



The Millmont Times

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Walter Johnson, a native of Weikert, Pennsylvania. Photograph courtesy of www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive.

The Other Walter Johnson

by Carl R. Catherman

Mention the name Walter Johnson and every true baseball fan recognizes it immediately. Walter Johnson had a sterling 21-year career as a major league pitcher in which he won 414 games. Only one pitcher in history recorded more wins. He also struck out 3508 batters, all while toiling for the Washington Senators, one of the worst teams in baseball. When the Baseball Hall of Fame was established in 1936 he was one of the first five members inducted. In 1981 Maury Allen, one of baseball's great writers, named Johnson among the top ten players in history. Outside of baseball few people would recognize his name, except in Allen County, Kansas where Johnson was born.

There is another Walter Johnson, equally dominant and well known in his chosen field, but virtually unknown outside of it. Even in Union County, Pennsylvania where he was born only a few older citizens know anything about him.

First, let's go back in time 165 years to June 17, 1841. On that date William Johnson and Catherine Switzer were married in Mifflin County. At the time the groom was a watchmaker who was living in Lycoming County but traveled far and wide selling his wares. His origin is somewhat mysterious. His obituary indicates that he was born on November 10, 1800, but in census records from 1850-1880 the ages listed for him would indicate that he was born between 1809 and 1814. The obituary also indicates that he was born at Richmond (Staten Island), New York but census records list his place of birth as Pennsylvania three times but also once as Maryland. Perhaps he enjoyed playing games with the census enumerator. Nevertheless, in the 1900 census all three of his sons claimed that William was born in New York.

William Johnson's bride was born in 1826, a daughter of David Switzer and his wife Elizabeth. Whatever William's age might have been at the time it is clear that he was considerably older than Catherine. Whether it is true or not I don't know but it has been said that when they were married Catherine spoke only "Pennsylvania Dutch" and William spoke not a word of it.

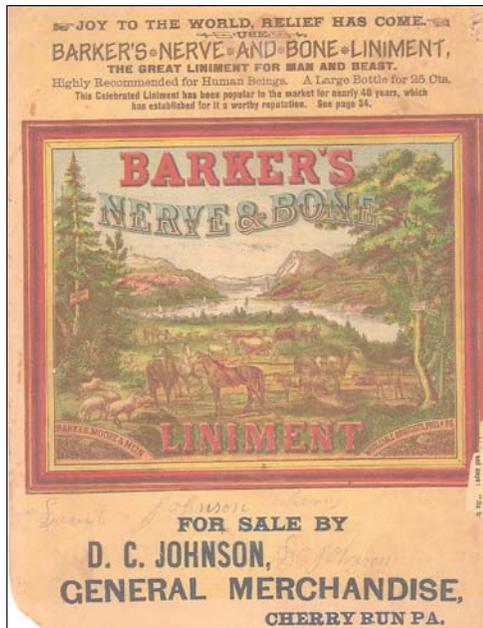
Shortly after their marriage William and Catherine settled in Union County, way up in "Tight End" on the north side of Penns Creek, less than a mile from Cherry Run. There is

(Continued on page 2)

Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

Returning to the cold temperatures of Pennsylvania, after vacationing in Arizona, was a very difficult transition. We had a great week in Mesa, and our experience did nothing to deter our plans to move there after I retire in a few years. The scenery is incredible out there, and there are so many things to do! While I was obtaining several hundred autographs of future baseball stars, I met a retired Postal worker who moved from Indiana last year and is enjoying retirement there. We are definitely looking forward to returning again to visit and eventually stay. I've been very busy since my return, so I'll just give you a couple facts about stamps that answer questions I am occasionally asked. "When did the U.S. start making stamps?" In 1897, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin appeared on the first U.S. postage stamps. "Who decides what subjects appear on stamps?" The Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, founded in 1957, makes recommendations on stamp subjects. The Postmaster General makes the final decision. The Committee reviews tens of thousands of stamp subject proposals each year. Only a few dozen stamps are issued annually. To suggest an idea for a new stamp, write to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service, 1735 North Lynn Street, Suite 5013, Arlington, VA. 22209-6432. The Post Office will be closed and there will be no delivery on Saturday November 11 in honor of Veteran's Day, and also on Thursday November 23 to observe Thanksgiving.

(Continued from page 1)



Advertisement for "Barker's Nerve & Bone Liniment" that was for sale at D. C. Johnson General Merchandise, Cherry Run, PA. The advertisement states that this liniment is good for "Man and Beast."

From the collection of Carl Catherman.

some disagreement about this but based on the 1868 atlas of Union County I believe they lived right about where Harry Snook's place is now. They had seven children, William, Anna who married S. C. Wilt, Alanson, Arminda who married David Benny (my great-grandparents), David C., Mary who died at age 3, and Catherine who died at age 13. The mother died in 1883 and the father in 1898. Both are buried in the graveyard at the Hironimus Church.

No doubt many of the readers of this publication learned history in the classroom of Alanson Johnson's grandson, David, long-time teacher at the Mifflinburg High School.

The elder William Johnson's son David C. completed his education at Union Seminary in New Berlin and then taught school for seven years. In 1880 he married Hannah Weikel and shortly thereafter he went into the mercantile business between Weikert and Cherry Run. His store was located on land now owned by George Sholter Jr., on the north side of the road, 1.8 miles west of the store in Weikert.

David C. and Hannah Johnson had six children, Maude, Ray, Grace, Harold, Ernest, and Arthur. Exactly 30 days after Arthur was born Hannah Johnson died on April 18, 1895.

And now we come to the other Walter Johnson. Following his wife Hannah's death, David C. Johnson remained a widower for more than fifteen years until he married school teacher, Mary Ely on 23 May 1911. Their only child, Walter, was born the following year.

Walter was a bright young scholar and although his father died in 1926 there was enough money to send him to Pennsylvania State University where he earned a B.S.E. degree in 1934. He was immediately employed by General Electric in Schenectady, New York. He passed the examination for the graduate engineering courses given by the company and by the third and final year he was frequently presenting lectures to the various classes.

Apparently he enjoyed teaching because in 1937 he left General Electric to accept a position at Princeton University, where he was immediately engaged in teaching mostly graduate level students in electrical engineering. During World War II he directed a research project for the Bureau of Naval Ordnance that developed the first subcarrier-telemetering device to determine performance data of supersonic missiles.

After the war he chaired a committee that modernized the engineering curriculum. He was instrumental in designing the department's doctoral program, which was introduced in 1948. That same year he became a full professor and from 1950 to 1965 he served as department chairman. Under his leadership the program in teaching and research in computer science was instituted in 1958. He also led the development of programs in engineering physics and in electronic materials and devices. In 1963 he was appointed to the distinguished post of Arthur LeGrand Doty Professor of Electrical Engineering.

In 1982 he transferred to emeritus status. In 1986 the Walter Johnson Prize for Excellence in Teaching was established in his honor, to be awarded biennially by the Department of Electrical Engineering.

Walter Johnson's influence was not limited to Princeton University. He was well known as an honored member of several nationwide professional engineering organizations. He wrote several textbooks, which were widely accepted and translated into different languages. In 1967 he received the Western Electric Award from the American Society of Engineering Education.

It is of interest to note that he was undoubtedly acquainted with that towering genius, Albert Einstein. Einstein came to Princeton University four years before Johnson, and remained there until his death in 1955.

Walter Johnson died on April 22, 2005 at the age of 92. He was as much a giant in engineering education as the other Walter Johnson was in baseball. May he always be remembered as one of the most distinguished natives of Union County.

Editor's Note: My thanks to Carl Catherman for allowing me to publish his article about "The Other Walter Johnson." Catherman is a graduate of Mifflinburg High School (1955), Susquehanna University (1959), and Tulane University (1963), where he received his Master's Degree. In 1994 he retired from his teaching position in Salem, NJ and subsequently returned to his native town of Mifflinburg. Catherman is an avid historian, genealogist and author. He continues to research the K/Catherman, Seebold, Bolender, and Bowersox family histories. He has written over 50 articles and book reviews on the postal history of the Ottoman Empire. His book, "The J. A. Spigelmyer Rod & Gun Club" was published by the Union County Historical Society in 2004. That book is available by contacting the society at 570.524.6666.

A successful man is he who receives a great deal from his fellow men, usually incomparably more than corresponds to his service to them. The value of a man, however, should be seen in what he gives, and not in what he is able to receive.

- Albert Einstein



BIRD TALK

By Jim McCormick

“I don’t think this was, yet, the Big Flock.” Fall is a time of change, sometimes, dramatic change, especially in the weather. One day it’s sunny and warm, the next, cloudy and cold. It also is one of the most beautiful of our seasons, and I look forward to it each year. One afternoon as I stepped out into the late afternoon sun, I could tell it was going to be an interesting drive home. One of the many seasonal weather fronts was passing through our area. Being a photographer, I am acutely sensitive to the constantly changing quality of the light. Light changes from morning to night, from day to day, as well as from season to season. This day I noticed the colored light of late afternoon against the dark clouds. As I was driving, I could see the sun breaking through the darkened sky, lighting large sweeps of the colored mountainside. It reminded me of some Renaissance landscape paintings I have seen. Unfortunately, as so often happens, it was only a fleeting scene. It was as if Nature was taunting me, “Catch me if you can!!” I kept waiting for all the elements to come together, but they never did. Photography is like that. A fundamental of photography is learning to ‘see’ the difference between a ‘pretty picture’ and a ‘photograph’.

One of the seasonal sights of late fall is the gathering of large numbers of Common Grackles. The Grackles had left their breeding grounds in July and have been wandering around the area, growing into larger and larger flocks. One Saturday I had the experience of getting very close to one of these flocks. I was walking along Canada Drive and started to hear the distant sound of gathering birds. Tree after tree was filled with Grackles, some flying away, others replacing them. When I reached the end of the road, I noticed large groups of birds rising from the harvested cornfields. I was now surrounded by black birds and the noise was growing louder and louder. I started to watch individual birds, trying to see their interactive behavior. These large flocks are known to contain mostly Common Grackles, but also to have Red-Winged Blackbirds, Cowbirds and sometimes Starlings as well. In the flock I was actually ‘in’, I only saw a couple of female Red-Winged Blackbirds. I watched as an unfortunate Robin flew into one of the trees with the Grackles. It was not well received and quickly made its escape. I noticed some activity in another tree and saw the object of the birds’ interest—a squirrel’s nest. The Grackles seemed to be very interested in it. Several surrounded it and a couple even hopped around inside. I could not tell if the resident squirrel was home or not—probably not. Moving closer to the Covered Bridge I saw even more Grackles spread out over the cornfields. As large as this flock was, however, **“I don’t think this was, yet, the Big Flock.”** I don’t know if more flocks come from the north and combine into even larger flocks, but I have seen much bigger flocks.

In other news: The Robins had left the area sometime in August. I think they go up into the mountains after breeding season is done. They started to return in late September and I actually saw a small band in Millmont in early October. I still was seeing a few around at the end of the month. Near the Covered Bridge I saw a small group of Yellow-rumped Warblers in late October. I was surprised to see they were still there a week later. Soon, most of our migratory birds will leave, but, with the falling of the leaves, there will be plenty of our Permanent Residents to watch as they move around our area all winter. So grab your binoculars and take it all in.



Happy Birthday!!

Delphia Shirk, a long time Millmont resident, will celebrate her 80th birthday on the 18th of November.

For 46 years she has been serving the patrons of Shirk’s General Store. If you have an opportunity, please stop by the store and wish her a Happy Birthday.

Birthday greetings can also be sent to: P. O. Box 56, Millmont, PA 17845.

Jonathan Bastian Needs Your Help!

Jonathan Bastian is gathering information for the Union County Historical Society relative to the following individuals and businesses.

Harry Mitchell’s General Store, Millmont; James H. Albright (Albright Brothers) Buggy Gear; Andrew J. Herbster’s Mill at Laurelton; Samuel E. Braucher groceries in Laurelton; and David R. Pursley’s General Store in Laurelton.

If you are able to provide help you are urged to contact Jonathan at: 393 Oil Well Road, Mifflinburg, PA, 17844. His telephone number is 966.6009. Or you can contact him at the following email address: jdbastian@dejazzd.com



The Mountain View Old Order Mennonite Church off Kaiser Run Road in Lewis Township.

Saving Faith - Becoming a Member of the Old Order Mennonite Church

by Kathy Reiff

What are instruction classes? Instruction classes are a series of six classes that are held every other Sunday afternoon (during the summer months), which prepare applicants for joining the Old Order Mennonite Church.

During each class three articles are explained. These articles are taken from Saving Faith. They were established by the Anabaptist leaders, and originally adopted on April 21, 1632 at a peace convention held at Dortrecht, Holland.

Each instruction class is held at one of the two Old Order Mennonite church-houses in Union County. One Sunday the classes are held at Mountain View Church alongside Kaiser Run Road

in Lewis Township, and the next class is held at the church at Vicksburg, off Beaver Run Road. The class usually consists of approximately 15 to 20 young adults, both girls and boys, ranging from 17 to 19 years of age.

At instruction classes, the "class" sits in the front pews, where the older people normally sit. Approximately 120 youth are in attendance. In addition, parents and song leaders are sometimes in attendance during each of the six sessions.

Instruction classes are opened by a German song, followed by one of the ministers conducting an opening, followed by a silent prayer. The Bishop then reads and explains the three articles that are covered during each session. The class ends with an audible prayer and a parting song.

A "supper crowd" follows each instruction class for all of the youth, ages 17 and older, at the home of one of the church families. The dating couples in buggies, and the single youth on bicycles, leave the church and depart for the supper. The supper is served cafeteria style, with tables set up in the yard or a nearby garage or shed. Following the supper is a time of relaxation when all of the boys and girls find things to do. Some go for walks, others play games or sit together and talk.

A volleyball game is organized, with the dating couples participating until about 8:30 p.m. The young man then takes his girlfriend to her home for the evening. The single youth still in attendance continue to play volleyball for the remainder of the evening. They play until 12 midnight, with a short break about 10 p.m. At midnight everyone heads for home to catch some sleep before Monday morning!

On Sunday September 17, 2006, a beautiful late summer day, the fifth instruction class was held at the Mountain View Church. Instruction class began at 2:00 p.m. when Bishop Levi Martin announced that "Wer Jesum by Sich Hat" on page 247 of the hymnal would be sung. Minister Lloyd Zimmerman had an opening, which was followed by a silent prayer. Bishop Martin read through and explained Article 13 "Of the Office of Civil Government," Article 14 "Of Defense by Force," and Article 15 "Of the Swearing of Oaths." All of the ministers present gave testimony to what Bishop Martin explained. The class was closed with an audible prayer, which was led by the Bishop. Another German song brought the instruction class to a close. Each instruction class lasts from sixty to ninety minutes.

After the class, the entire "supper crowd" headed for the home of Nathan and Mary Ella Martin, just north of Millmont. The boys drove their girlfriends in horse drawn buggies while many of the single youth followed on their bicycles. All those in attendance congregated in the yard where they paused for a silent prayer. The food was all prepared and sitting on the tables in the Martin's kitchen. Forming two lines, the group filled their plates with the delicious meal prepared by Mary Ella Martin and several of her married children.

Articles of Instruction

1. *Of God and the creation of all things.*
2. *Of the fall of Man.*
3. *Of the restoration of Man through the promise of the advent of Christ.*
4. *Of the advent of Christ into this world and the reason thereof.*
5. *Of the Law of Christ, which is the Holy Gospel (or New Testament).*
6. *Of repentance and amendment of Life.*
7. *Of Holy Baptism.*
8. *Of the Church of Christ.*
9. *Of the office of teachers and ministers (male and female in the church).*
10. *Of the Lord's Supper.*
11. *Of the washing of the feet of the Saints.*
12. *Of matrimony.*
13. *Of the office of Civil Government.*
14. *Of defense by force.*
15. *Of the swearing of oaths.*
16. *Of the excommunication, or expulsion from the church.*
17. *Of the shunning of those who are expelled.*
18. *Of the resurrection of the dead and the last judgment.*

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

The menu consisted of chicken cordon bleu, baked beans, rolls, jelly, and pickles and olives. Desserts included fruit salad, strawberry cream cheese, and both chocolate and white cakes. After filling their plates everyone went outside to eat at the tables set up in the yard. After satisfying their appetites the youth dispersed into small groups. Some went for walks, some enjoyed a game of quoits, while others sat and talked and enjoyed the beautiful evening.

A volleyball game was in session by 8:30. The dating couples start playing and they are soon joined by a number of the single boys and girls. Later the single youth enjoy a competitive series of volleyball games that last until midnight. When the volleyball game ended all of the youth head for home on their bicycles. Since the Martin farm is located at the western end of the Old Order Mennonite community, some of the young folks had a 45-minute bicycle ride ahead of them.

The last instruction class, where articles 16, 17, and 18 were covered, was held on Wednesday October 4. On Saturday October 7, the nine young people joining the Mountain View Church were baptized in the church. On Sunday October 8, four young men and five young women took communion as new members of the Mountain View Old Order Mennonite Church. Those who completed the instruction class and joined the Mountain View Church included: Wayne Hoover, Benjamin D. Martin, Mahlon H. Horning, Luke R. Horning, Mary Jane Martin, Janice M. Zimmerman, Thelma L. Zimmerman, Marian O. Hoover, and Marietta Z. Zimmerman.

On Saturday October 14, seven youth who attended the six instruction classes were baptized at the Vicksburg Mennonite Church.

Editor's Note: My thanks to Kathy Reiff for allowing me to publish her article about Old Order Mennonite church membership. Kathy, age 18, is the daughter of Eli and Kathleen (Martin) Reiff of Conley Road, Mifflinburg. She enjoys helping her parents around the house, and with their family business, Reiff's Poultry.

Remembrance



Miriam Miranda Galer, 84, of 416 Poplar Church Road for more than 50 years and most recently of Rolling Hills Manor, Millmont, since October 12, 2005, died at 10:25 p.m. Monday, October 16, 2006, at Evangelical Community Hospital, Lewisburg.

She was born April 26, 1922, in Millmont, a daughter of the late Jacob and Jennie (Libby) Lamey. In November 1941, she married Joseph Galer, who preceded her in death.

Mrs. Galer graduated from Hartley Township schools. She was employed by the Pennsylvania State Police in the fingerprinting department for 18 years.

Mrs. Galer was a member of the Christian Assembly of God Church, Camp Hill, and most recently attended Lincoln Chapel United Methodist Church, Laurelton. She was also a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Camp Hill. Miriam enjoyed the outdoors, including working in her flower garden, fishing, hunting and camping at the Spinning Wheel along Penns Creek.

Surviving are two nieces and four nephews, Clair R. Boop of Mifflinburg, Mary C. Kahl of Millmont, Miriam Turner of Williamsport, and Daniel, Jacob and Joseph Lamey, all of Millmont, and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Earl and Harry Lamey, and one sister, Martha J. Boop. The funeral was conducted at the Roupp Funeral Home Inc. on Friday October 20, with the Rev. Jon West officiating. Burial was in the Lincoln Chapel Church Cemetery.

Carl Richard McClintock, 62, of 760 Canada Drive for 37 years, died at 6:41 a.m. Tuesday, October 17, 2006, at Evangelical Community Hospital, Lewisburg. He was born February 21, 1944, in Glen Iron, a son of the former Faye Strickler of Mifflinburg and the late Paul C. McClintock. On September 26, 1966, in Mifflinburg, he married the former Linda M. Catherman, who survives.

Mr. McClintock served in the Army from October 1962 until his honorable discharge in October 1968. He was owner and operator of McClintock's Plumbing and Heating, Mifflinburg. Earlier in life, Carl was employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Ritz-Craft in Mifflinburg and Agway, Lewisburg. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1964, Mifflinburg. Carl enjoyed playing cards with his family and friends, hunting and fishing.

Surviving, in addition to his wife of 40 years and his mother, are one daughter, Carla M. Ely and her companion Chris Graham of Millmont; one granddaughter, Kendra L. Ely of New Berlin; one brother, Forrest McClintock of Elysburg; one sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and Henry Bartolo of New York; four half-brothers and their spouses, Rudy and Jeanie Lyons of Millmont, Randy and Joan Lyons of Weikert, Doug and Roxanne Lyons and Les Lyons, all of Mifflinburg; two half-sisters and their spouses, Cindy and Stan Pfirman of Penns Creek and Sandy and Randy Aikey of Mifflinburg; and one step-brother and his spouse, Gordon and Lois Lyons of Stroudsburg. He was preceded in death by one grandson, Kenneth C. Ely; one brother, Paul C. McClintock Jr.; his stepmother, Mildred McClintock; and his stepfather, Larue Lyons.

A memorial service was conducted at the Roupp Funeral Home Inc. on Monday October 23, with the Rev. Henry Dorman officiating.

Burial with military honors accorded by the Mifflinburg VFW and American Legion was in the Hartleton Cemetery.



Meanderings

by

Hertha S. Wehr

Thanksgiving

I don't know exactly what schools are teaching today about Thanksgiving, so many of the teachings we were taught have been changed or deleted. I do know that everyone looks forward to Thanksgiving for the turkey and a day off from school. How much of the original message has been lost is a question I've been debating myself.

Most of us older people know that Thanksgiving was started as a thankfulness for a bountiful harvest by the Pilgrims in Plymouth in 1621. Tradition has it that there were also Indians present, invited by the Pilgrims, because of their assistance with helping them adjust to a new land, crops with which they weren't familiar and generally teaching them how to adjust to an unfamiliar climate.

At first it was mostly a New England celebration and it gradually spread to other states. State governments did not always celebrate the holiday on the same date. In 1789 the Episcopal Church formally recognized the day as a real holiday. The Catholic Church soon followed suit, but New England was the prime promoter of making it a national holiday.

The closest we came to having it a national holiday was during the Revolution in 1784 when Washington asked for a national day of thanksgiving and a return to peace. Madison also asked for the same blessings in 1815. Lincoln, in 1863, asked the nation for a proclamation to declare the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. The date presented some problems as sometimes the month of November

has five Thursdays, as it has this year. The hue and cry was that it was too close to the Christmas shopping season. That was when most of us waited until Thanksgiving was over before we thought about shopping for Christmas. The result was that some states, or even localities chose to celebrate on different days. Finally, an act of Congress in 1941 declared the fourth Thursday as the official date.

I cannot remember, and I could not find any reference to my thoughts that there was a move on foot at one time to have the holiday changed to the third Thursday. Obviously it didn't happen and it may be a figment of my imagination. Do any of you readers remember such a move?

Now then, we've all refreshed our memories about the history of the beginning of Thanksgiving. The next thing we need to work on is how we are going to celebrate the holiday this year. Are we all just going to think about the good food, the visits with family and friends, or are we truly grateful for all the blessings we have had throughout the year? Even during the toughest of years we have something to be thankful for.

As the year is drawing to a close we feel winter approaching. With a little breeze the leaves are being blown around like little animals scurrying around for a hiding place. Then they come up against a tall weed or corn stalks in the next field and lay there to be compost for next years crop. Of course if you live in town you probably have them gathered up by the municipality who takes them to a local compost facility, or that is what they should do with them. My point is that even leaves are something to be thankful for. In addition to their short-lived life they gave us shade in the summer. How good it feels to step into the shade of a tree on a hot sunny day! I could name a number of such common things that we take for granted and never think about. They are all products of our wonderful world in which we live. I am reminded of the old hymn, "Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done..."

Since the Pilgrims were a very devout people their thankfulness centered around praising God for all their blessings. I'm sure there are Thanksgiving Eve services in a church somewhere near you. Perhaps you can fit an hour of thanks into your busy schedule, remembering from whom all blessings flow.

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Donald Kahler, Millmont; and Delphia Shirk, Millmont.

The following people have agreed to accept this newsletter through the Internet as a PDF, thereby reducing the monthly expenses associated with printing and mailing this publication: Carey Price, Lewes, DE; Susan R. Hammitt, Ham Lake, MN; Patrick S. Boab, State College; James Caris, Baltimore, MD; Joseph Hartley, York; Cara (Boob) Stubbs, Winter Haven, FL; Joyce Walter, Hartleton; and James-Brubaker, Lewisburg. If you would like to join the more than 230 subscribers who currently receive a FREE color version of The Millmont Times each month via the Internet, please sign up now at: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

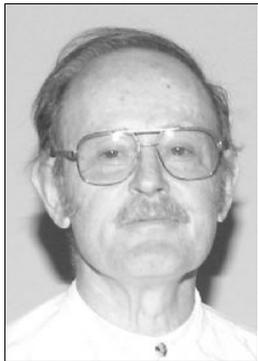
Welcome to the following new mail subscribers: Nick & Tina Nash, Coal Township; Donald L. Groff, Weikert; Ron Jacoby, Millmont; Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Ulrich, Mifflinburg; Jack Libby, Lewistown; Lamar & Lois Kahler, Millmont; Louis & Lois Elliott, Mifflinburg; Van & Ginger Rudloff, Milton; Robert Kovacs, Millmont; Mr. & Mrs. John Auten, Weikert; and Carl & Verna Duke, Mifflinburg.

Thanks 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 Alice Reitz of Millmont for providing newspaper clippings and information pertaining to the Wolf - Tyson family reunions held at Hairy John's Park; Rufus Balbin of Woodward and Agnes Jernigan of North Carolina for providing information about the concession stand operators at Hairy John's Park; and Judy Blair for allowing me to copy a photograph she has in her collection of a group of worker's at the Weikert CCC camp.

Custer and Harry Green: Relatives or Not?

by Harlan Berger



Wood smoke drifted in the bitter February night of 1801. Five men slept around the fire, tired from their long march into a Sugar Valley gap south of Carroll.

Stiffarmed George and his Seneca renegades had followed. They crept among the whites. Firelight glinted on tomahawk and knife.

Harry Green and his Juniata Valley companions immediately departed this world. Samuel Jones and John Colby found their bones after wolves had. Howling of the animals drew the two east Sugar Valley hunters to the massacre site.

Cocolamus/Cocalamus. A lovely name, no matter the different spellings, and surely known to Chief John Logan when he traveled central Pennsylvania in the 1760s. Green and his companions lived at

the head of little Cocalamus Creek. It lies in today's Juniata County. Mountains named Naked, Shriener, Buffalo, Thick, Paddy's, White, Jackass, and Shade separate us from the Cocalamus. The creek flows about ten miles north of Thompson-town, a village on Route 322.

Indians of 1801 could easily hide in sparsely settled Seven Mountains. The king's writ runs thin even today in that broken land of dark hollows. Treaster and Lancaster are two such valleys. An early settler who lived there claimed he was held in his barn all night by wolves.

Early 1801 Harry Green found a moccasin. Now the Juniata settlers knew. Before Green's find, "Half a hundred head of stock had been stolen, four barns, six spring houses, and six straw stacks burned, and yet not a single clew [sic] to the marauders," according to "The Legend of Green's Gap." The booklet was printed for the November 18, 1916 dedication of Clinton County's Green's Gap monument.

Only five years before Indians had raided in Black Wolf Valley (now Treaster Valley), according to Green. The renegades took sheep.

The settler believed the Indians were camping in the mountains south of the Susquehanna. If he could find some help, he would ensure summary redress, and the state would be bothered no longer.

Every man present signified a desire to join. Green accepted four unmarried men who unanimously elected him captain. They called themselves regulators.

A rumor of Indians camping in a wild Sugar Valley hollow drew them to Chapman's Gap near Carroll. An Indian dog gave them away, and the marauders escaped. The settlers chased them to Lick Run. The redskins crossed the ice-bound West Branch, and the whites decided not to.

Returning, the regulators bumped into Joe Sunfish at the mouth of Bald Eagle Creek. Joe was a friendly Indian on his way to trap beaver on McElhattan Run. Joe told them of Stiffarmed George and his dozen companions likely hiding in a gap fronted by a 270-foot-high, seven-foot-diameter white pine. This hollow was east of Chapman's. Green and companions marched through the McElhattan Gap and took Logan's Path into Sugar Valley.

They headed on a well-marked trail for the tall tree. In the hollow, they found a cleared space marked by skulls and bones of hogs and sheep. It was now too dark to track. They ate jerked venison and turned in. Not a single sleeper knew what had happened until he found himself awake in the land of shades, according to the booklet.

At the 1916 dedication was Chief Charles Gordon, Cornplanter Reservation, Corydon, Warren County. He must have known about Stiffarmed George, who got himself hung in 1803 for killing a white man.

Chief Gordon was a leading singer at the Cornplanter Reservation. He visited the M.E. Church, McElhattan, where he sang some two dozen chants, according to "Pennsylvania Indian Folk-Songs" by Col. Henry Shoemaker. The colonel's book is dated 1927, and he says Gordon visited the church "several years ago."

The 1916 booklet offers clues to those who might want to pursue this story. They must look in Mifflin and perhaps Northumberland county archives. Juniata county didn't exist in 1800.

Chuck Sweeney of Sugar Valley recently found the document. It is a primary source, the first found. Thanks to him for re-defining our heritage. In the same way, the Heisey Museum's possible discovery of Fort Reed's location excites us.

Such discoveries ask for re-evaluation. Route 80 and the service station next to the Green monument have destroyed its once-prominent sense of place. Rebuild it down the Tea Springs road.

On September 24 members of the Sugar Valley Historical Society meet at 1:30 near the Pit Stop Restaurant off the Jersey



The monument above, located near the Pit Stop Restaurant off I-80 reads:

One mile south of this marker is the spot reputed in local history as being the scene of the massacre of Captain Harry Green and his companions by a band of marauding Indians Feb. 1801.

Erected 1916 by

*Col. H. W. Shoemaker
Daniel Mark
A. D. Karstetter
J. W. Zimmerman*

(Continued on page 8)

Shore interchange of I-80. Chuck Sweeney was our guide. From there we hiked to Green's Gap. We did not find the stump of the huge white pine but a Sugar Valley hunter who lives in Carroll said he found a stump on which he could lay his muzzleloader with a good bit of stump left over. I hope to continue searching for it. Preliminary searches of Mifflin and Juniata county archives found nothing on Harry Green.

Editor's Note: My thanks to Harlan Berger, a columnist for the Lock Haven Express, for allowing me to reproduce this article. Harlan can be reached at (hberger@kcnnet.org)

Recipe of the Month

By Janice (Dorman) Shively

Pumpkin Roll

Pumpkin:

3 eggs
1 C. sugar
2/3 C. pumpkin
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
3/4 C. flour

Beat together all ingredients. Spray jelly roll pan (cookie sheet is fine) with cooking spray. Line pan with wax paper and spray wax paper with cooking spray. Pour mix onto pan and spread evenly. Bake at 350° x 15 minutes. Check with cake tester to be sure it is done.

While pumpkin is baking, lay out a linen towel and sprinkle 10x sugar on it.

Remove baking sheet from the oven and flip the pumpkin onto the linen towel. Peel the wax paper off of the pumpkin

by starting at a corner and carefully removing.

Roll the pumpkin and towel starting with the long side. The towel will actually be rolled inside of the pumpkin. Allow to cool completely.

Filling:

8 oz. Cream cheese
1 C. 10x sugar
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
2 T. soft butter

Beat all ingredients together until smooth and creamy.

Unroll the pumpkin. Spread the filling on the inside and re-roll. Wrap with aluminum foil and refrigerate. This is best if it sits one or two days before serving.

This recipe was shared with me by a co-worker many years ago. It's been a hit at our Thanksgiving gathering's. While the recipe may appear to be complicated, it is not. Give it a try this Thanksgiving, and ENJOY!



Program Location Change

Please note that the location of the dinner program has been changed from the Carriage Corner Restaurant in Mifflinburg to the Lewisburg Club, 131 Market Street, across from the Lewisburg Hotel.

Union County Historical Society Program

The Annual John B. Deans Dinner and Program will be held on Thursday, November 9, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Lewisburg Club, 131 Market Street, across from the Lewisburg Hotel. The post dinner speaker this year will be Bruce Teeple, and his topic will be "The Farringtons and the Political Culture of Moonshine in Central Pennsylvania." Bruce's talk will focus on how the people of the region, as well as their social and political institutions, responded to the Federal government's prohibition of alcohol.

Bruce Teeple is a local historian, free-lance writer, and community columnist for the Centre Daily Times. A graduate of Penn State in history and political science, Teeple worked in the University's Office and Physical Plant for over thirty years as an equipment operator. He also served as curator of the Aaronsburg Historical Museum for twenty years, and co-edited "Glimpses of the Past" and "In Schadde vun Rundhopp" (In the Shadow of Round-top). In 2002 the Centre County Historical Society recognized Teeple's presentations on central Pennsylvania history in area schools and before various organizations. He has served on several committees for the American Association for State and Local History and recently was on the grant review committee for the History Channel's Save Our History program. Teeple is currently working on a book: "As Good As A Handshake: The Farringtons and the Political Culture of Moonshine in Central Pennsylvania."

Dinner will be buffet with choice of entrees and sides, salad, dessert and beverages. Annual awards in recognition of contributions to the Society will also be presented. Prepaid reservations are required for the buffet, and must be received by November 3. Teeple's presentation will follow the dinner.

To make dinner reservations, or for more information, you can contact the society office at 570.524.8666.

The Eastern Nazarene College A Cappella Choir and Chamber Singers will be in concert at the Mifflinburg Nazarene Church on Friday night, November 3rd. These incredibly talented vocal ensembles demonstrate highly trained musicianship as well as a variety of music styles. The concert is free and will be held at the church at 7:00 pm. Please contact the church office for further information.

Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

September 19, 2006

The Hoover families were all invited to Ammon and Mary Joy Zimmerman's for supper.

Luke and Kathryn Shirk and family of Iowa are in the area to attend his brother's wedding.

September 21

We have no school today because of the wedding in the neighborhood. The teachers and some of the students were invited.

September 27

1,300 hoagies were made this morning at Allen and Lavina Zimmerman's. Orders were taken earlier. The funds go for the hospital bills of an 8-month old child that underwent surgery.

This was also the day our neighbors got a load of New York grapes. We got 120 pounds from them.

October 1

Brother David and Mabel Jane Brubacker, of New York, have a daughter named Lydia. She has one sister and two brothers. Grandparent's are Mrs. Milton Brubacker of Millmont and Lewis and Verna Hoover of Lewisburg.

October 3

Mark Zimmerman (12), son of Orvie and Marie Zimmerman, was biking to school when his bike came apart causing him to have an accident. He was taken to Geisinger by Life Flight where he was treated and released.

Luke and Ada Mae Hoover, of Mifflinburg, have a son named Andrew. He has five brothers and three sisters. Grandparents are Joseph and Margaret Hoover of Mifflinburg, and Phares and Ada Zimmerman of Millmont.

October 5

Elsie's Birthday!

We visited school this afternoon. Marie told me that yesterday when I wasn't in, Elsie set her birthday gift on the scales to see if it weighed enough to be a box of storybooks. I'm afraid it weighed in on the light side. (But there was one storybook in the box).

October 7

Jason and Ella Zimmerman of Mifflinburg have a son named Joash. He has three brothers and 2 sisters. Grandparents are Phares and Ada Zimmerman of Millmont and Amos and Emma Nolt of Lewisburg.

Mervin and Irene Horning of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Amanda. She has four brothers. Grandparents are Samuel and Alice Horning of Mifflinburg and Mervin and Annetta Martin of Mifflinburg.

Mrs. John Hoover of Millmont has been taking it easy at home due to a bulged disc in her back.

October 11

Allen and Lovina Zimmerman of Mifflinburg had a barn

(Continued on page 10)

Looking Back

The article below was originally published in one of the local newspapers in December 1898. It is copied verbatim.

PASSED AWAY AGED 98 YEARS

Death of Mr. Wm. Johnson
in Hartley Township.

PATRIOT, SCHOLAR
AND REPUBLICAN

He Possessed Remarkable Mental
and Physical Vigor to the End.

William Johnson, Sr., was born at Richmond N.Y., Nov. 10, 1800, and died in Hartley Township, Union Co., Pa., Dec. 9, 1898. He was the son of Peter Johnson, a gunsmith by trade, who came to this country from England. His mother came here from France. The brothers and sisters of William Johnson have all reached very advanced ages. Alanson, the second son, was born in 1804, and lives on a farm in Canada. Davis was born in 1806, and died a few months ago, on his way from Hartley township to California. Carolina was born in 1808, is still living and weighs 380 pounds. She reared a large family in Michigan, most of whom are now residing in California.

As his school privileges were very meagre, William Johnson's education was self-acquired; yet it was not poor. He was always an industrious ambitious student. From his boyhood down almost till the period of his death, he read and mastered one book after another, so that it may be truly said



MR. WM. JOHNSON, Sr.
(From the only photograph in existence, which was taken in 1865.)

there is no standard work of literature which he could not intelligently discuss; no branch of knowledge of which he was ignorant; no historical character of whom he had not read. Through his own efforts he had acquired the power of mastering what he read. His grandson, Albert W. Johnson, a graduate of Bucknell, and lately admittee to

(Continued on page 10)

Blessings from the Bible

This morning I walked along Penns Creek, enjoying the bright reflection of a few still-colorful trees. Most of the leaves have floated lazily to the ground or dashed wildly with the wind to some new place of abode. A few leaves were enjoying a leisurely cruise on the gently flowing creek, but I saw that more of them had sunk to the bottom of the streambed and reclined among the rocks. *What a picture of peace.* I found myself humming the hymn "When Peace Like a River."

Changing seasons speak peace to my soul. I think it is founded in God's promise in Genesis 8:22: "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Life is uncertain. The future holds fears. When the coming of a "winter" in my life makes me want to scramble in a frantic, but hopeless attempt to paste the autumn leaves back on the trees—when I don't feel at peace—then I smile to remember this ancient promise of God. While the earth remains the seasons will always change.

Open the Bible nearest you and read what sign God gave, what covenant God made with mankind, after He made this promise.

As we enjoy the last of autumn's glory, let us give God glory.

Lord, we praise You and glorify Your name! Thank you for your marvelous creation. Thank You for the seasons and Your promise that they will always change while earth remains. Remind us that life on earth is fleeting—a season—and that eternity is forever. Help us to seek Your peace, Your face. Amen

Brenda Weaver

(Continued from page 9)

fire tonight. The cows were taken to his brother's farm. It will take new rafters and roof of their dairy barn.

Warren and Louise Hoover of Millmont have a son named Timothy. He is their first child. Baby Timothy was born with some medical needs and was admitted to Geisinger Medical Center. Grandparents are Mrs. Jonas Hoover of Ephrata and Phares and Anna Horning of Mifflinburg.

October 12

Today was the wedding of Daniel Hoover, son of Joseph and Margaret Hoover, and Ruth Reiff, daughter of John Aaron and Lydia Reiff. They will live on the Hoover's home farm.

October 14

We had baptismal services at the Vicksburg Church. Seven youth were baptized. Minister Edwin Shirk of Ephrata was also there.

October 16

Amos and Verna Hoover, of Mifflinburg, have a son named Joshua Allen. He is their first child. Grandparents are Amos and Elizabeth Hoover of Mifflinburg and Esra and Lena Zimmerman, also of Mifflinburg.

(Continued from page 9)

the Bar of Union County, found him a match more than once while discussing history and other subjects. There was scarcely a problem in mathematics which he could not solve, or few questions in science or philosophy which he could not explain, taking special delight in astronomy. He had mastered the great events as well as the minor details of ancient and modern history. Three times he read through Rollin's ancient history, the last time taking notes. His knowledge of history caused him to hate Catholicism and be a strong adherent of Protestantism.

William Johnson came to Mifflin County in 1840, where he met and married Catherine Switzer, of Milroy, whence they came to Hartley township. To William and Catherine seven children were born, namely, William, a farmer, who lives at Cherry Run; Anna, who married S. C. Wilt, of Hartleton, and died in 1876; Alanson, a farmer, who lives near Laurelton; Amanda, wife of David Benney, now living in Baltimore; David C., a very successful business man and merchant of Hartley township; Mary, who died at the age of three years, and Gertrude, who died at the age of thirteen.

His education was not only obtained from books, but also from personal observations of great events, acquaintance with leading men and extensive travel. He witnessed several battles of the second war with England, among which was Perry's victory on Lake Erie. He participated in the principal battles of the Mexican war, serving under Gen. Scott both in the Mexican war and in the beginning of the Civil war. He was personally acquainted with Scott and Grant, for both of whom he had great admiration. He always possessed a military spirit and could describe military men and battles like a skilled soldier. He used to say that William H. Irvin, of Mifflinburg, was, as a soldier, the equal of the great French Marshal Ney, supporting the assertion by the statement of his idol, Gen. Scott. His travels embraced the majority of the States of the Union, including the North, East, South and West. He also traveled in Canada.

William Johnson, his parents and brothers and his family have always been loyal and patriotic. His father made more than one gun for the defense of the young nation, one of which was used by the celebrated hero of the Mexican war, Davey Crockett. William and his brother David served in the Mexican war, and William and his sons, William Jr., and Alanson, of Hartley township, in the civil war, William Johnson was a staunch Republican down till his death. He taught all his sons to accept the faith of Lincoln and Grant.

He was by trade a jeweler. He came to Union county to buy timber land and at one time he owned 18,000 acres in the upper end of the county. He has until recently, enjoyed good health. He was always temperate, using neither liquor or tobacco in any form. He was a slow and careful eater. At 90 years he could out-walk many young men, while at the same age, and later, he would think it no task to walk over three or four mountains to Centre county and back. He outlived his wife by 16 years. The funeral services were held in the Union church, at Lindale, on Sunday at 2 p.m., conducted by the H. W. Newman.

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:

Thursday November 7, 1940. Mother and I moved to the place I bought of Mr. Mitchell in the spring, or at least started to move. Tonight was the first night on the little farm. It is 23 years since we left the farm, however, it does not seem to be that long, but surely many changes have taken place since then.

Sunday November 24, 1940. I taught my class. A group of some thirty brethren and sisters from the Pine Grove Congregation, Schuylkill, County, rendered a very impressive program in song entitled "The Prodigal Son." Elder Harry G. Fhanestock of Manheim announced the songs with very little instructive comments.

Tuesday November 26, 1940. Attended Parent Teacher's meeting. Was asked to open this meeting with prayer. This evening Dr. Boyer was present and gave a very interesting and instructive address.

Wednesday November 27, 1940. Snowed to a depth of about three inches.

Thursday November 28, 1940. Thanksgiving Day. Jacob's family and Edmund's family were all here for dinner. Mother had prepared a very nice meal and all seemed to enjoy eating together. While we were gathered around the table the thought came to me, and I presume to some of the others, will this ever happen again. We are living in a changing world and especially does this familiar quotation apply to the History Making World Today.

Lewis Township Village Green Recreation Association News, courtesy of Wendy Bilger

The regular meeting of the Lewis Township Village Green Recreation Association was held on October 2, 2006 at Pauline Shively's home. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Members of the association who were present at this meeting include: Wendy Bilger, secretary; Sandi Failor, treasurer; Pauline Shively, Joanna Snyder, Kim, Joe, and Joey Smith, and Janet Renninger.

Minutes: Copies of the minutes from the May 23 meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Sandi presented the treasurer's report. That report showed an estimated balance in the checking account of \$ 5,371.01.

New Business: A discussion was held concerning the use of electricity in the gazebo. Joanna will contact an authority from the township to see if we can have that turned off when not in use.

The date for the next chicken BBQ will be June 23, 2007. Ard's Farm Market will prepare the chicken and potatoes again for next year.

The Halloween Party is scheduled for Saturday October 21 at 6:30 PM in the township building.

Pauline Shively would like to begin work on a Hometowne Collectibles miniature of Shively's Garage and try to have it completed and ready for sale by Christmas.

Members will pressure wash and treat the gazebo with a wood preservative in the spring.

Pauline Shively will get estimates concerning the plaque or stone that is to be purchased and placed near the gazebo in memory of Brenda Rowe.

The next meeting is scheduled for an evening in February of 2007. An exact date to be given later. Meeting Adjourned.

Letters and E-mails to the Editor

Hi Tony, The Times just keeps getting better. The passenger train piece reminded me that when I lived in Mifflinburg around 1937, 38, & 39 I could come upon month-old magazines of the period from neighbors. I'd meet the train and go aboard and offer the magazines for sale at five cents a piece. Yes, I sold them with no trouble, for the passengers now had something to wile away their time and I was rich with 20 to 30 cents in my pocket. Sincerely, Bill Mattern, Mifflinburg, PA

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

Christ Lutheran Church will be holding a Pot Pie Supper on Saturday, November 4th, from 3:00 p.m. until ? Three varieties of pot pie, chicken, beef, and ham, will be served family style. For more information contact Shirley at 966.0034.

Blood Drives

The next community blood drive in Union County will be held on Monday, November 13 from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Mifflinburg United Methodist Church. Please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or the Union County Red Cross office at 524-0400 to make an appointment to donate blood. On-line appointments can be made at www.givelife.org. Walk-in donors will always be welcome. However, donors who have made an appointment will be given priority. To donate whole blood, you must be at least 17 years old, be in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds. For double red cell donations, additional criteria apply. For more information call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows the Mifflinburg Railroad Station circa 1910.

Moving?

If you are planning to move or if your post office mailing address is about to change, please notify The Millmont Times immediately at P. O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845. This newsletter is distributed each month by bulk rate, and will not be forwarded by the U. S. Postal Service to your new address. If there are any changes in your postal mailing address please call me at (570) 922.4297 or email me at: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 – Edwin Oberholtzer | 17 – Mervin Nissley |
| 2 – E. Walter Shirk | 18 – Delphia Shirk |
| 3 - Frank & Helen Raker - 1941 | 18 – Amos Brubaker |
| 3 – Leon Klock | 18 – Terry Kline |
| 3 – Bob Walter | 19 – Dedra M. Wagner |
| 6 - Henry & Linda Dorman - 1965 | 19 – Becky Schramm |
| 6 - Roger & Betty Shoemaker - 1965 | 19 – Esther Zimmerman |
| 7 – John Renninger | 19 – Angie Walter |
| 7 – Bettie Catherman | 20 - Rick & Wanda Kerstetter - 1999 |
| 7 – Mark Bingaman | 20 – Donald Hoy |
| 8 – Harvey Hoover | 20 – Betty Shively |
| 9 – Marie Zimmerman | 21 – Pat Gross |
| 10 – Donald L. Groff | 22 – Wanda Kerstetter |
| 10 – Joe White | 26 - Israel & Elizabeth Yoder - 1970 |
| 10 – Lori Hopta | 26 – Joe Smith |
| 11 - Veterans Day | 27 - Robert & Fran Stroup - 1954 |
| 11 – Shane Failor | 27 – Everett Bingaman |
| 12 – Lucy Martin | 27 – Shirley Kerstetter |
| 12 – Tyler Hopta | 27 – Harry Mensch |
| 14 – Ruth Kostenbader | 28 - Terry & Cheryl Shively - 1970 |
| 15 - Edward & Lucy Martin - 1984 | 29 – Amanda Salter |
| 16 – Steve Hackenberg | |
| 17 - Kim & Sue Blyler - 1972 | |
| 17 – Stanley Catherman | |
| 17 – Katherine Neal | |

From our home to yours -
Best wishes for a
Happy Thanksgiving!

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