Zechman) Johnson and husband Dan. They also have four grandchildren: Jeremy Rhoades and wife Tracey, Janelle (Rhodes) Bilger and husband Dan, and Amanda and Tatiana Johnson. And four great grandchildren: Kaelyn, Gavin, Bryn, and Jayar Rhoades.

Editor's Note: My thanks to Penny (Zechman) Johnson for providing the information about her parents and for supplying me with a copy of their wedding photograph.

I apologize for the mistake I made in the May issue. I had their anniversary listed at the 21st of May, when it should have been the 21st of June.

Remembrance

Marguerite Bilger, 95, of Weikert, most recently of Winter Haven, Florida., went to be with the Lord at 2:57 a.m. Wednesday, May 16, 2012, at Life Care Center, Winter Haven. She was born October 12, 1916, in Sunbury, a daughter of the late Royal and Gertrude (Slagenwhite) Cressinger. On June 4, 1934, she married Robert B. Bilger, who preceded her in death.

Marguerite was a member of Hironimus Union Church, Weikert. She enjoyed her family, the outdoors, living in Florida and its climate, sightseeing and traveling. She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Gertrude and Robert Schellhase, of Syracuse, Utah, and Roberta and Jerry Auman, of Winter Haven; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, David and Benjamin Bilger; two brothers, Theron I. and Royal Cressinger; and three sisters, Catherine Rouch, Roberta Hopewell and Roxanna Hopewell. Interment was in Lincoln Chapel Cemetery.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

3 – Amos O. Zimmerman
 4 – Lily Martin
 4 – Adin Zimmerman
 6 – Tom Potoeski
 5 – Sarah Shively
 5 – Colby & Miranda Yarger - 2004
 5 – Holly Weaver
 6 – Truman & Betty Motter - 1959
 6 – Tom Boop
 7 – Lori Peachey
 9 – Evelyn Bolig
 9 – Kay Guida
 10 – Lloyd & Marian Zimmerman - 1947
 11 – Jeanie Lyons
 12 – Elwood & Leah Showalter - 1948
 12 – Lena Susan
 14 – Norman Jr. & Becky Wenrick - 1959
 14 – Robert Stroup
 14 – Flag Day
 15 – Karl & Shirley Eberhart - 1958
 15 – Selin Göktaş
 17 – Father's Day

17 – Robert & Jeanne Jolly - 1950
 17 – Lamar & Lois Kahler - 1950
 17 – Charles Zechman Jr.
 18 – Ava Lynn Potoeski
 18 – Oren & Doris Sheesley - 1960
 18 – Vanessa Walter
 18 – Becky Maust
 20 – Bernie & Marge Schmader - 1964
 20 – Darryl Kline
 20 – Donald Gordon
 20 – Dale Hartman
 21 – Chelynn Bingaman
 21 – Dion & Rachel Shively - 2003
 21 – Richard & Hilda Zechman – 1952
 22 – Rhelda Rishel
 22 – Lois Kahler
 23 – Keri Yarger
 24 – Lindy Mattern
 27 – Clair and Carole Jacka - 1953
 27 – Bob & Nancy Katherman – 1969
 27 – Rose Libby
 28 – June Rowe

29 – Norman Wenrick Jr.
 29 – June Bingaman
 30 – Larry Brown
 30 – Sam Diehl

E. Walter Shirk, Jr. of Surfside Beach, South Carolina is the soldier shown in the photograph on page 8.
 Congratulations to those who recognized this Union County native.

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