



Berlin Iron Works Part II

The establishment of the Berlin Works at the base of Penns Creek Mountain was made possible because of its proximity to three ingredients necessary for smelting iron. Those ingredients were iron ore, charcoal, and limestone. The combination of these three primary ingredients into the blast furnace was referred to as a “charge”. Upon examining a ledger from the Glen Iron Furnace (successor of the Berlin Iron Works), author and historian Tom Rich uncovered interesting facts about the operation of this cold blast furnace.

A journal entry from 1908 reveals that one charge consisted of 400 to 600 pounds of iron ore, 20 bushels of charcoal (150 pounds), and 75 to 100 pounds of limestone. The numbers of charges per day being mixed together at the furnace at that time were 35 to 45, which produced 3 to 5 tons of pig iron. By doing the math it is clear that the amount of raw materials necessary in the iron smelting process were significant. Forty charges placed into the furnace during one workday required the use of 10 tons of iron ore, 800 bushels of charcoal, and nearly 3,500 pounds of limestone.

Operating the blast furnace required significant manpower, whether it was from those supplying raw ore, the charcoal, or the limestone. Men using picks and shovels mined narrow veins of hematite at various locations along the north side of Penns Creek Mountain. This ore was then transported by wagon to the blast furnace.

There were numerous other areas in the West End where iron ore was also mined. The primary means of extracting iron ore from the ground was the slope method. The slope method utilized shallow tunnels to extract the ore that ran at an angle into the earth.

The Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, published in Harrisburg in 1891, covered mining activity across the state, including Union County, during 1888 and 1889. Included in the book were descriptions of sites where mining activities had taken place years earlier. This survey revealed the locations of numerous sites where iron ore was extracted in Hartley Township.

One of those sites included the Bower ore mine located ½ mile north/northeast of Laurelton. This mine was located not far from the edge of Laurel Run a short distance below the breast of an old milldam. This dam was most likely part of the Mark Halfpenny Woolen Mill that was situated at that location in the mid 1800’s. This property was long known as the Carrie Lincoln farm and was later owned by David “Pete” Pursley. Today Earl and Clara Hoover own this property.

Perhaps the Bower name originates from David and Sarah Bower. According to the 1880 census records, 16-year old Carrie Pearce was then living with her mother and stepfather, David Bower. Census data reveals that Bower provided his occupation to the census enumerator as a farmer. The geological survey published in 1891 also mentions Bower’s Store nearby. Carrie Pearce (1864-1944) subsequently married Mark Lincoln (1860-1898), son of Richard

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Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder



I received a call one night from dispatch about an injured deer. I called a deputy who was close to the area to see if he could take care of it. When I spoke to him he said that he was at the local carnival and as soon as his kids got off the tilt-a-whirl he could run down and take care of the deer. I’m just wondering how long the deer had to wait for the kids to get done with the rides.

On August 6th the PGC participated in the Police National night out activities in Union County.

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The late Judy (Shively) Wagner provided me with this photograph of a gentleman by the name of Boop (first name unknown), standing in front of a closed iron ore mine on the west side of State Route 235 near Glen Iron. This photograph was taken July 1959.

VB. and Anna (Pellman) Lincoln.

This survey also provides some details about the mining operation at the Bower site. The report states that: "400 or 500 tons of ore are said to have been taken from a 10' bed here between yellow slates, all of which was shipped to the old dismantled Berlin Iron Works furnace, situated on Penns creek, 1-½ miles south of Laurelton".

Two iron ore mining sites that were located not far from the Bower site include those mining operations conducted by Schnure & Co. and an individual by the name of Hoffman. Both of these operations were located some distance west of the Bower mine. Schnure & Co. conducted their operation on the Rutherford farm as part of a lease agreement. The report provided no details as to who the individuals were that constituted the Schnure & Co. operation. There is also no indication of the surname of the Hoffman mining operation. Both of these mining operations were located between State Route 235 and Paddy Mountain Road.

Another entry in the geological survey reveals

that James Pursley (1844-1924) opened several ore pits near his home south of the Hironimus Church (west of Weikert). The report noted that at the time of their examination it was clear that mining operations at that location had been abandoned for quite some time. One of these mining operations was near the Weiker Station on the L & T Railroad. Another opening was located just north of the railroad cut west of the village of Weikert. Describing the quality of the ore extracted from the one mine, Pursley stated that it was "fair".

In an August 1995 interview Marguerite (Cressinger) Bilger (1916- 2012) stated that her father-in-law, James D. Bilger, worked at an iron ore mine near Weikert as a young man. She told interviewer Louise (Goehring) Scott that the operation utilized a dinky line running from the mine through the woods to the main rail line. She also stated in the interview that her husband, Bob Bilger, at one time was planning to open up the former iron-mining hole during the air raid scares of the 1950's for use as a bomb shelter. Bilger also recalled that many of the tools from the days of the mining operation were left inside when it was closed.

The geological survey notes the location of Zimmerman's mine situated about 1 ½-miles east of Cherry Run, near "Kaylor Station" (also Galer Station) later owned by David C. Johnson. The person conducting the research noted that about 100 tons had been mined, yielding about 45 percent ore. Included in the description of this mining operation is mention of a tunnel and tramway.

Mining operations also took place at Cherry Run, under the name Johnson & Banks. One operation was just west of the Cherry Run Station where the railroad cut through red and brown shale. Ore pits were also located north of the railroad trestle over Cherry Run as well as on the south side. The section north of the trestle was the most heavily mined site. According to the survey nearly a thousand tons were mined at this point and shipped to the Berlin Iron Works, as well as locations in Bloomsburg and Danville.

According to deed records and other research conducted by Emilie F. Jansma of State College, there were various individuals or companies who leased property in the Tight End for the purpose of mining iron ore. Some of those individuals included Jacob Hironimus, Jr., George H. Smull of Smullton, PA; Hottenstein and Dauberman, and the Jackson Iron Co., the latter being the owners of the Berlin Iron Works.

Ronald Keister of Laurelton has original waybills that indicate iron ore was mined on Jack's Mountain (Penns Creek Mountain) as late as 1909 and 1910. The waybills indicate that Milton Keister and his father-in-law, Irvin Shively, were mining ore and transporting it to Glen Iron for shipment by rail car to the Nittany Iron Company of Bellefonte and the Eagle Iron Company of Curtin, Pa.

The second ingredient in the iron smelting process was charcoal, which provided the intense heat necessary to melt iron ore. While the mountains of the West End contained a bountiful supply of wood, the process of turning that wood into charcoal was time consuming, and required great effort. A collier was someone who reduced wood to its carbon content or in essence – charcoal. The men who eked out a living producing charcoal often spent days camped in the mountains tending their charcoal pit, or pits. This activity was undertaken throughout much of the year, wintertime excluded.

The process began when a collier cleared a flat circular area on a mountainside, scraping away all of the leaves and debris and exposing bare ground. In the middle of the circle a triangle shaped fireplace was constructed using narrow strips of split

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Exploring the Bald Eagle State Forest

Scenic Vistas



Vista near the top of Jones Mountain in Union County.

The Bald Eagle State Forest (BESF) was named for Native American, Chief Bald Eagle. Included in this large expanse of forestlands are more than 193,000 acres of state owned land in Snyder, Union, Centre, Mifflin, and Clinton counties. The BESF district lies in the ridge and valley section of the state and includes numerous high, sharp ridges. It also features miles of pristine mountain streams and a number of tracts of old growth forest. This forest district is dominated by a series of sandstone ridges, some of which reach heights of 2,200 feet above sea level.

The mountains in this section are part of the Allegheny Mountain range that extends from north-central Pennsylvania to southwestern Virginia. The highest elevation in Pennsylvania is located at Mount Davis in Somerset County. The elevation there is 3,213 feet above sea level.

While none of the mountains that make up the BESF approach the height of Mount Davis, many range from between 2,000 to 2,200 feet above sea level. The elevation at one location on Thick Mountain in Mifflin County reveals a height of

2,262 feet. Whether that is the highest point in the BESF is unknown, but it is the highest elevation I found after surveying numerous U. S. Geological survey maps.

The mountains that make up the BESF offer panoramic views of both state owned and private lands. A public use map from 2007 reveals the location of 25 vistas. A revised map published this year (2013) identifies only 21 vistas. Many of these vistas are located adjacent to forestry roads and are accessible by vehicle. The mountains in the BESF are also dotted with talus slopes that offer beautiful views of the surrounding area. Many of these areas can only be accessed on foot, and few have well defined paths leading to them.

Each vista offers its own unique view of the surrounding landscape. A few of them are noteworthy and well worth the drive on a sunny afternoon when the colorful autumn foliage is at its peak. While each person has their own perspective on what exemplifies a spectacular vista, in this article I will provide directions to several vistas in the BESF that Janice and I particularly enjoy.

The first vista we will visit is near the summit of Jones Mountain in Union County. This unnamed vista is situated on the north side of Jones Mountain Road, a short distance west of the high voltage power line that crosses the mountaintop. Jones Mountain Road is located off State Route 192 near the Forest House, west of Forest Hill. Continue on this road until you arrive at the vista. This overlook is located near the eastern edge of the Hook Natural Area.

A clear day will provide you with an unobstructed view into Centre County to the west, and Clinton County toward the northwest. Shriener Mountain is located to the west, while Brush, Hough, McCall and various other mountaintops can be seen to the north/northwest. According to the website, Pennsylvania County High Points, the highest elevation in Union County (2,160 feet above sea level) is located on Jones Mountain in close proximity to where the high voltage power line crosses over the mountain. There is another location on Paddy Mountain in Hartley Township with an identical elevation. That spot is located west of the entrance to Joyce Kilmer Trail off Paddy Mountain Road (an unimproved forest road).

Several scenic vistas are located along Poe Paddy Drive in Centre County. You can access this mountain road by taking State Route 45 to the village of Woodward. At Woodward take Pine Creek Road to Coburn. At Coburn you will travel west on Penns Creek Road until you arrive at the intersection with the Millheim/Siglerville Pike (watch for signs indicating Poe Valley State Park). After turning onto the Millheim/Siglerville Pike continue south until you arrive at the intersection with Pine Swamp Road. Take Pine Swamp Road to the intersection with Poe Paddy Drive. There are at least four vistas along this relatively short stretch of mountain road.

It has been quite some time since I last drove on this stretch of forestry road. During my last visit to these vistas I found the road somewhat rough. However, peering over the edge of Slide Mountain (elevation 1720 feet above sea level) toward Tunnel Mountain and the horseshoe curve in Penns Creek is memorable. Oftentimes I wish it were possible to travel



Vista from Slide Mountain in Centre County looking down on the Coburn Tunnel and the horseshoe curve in Penns Creek.

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Winklebleck Vista in Centre County.

back in time to an earlier era. If that were possible this vista would make an ideal vantage point to watch steam locomotives chug their way through the mountain gorge. The rumble of the engine reverberating nearly 700 feet below and the shrill blast of the train whistle echoing along the canyon walls would have been a sight to see and a thrill to hear.

Driving on the Millheim/Siglerville Pike to Poe Paddy Drive will lead you by another vista that you can pull off the side of the road and enjoy. Bell's Majestic Vista on the pike provides a view of Zerby and Greenbrier gaps and Georges Valley Mountain. The fertile farmland of Penns Valley can also be seen in the distance, as well as Brush Mountain to the north.

Next on the list of vistas is Black Gap Vista in Centre County. Situated alongside Engle Road this vista is located between R. B. Winter State Park and Eastville. Black Gap vista offers an impressive view of the forest below. White Deer Creek, a popular trout-fishing stream flows through the valley below. To get to Black Gap Vista you can take State Route 192 to the Union/Centre county line. Take McCall

Dam Road to Engle Road. Turn left onto Engle Road and continue to the vista.

The only downside to this vista is the high voltage power line that dissects the forest. On your way to Black Gap Vista be sure to stop at the overlook above R. B. Winter State Park. This overlook is located alongside McCall Dam Road and offers a bird's eye view of Halfway Lake.

Our next stop is Winklebleck Vista. To access Winklebleck Vista travel to Hairy John's State Picnic Area on State Route 45 near the Union/Centre county line. Turn north onto Winklebleck Road until you arrive at the vista near the summit. This spot offers a beautiful view of North Prong, Bear and Stitzer mountains in the foreground, as well as Paddy Mountain and Penns Creek Mountain in the distance.

From this vantage point you can see a portion of Joyce Kilmer Natural Area atop Paddy Mountain. This view also provides a clear view of the destruction being ravaged on hemlock trees by the hemlock wooly adelgid. This small aphid like insect is killing many giant hemlock trees in this region of the state.

Hobo's View on Buffalo Mountain in Hartley Township offers another beautiful view of the ridge and valley section of Union County. In order to enjoy this vista take State Route 45 west of Hartleton until you arrive at the intersection with Stony Run Road, a state forest road located just east of the former Laurelton State School and Hospital. Continue on Stony Run until you arrive at the intersection with Buffalo Flat Road. Take a right onto Buffalo Flat until you arrive at the vista on your right. The mountains directly in front of you are Bartley, Stone, and Stitzer (east to west). The gaps between these mountains offer a wonderful view of the fertile farmland in the valley. In the distance is Penns Creek Mountain, with a clear view of the Glen Iron Gap. The top of Shade Mountain in Snyder County is visible in the distance. If you happen to be at this vista on a really clear day you should be able to see some of the mountains that abut the Susquehanna River in lower Northumberland County in the far distance.

The final stop on our must see list of picturesque vistas is the New Lancaster Valley Vista in Snyder County. This vista is located alongside Locust Ridge Road. To access this vista take Swift Run Road at Troxelville. This road travels alongside the stream by the same name. En route to the vista you will pass by two picnic areas; Rock Springs and Snyder Middleswarth, also known as tall Timbers. Either picnic area would be an ideal location to take advantage of a picnic lunch.

As you continue west on Swift Run Road watch for the intersection with Locust Ridge Road (on your left). Turn left onto Locust Ridge Road and proceed to the summit. The view to the west is New Lancaster Valley. Unseen in the far distance is Reeds Gap State Park and much further west are the small communities of Locke Mills, Naginey, and Honey Creek.

Following Sunday morning church services on October 28, 2007, Janice and I headed out on a scenic mountain ride. One of our destinations that day was New Lancaster Valley Vista. When we stopped to enjoy the vista, we encountered two gentlemen who were also taking advantage of the gorgeous view. We soon engaged in friendly conversation, and learned that one of the gentlemen, Bryan Hackenburg, had relatives living in the Borough of Hartleton. Hackenburg explained that he was living in Dover, Delaware where he was employed at the nearby air base.

We subsequently learned the two men were on their way home from the Penn State/Ohio State football game that took place in Happy Valley the previous day. On their return trip to Delaware they decided to take a brief detour to



New Lancaster Valley Vista in Snyder County.

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visit the New Lancaster Valley Vista.

During our conversation Hackenburg explained how he remembered hearing stories about my great grandfather, Rev. Greene Shively, that were told to him by his father, Samuel Hackenburg. Although these men were two strangers that we met on a secluded mountain road, we found some commonalty between us that we all found rather striking. While it is doubtful that we will cross paths with either of these men again, the chance meeting had an impact on all of us. After parting company we reached the conclusion that it is a small world after all.

From the northern most overlook of the BESF off Ramm Road (the Mid State Trail) to the southern most vista, also located on the Mid State Trail between Milroy and Potters Mills, there are scenic vistas that offer spectacular views of the surrounding area. We are blessed to have so much natural and scenic beauty here in our backyard. Whether by foot, on a bicycle, or by vehicle take time to get out in God's wonderful and great creation and enjoy the beauty that is all around us.

TLS



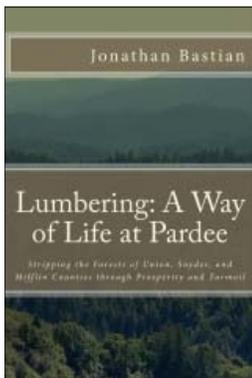
Editor's Note: Since the topic of this month's article pertains to vistas, I thought it would be nice to mention the recent hike to another vista - Chimney Rock. This article and the photograph to the left are courtesy of John Showers of New Berlin:

It was a delightful morning in the "Tight End" of Union County on Saturday morning, August 10, 2013, as 60 hikers gathered at the Union County Sportsman's Club in Weikert to walk the walk, take the climb to Chimney Rock towering over the Penns Creek and Cherry Run Valleys in western Union County. The 60 hikers ranged in ages four to eighty and were led by Union County residents Dahle Bingaman, Pat Arduini, and Karin Fullam. The hike was sponsored by the Union County Bicentennial and Union County Commissioners in cooperation with the Merrill Linn Conservancy.

Along the way on White Mountain, guides talked about geological formations, pointed out plants, trees, wildlife,

and identified the various points of interest. On the return from Chimney Rock, a side tour included a romp through the Rhododendrons along Weikert Run and walk out on to Pulpit or Fossil Rock in Penns Creek.

Emergency support was provided, but not required, by the volunteers of the West End Ambulance Association of Union County. Union County Commissioner John Showers, 17th Common Pleas Court Judge Harold Woelfel, and Union County Bicentennial Co-Chair Nada Gray were counted among the hikers.



Lumbering: A Way of Life at Pardee

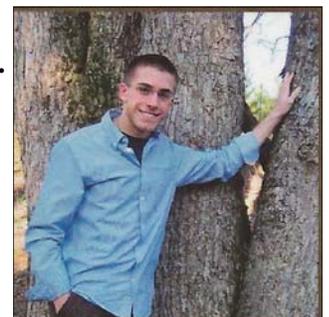
A locally known lumbering empire transformed the region and helped influence the State of Pennsylvania during the last twenty years of the 19th Century. Learn about the lumbering operation at Pardee and the secrets it has held onto for over 110 years. Find out why its last years are shrouded in mystery and what remains of the company that transformed Central Pennsylvania.

By using over 10 years of research, *Lumbering: A Way of Life at Pardee* provides an in-depth historical analysis of the lumbering operation near Pardee, PA. The book also discusses the implications and lasting effects of the lumbering operation at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

A lifelong resident of Union County, Pennsylvania, Jonathan Bastian received a B.S. Degree in Biology from Lycoming College.

As a hobby he has researched various historical aspects of Central Pennsylvania. His most extensive research focuses on the lumbering operation in Western Union County. Jonathan has served on the Union County Historical Society Board of Directors and participated in the county Rural Heritage Days as a Committee Member and Demonstrator. Additionally he has contributed to a local history newsletter, *The Millmont Times*.

If you would like to order Jonathan Bastian's new 98-page book featuring a number of maps and photographs visit Amazon.com and search for Pardee. The following link <http://amzn.com/1480252506> will also take you directly to the Internet page where you can order your book.



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:

Fri. Sept. 1, 1939. Preached funeral sermon for William Charles Sholter. Born July 7, 1850, died Aug. 30, 1939. Text John 14.

Sun. Sept. 3, 1939. Spoke from Acts. Also taught my class.

Sun. Sept. 10, 1939 Went with Bro. Chas. Keisters to Bannerville. Spoke from Rev. 20. Ate dinner with Rev. Flemings & went to Three Rivers & spoke in the eve from Psalm 90.

Sat. Sept. 16, 1939. Mother & I went with Mr. Black to visit among relatives in Clarion Co. First called on Miss Emma Baker then stopped at Mr. Harry Curtis. There we met Grandma Campbell, mother of Mrs. Curtis (daughter of Bro. Geo. Shively). A number of the Shively ancestors visited us this evening & we spent a very pleasant evening.

Sun. Sept. 17, 1939. This AM we went with Mr. Curtis to see Oil City & principal places among the hills and above the city, a beautiful sight. Then we went to see the cemeteries then the Old Stone House built by one of the Shively's where we got an old Saur Bible owned by the family. Went back for dinner to a lady living with her brother where all the relatives met & had a wonderful dinner together. Some time after dinner we started home & took a way home by Millerstown. Didn't get home till 11 at night.

Sun. Sept. 24, 1939. Taught my class & preached on the Divided Kingdom.

Sat. Sept. 29, 1939. This evening we had church council.

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Raymond and Joan Peterson, Shawn and Crystal Walter, and William and Karlene Sauers of Mifflinburg; David and Anne Goehring and Phyllis Sholter of Lewisburg; Norman Jr. and Becky Wenrick of Aaronsburg; and Betty Buttorff of Hartleton.

I would like to thank everyone who renewed their subscription for another year. Your support is greatly appreciated and is what makes this newsletter possible.

My thanks to Wayne Nolen of Millmont for providing me with information about the Goodlander's cabin off Weikert Run Road and for photographs of the newly restored Weiker Railroad Station and some of the Hobo carvings etched in the siding; Arlene Zimmerman for allowing me to copy letters and correspondence that was found in the attic of her home near Hartleton; Wayne Shively of Mifflinburg for donating Shively family memorabilia (including Mark Shively and his father Jacob S. Shively) and a 1921 Commencement Week Program from the Lewis Township High School; Paul and Thiry (Reamer) Olbrich of Lewistown for donating old newspapers, photographs, and material relative to Laurelton; Jeanne Jolly of Weikert for donating newspaper clippings from The Mifflinburg Telegraph; Jack Shirk of Hartleton for allowing me to copy newspaper clippings and photographs relative to Hartleton and the Shirk family; and Carl Catherman of Mifflinburg for providing information about Dr. Seebold of Hartleton and his descendants.

A special Thank You to Gail Hanselman of Mifflinburg for submitting her column relative to the U. S. Postal Service. Since Gail has moved to the Shamokin Dam Post Office her duties and responsibilities no longer allow her the time necessary to submit a monthly column. As a result I have decided to retire "In Your Mailbox", a monthly column that was featured on Page 1 of each issue.

Wanted

Despite the fact that this newsletter is scheduled to be discontinued in April 2015, there are a number of topics that are on my "hope to do list". As with any topic I want to write about, each requires me to develop sufficient information and photographs in order to make the article insightful and enjoyable to the reader. Perhaps you have information and / or photographs on some of the topics listed below that will either be woven into a future article, or perhaps be a part of the front page feature story.

Future topics that I would like to gather additional information on include: The physicians and druggists who lived in the Borough of Hartleton and served the needs of that community (Dr. Newton, Dr. Alden, Dr. Frederick Piper, Dr. John Geddes, Dr. Thomas Weirick, Dr. William Seebold, and Dr. Boush); information about a possible school located at the intersection of Trails End Road and Weikert Road that served the needs of students from the Pardee area; photographs of the Dunkard Church that was located adjacent to Weikert Road; photographs of the Center Point School and the Lincoln School that was located near Laurel Park; local topographical maps from the 1930's; the spring that was located next to Diehl's Garage in Hartleton; taverns, and saloons located in Hartley Township and Hartleton Borough; the Culp brothers of Hartleton (Lee and William); Zachary Galer and Phoebe Styers; Peter Sheesley; Albert Lichtenwalter (also spelled Lichtenwalter); photograph of a train exiting the Paddy Mountain Tunnel; and a photograph of Leroy "Deafy" Dorman.

The small photograph in the upper left corner of page one was provided to me courtesy of Wayne Nolen of Millmont. It shows a hunting cabin built by Benjamin Goodlander alongside Penns Creek in the village of Weikert. According to Eugene Kahley of Weikert, Mr. Goodlander dismantled his cabin on Green Gap Trail, off Weikert Run Road, sometime in the late 1940's or early 1950's and brought the lumber to Weikert where he used it in the construction of this cabin. I made reference to the dismantled cabin alongside Green Gap Trail in the July 2013 issue of The Millmont Times.

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This photograph of the stack at the Glen Iron Furnace was taken on February 4, 1940 by Jacob G. Shively.

wood. The height of the chimney varied depending on how many stacks of wood were to be charred. Billets of hardwood such as American chestnut and oak, cut to three or perhaps four feet in length, were stacked on top of one another. The end result was a conical shaped pile of wood resembling an upside down funnel.

Once the billets of wood were in place the entire stack of wood was covered with several inches of leaves, topped with several inches of dirt. The leaves prevented dirt from filtering into the wood billets, thus affecting the charring process. After the stack was covered with dirt the chimney was filled with kindling wood, and then lit on fire. This was known as firing the pit. Once the wood began to burn the chimney was capped.

A charcoal pit took days to construct and from 10 to 14 days to burn. Some colliers had more than one pit burning at the same time. The art of making quality charcoal required constant attention of the collier. If a cave-in occurred and too much oxygen was getting to the wood, flames could erupt and the stack would be reduced to ash. Too little oxygen getting to the smoldering wood resulted in an unsatisfactory product. Once the process was complete, charcoal was raked from the pits and loaded onto wagons and transported to the furnace.

It is estimated that three cords of wood produced 100 bushels of charcoal. Depending on the quality of the charcoal, it generally sold for pennies per bushel. From a financial standpoint it was not a very rewarding job considering the time, effort and living conditions a collier was forced to endure.

While perusing an 1855-56 business journal, historian Charles Snyder concluded that during a two year period 123 people were listed as full or part-time workmen at the Berlin Iron Works. Part-time employees outnumbered full time employees by a ratio of four to one. Many of the workers at Berlin were woodchoppers. These men helped to supply the charcoal or fuel wood vital to the operation. Snyder noted that Jackson Catherman

chopped 165 cords of wood in return for \$60 in cash or goods from the company store. It was during this time period that sub-contractors William Pursley and Jacob Rhoads supplied 2,481 cords of wood at 40 cents per cord.

The business journal that provided details about the Berlin Iron Works also indicated that 27 men were involved in supplying ore (mining, hauling, and wheeling to the stack). Ten men were listed as teamsters involved with transporting ore, charcoal and limestone from the quarry near Swengel. They also transported pig iron from the furnace to the canal at Lewisburg. The journal noted that the wagons that transported the pig iron to Lewisburg returned to the furnace with hardware, flour and other food supplies for the workers as well as feed for the animals.

According to the Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania published by J. H. Beers & Co. in 1898, James King was employed as a woodchopper and teamster at the Berlin Iron Works. King was born in Lancaster County in 1804. At age six he accompanied his parents to Hartley Township Union County. His educational privileges were limited to three months attendance at the common schools of that area. In the biography it states that James King reportedly chopped 600 cords of wood, with no other work intervening. James King and family moved from Pennsylvania to Michigan in 1858. We can surmise that his employment at the Berlin Iron Works took place in the years prior to his move.

Work related accidents and deaths occur with any occupation, and it is likely that the iron smelting operation at Glen Iron was no different. One fatal accident that is recorded is that of William Keinard. He came to the West End to work at the Berlin operation. According to the late author and historian, Jacob G. Shively, Keinard died in 1858 as the result of being kicked by a mule while hauling ore from the mine to the furnace. Keinard was married to Sally Boop, and at the time of his death they had no children.

The third ingredient necessary to smelting iron was limestone, which aided in the refining and purification process. The separation of iron from the slag is facilitated by the use of a flux, which in the cold blast furnace was crushed limestone. The 1856 survey by Thomas H. Paschall & James Keily reveals the existence of two limekilns, both were located in Lewis Township. One small kiln was located north of Millmont. Larger quarries were located on a ridge east of Swengel. The sheer cliffs along this ridge attest to the quarrying activities that took place at that location years earlier. These quarries were operated by a number of different people over the years. Some of those who quarried limestone along this ridge include Ruhl's, Knauss, Fees, Reiss, and Halfpenny. Limestone from these quarries was transported by horse or mule drawn wagons to the Berlin Iron Works.

The three ingredients, iron ore, charcoal, and limestone, were placed in an opening at the top of the furnace. Tom Rich describes the process of iron smelting as follows: as the three ingredients sank toward the bottom of the furnace, the hot carbon stole the oxygen from the iron oxide and formed carbon dioxide, which rose through the top of the stack. The remaining iron melted under the intense heat and dripped into the bottom of the chamber of the furnace, also known as the crucible. Impurities from the smelting process floated to the top of the molten iron. This material, known as slag, was skimmed from the crucible and dumped onto a pile around the outside of the furnace as waste.

During its long history the Berlin Furnace (later the Glen Iron Furnace) experienced numerous ups and downs in the busi-

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Recipe of the Month

by Janice (Dorman) Shively

Stuffed Pepper Soup

1 lb. ground beef
4 C. onions, chopped
5 C. green peppers, chopped
4 Qt. Tomato juice, heated
3 ½ C. rice, cooked until almost done

Brown burger and drain. Add cooked rice, raw onions and green peppers. Add about 2 - 3 Qts. heated juice and stir well. Then add the rest of the heated juice. Remember to keep the soup "thin"; it will reduce during processing. You really want more juice than veggies because as you pressure can this, the rice swells and you don't want a soup that is extremely thick.

Pour hot soup into sterilized hot pint size jars and place lids

and screw rings. Leave 1 inch head-space.

Process pint jars at 11 lb. pressure for 75 minutes.

Makes about 12 pints of soup.

I found a recipe similar to this on-

line last fall. Since then I've made numerous batches. When you open a jar of soup that tastes just like stuffed peppers, you realize it is worth the effort!

For the rice, I cooked 1 C. of rice for 20 minutes and that was almost done. If you're not familiar with pressure canning be sure to read the instructions that came with your canner. Follow your canner guidelines for canning with ground beef to adjust the pressure and time.

This is a great way to use up those end of the season peppers.

ENJOY!



Union County Bicentennial Events

The Historic Ramblings Tour of the West End will take place Sunday September 22, 2013 from 11:25 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. You can take the tour by bus, or you can travel to the various destinations at your leisure. The sites open to visitors on that day will be the Leroy Massacre site; the New Berlin Museum above the New Berlin Post Office; Sampsell's Mill/Penns Creek Pottery & a discussion of the Iron Furnaces in Union County; the Barber/Rippon Mansion & Barn at White Springs; the site of the former CCC camp at Weikert, along with discussions on the Pardee Lumber Company, camping and recreation in the Tight End, and the history of the Union County Sportsmen's Club; the Mountain View Old Order Mennonite Church; and the Elias Church and the Gutelius House in Mifflinburg. You can obtain tickets, either for the bus tour or individual tickets, at the Carriage Corner Restaurant in Mifflinburg, the West End Library, the Union County Government Center in Lewisburg, the Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Center in Lewisburg, or the Lewisburg Hotel. Bus tickets can only be purchased at the U. C. Government Center. With the exception of the Mountain View Old Order Mennonite Church all sites will be open for those holding tickets from 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The Mountain View Old Order Mennonite Church will have one presentation at 2:45 p.m.

Shirk's Country Store

The old country store is back, with a new look. The drone of a sander and the sound of hammers at work tipped us off that something big was happening within the walls of Shirk's Country Store in Millmont. Delphia Shirk's grandson, Robbie Rowe of Mifflinburg, purchased the property in July 2011 at public sale. Since then a lot of time and energy has been invested in the property.

On Saturday morning, August 24th, as I sat on our front porch, I witnessed a new excitement in our little community. A neighbor and two children came out of the store. I quickly noticed that the children were carrying small brown bags in their hands. As they passed our porch we exchanged a friendly hello. One of the children exclaimed, "They have penny candy!"

Soon, another neighbor and her daughter made their way out the street to Shirk's Country Store. They emerged from the building with popsicles in their hands and smiles on their faces as they made their way home.

I paid special attention on that day to the revival of foot traffic into and out of Shirk's Country Store. The neighborhood was awake with gladness to have the familiar storefront welcoming their arrival.

By mid-afternoon, Tony and I decided to make our way into the store to see the unveiling of its new interior. It is beautiful! Indeed, many hours of hard labor and time have been invested in the property. New pine walls and beautifully refinished floors greet you as you enter. The old counter top is gone, along with the old cash register. But, they have been replaced with a beautiful new countertop and modern computerized cash register and credit card machine.

Yes, the penny candy display case is the same one that Delphia sold penny candy from. And there's a Hershey's ice cream freezer filled with tasty novelty ice cream treats. The store also has the basic items, bread, milk, chips, paper towels, soda, etc.

On Saturday September 7th Shirk's Country Store will be celebrating its Grand Reopening. If you miss this date, you can visit the store between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

by Lucy Hoover

July 17, 2013

A daughter named Kari was born to Nelson and Miriam Zimmerman of Millmont. She has four brothers and three sisters. Grandparents are John and Esther Zimmerman and Eli and Anna Shirk.

July 28

Early this morning Paul Martin (83) of Lewisburg passed away. His health had been declining, and he spent the last few months in Kramm Nursing Home.

This afternoon we got word that Nathan Martin (56) of Millmont suddenly passed away of a heart attack. He had not been feeling the best the last week, but was in church this morning.

August 4

Louise Brubacker (8) daughter of Levi and Lauretta Brubacker of Millmont, has been having headaches, poor appetite, and upset stomach lately. Also poor concentration. This afternoon she was taken to Evangelical Hospital Emergency Room where they did a CAT Scan, which showed a mass on the brain the size of a tangerine. She was transported to Geisinger Medical Center by ambulance.

August 5

At 3:00 p.m. Louise had surgery to remove the tumor. It took 2 ¼ hours and the surgery went well.

Mrs. Luke Hoover (Ada Mae) of Mifflinburg spent a day in the hospital. Her allergies caused lack of oxygen and rapid heart-beat.

August 6

Tonight Curvin Hoover and his dad went to the viewing of Rick Smith (59) who died suddenly. He used to work at Mifflinburg Farmers Supply and was currently employed at Valley Ag.

August 11

There was a farewell singing at the Rail Center for James and Annetta Horning family of Lewisburg. They will be moving to Wisconsin next weekend.

We went to New York in a bus with the rest of the Hoover Family for a picnic at Arrowhead Park along Seneca Lake.

Looking Back

The following article was published in the July 11, 1913 edition of a local newspaper.

GLEN IRON FURNACE DESTROYED BY FIRE

Early Last Sunday Morning Between 2 and 3 O'clock.

Likely of Incendiary Origin.

Owned And Conducted By Mr. John T. Church,
Who Will Immediately Rebuild.

Early Sunday morning, between the hours of two and three o'clock, the Glen Iron Furnace, valued at about \$10,000, located about ten miles west of Mifflinburg, owned and conducted by Mr. John T. Church, was discovered on fire, and shortly thereafter completely destroyed, with the exception of a few buildings, including the office, a casting house, laboratory, carpenter shop and stone crusher.

The cause of the fire showed marked signs of incendiary origin, as at different places coal oil saturations were found. Mr. Samuel Keister, one of the night watchmen, who was on duty at the time, had completed a thorough inspection of the large plant just about five or ten minutes before, and found everything all right, with no signs of fire, and had returned to the engine house, when suddenly the complete plant was ablaze from all sides. By appearances it seemed that the party or parties were watching for this opportunity, and immediately after Mr. Keister had entered the building, the fiends deliberately scattered coal oil around the building and applied the match and then made a hasty getaway.

Mr. Keister immediately sounded an alarm, but the plant being located in a spot that is not very thickly populated, the whole neighborhood gathered at the scene, with residents of Glen Iron, who all worked hard to check the flames, but, as stated, the fire burned in all parts of the plant, their efforts were of no avail, and the large plant, including all fixtures, as well as three car loads of coal, were soon reduced to ashes.

Owing to the location of the engine house, and several other minor details, Mr. Church was unable to have the plant insured, therefore suffers a loss of about \$8,000 or \$10,000. He certainly has the sympathy of the whole community, as well as his large circle of friends, being well and favorably known throughout the county.

The destruction of the plant has many sad features, among which the throwing out of employment of a large number of men who depended upon it for a livelihood, but, happily they will be out of employment for a short time, as the scribe was informed by Mr. Church, that he will at once rebuild the plant, and also add to and make many new and modern improvements, changing the location of different departments more conveniently, so that he can carry insurance.

This plant has been destroyed by fire four different times, in the following years: 1827, 1892, 1903 and the last conflagration, Sunday July 6, 1913.

The work of the incendiary has been plied in this section for some years past, including an effort to destroy the Glen Iron Hotel and private dwellings. In consequence a most determined effort will be made to discover the culprits and give them the benefit of the law's scorching in fullest degree.

Blessings from the Bible

By Brenda Weaver

*“Has not my hand made all these things and so they came into being?” declares the Lord.
Isaiah 66:2*

*When you see this, your heart will rejoice and you will flourish like grass;
The hand of the Lord will be made known to his servants...
Isaiah 66:14*

I passed the farm pond on my way home from work as usual. A gray heron stood poised as if ready to dive into the cool, quiet water. I laughed out loud; the tall, gangly bird stood on the edge of the “high dive” of the homemade diving board! Silhouetted against the sky he reminded me of a schoolboy deciding if he had enough nerve to dive from that height.

After the wearisome toil of grief, I delight to be surprised by joy! It feels good to laugh again, even if it is at the silly sighting of a heron on the high dive.

Thinking about the interesting photo this scene would make, and wanting to tell someone about what I’d seen, I stopped at the farmhouse nearby. The farmer’s grandchildren laughed when I told them about the heron’s perch, and soon were begging their grandpa to take them for a ride to the back pond.

On the drive home I considered how far I’ve come on this journey through the valley of the shadow of death. Twenty-two months have passed since my husband passed. More and more I find joy in the simple things of life: eating a slice of juicy cantaloupe that was waiting for me in the refrigerator; holding the hand of a grandchild as we walk to the bunny hutch to see the latest arrival; pouring lime water off sliced cucumbers that will soon become pickles for my canning shelves; biking into the dusk and stopping to watch the sun paint the horizon with vivid hues; listening to scripture on tape and the call of katydids as I fall asleep.

Perhaps because of pain we are more capable of experiencing joy. Would joy even *be* joyful if it wasn’t for the contrast of sadness and sorrow? Would we smile at sunshine if it never stormed?

In her book, *One Thousand Gifts*, Ann Voskamp wraps her words poetically around a life transformed to joyful thanksgiving after a long season of regrets and depressing sorrow. She rose to the challenge of enumerating and thanking God for the gifts He gave, not the big miracles, but the little blessings that graced her days on the farm as a busy wife and mother. I know if she had shared my day today she would have put an entry such as this in her thanksgiving notebook lying open on her kitchen counter: # 978. A heron poised like a schoolboy on the edge of the high dive.

Perhaps it is time for me to start such a thanksgiving notebook of my own. How soon will I reach one thousand? I don’t know. But I do know what # 1 will be.

*“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;
(for he is faithful that promised;)
Hebrews 10:23*

This evening on my way home from work I pass the same pond. No heron cheers me as it did yesterday. On a sudden whim I park my car and walk to the pond. I climb the narrow stairs to the top floor of the platform. I feel a bit foolish when a few cars pass, for this time it is *me* and not the heron that rests on the high dive. Still my view and the simple pleasure of being here keep me seated. Today the breeze scuttles across the water, making ripples with ever-changing patterns. From my vantage point the pond becomes a kaleidoscope, occasionally pierced by a jumping fish or a darting swallow.

The winds of change have scuttled across my years. Can it really be thirty plus years since my boyfriend and I skated on this very pond? And when we were newly married his family sometimes gathered at these quiet waters to picnic and fish. Then our children came to swim here with their cousins. On dry years hard work robbed this pond of water to irrigate the crops; on cold mornings its water helped save our strawberries from killing frost. Then only two years ago extended family set up tents here for a night of camping. After griddling eggs and pancakes over the fire everyone helped cultivate and hoe our strawberries. Weaker from cancer treatments and returning pain, my husband was grateful for their help. That camp-out / work day was a highlight of hope in that worrisome summer.

But I don’t dwell on those memories today as I ponder from my perch. I simply absorb the beauty of the day, allowing God to fill my senses with His goodness.

Change is inevitable, as surely as breezes ripple pond waters. Still I naturally resist it. Do I resist change because I don’t

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

trust God? Somehow, sitting at this pond on this day reminds me that God is faithful in every change.

People change. Circumstances change. As sure as seasons change, seasons of life change. Communities change. Friendships change. Our health changes. Our parents change. Our children change. Even this pond changes. And from my seat on the top platform, I see the diving board is now broken and splintered.

Wind-driven waters scurry toward the old poles of the diving platform, lapping against their sides. Winds of change drive me to the sure anchor of my unchangeable God. I meditate on a verse of the hymn, "Abide with Me (Fast Falls the Even-tide").

*"Swift to the close ebbs out life's little day
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou that changest not, abide with me."*

Dear Lord,

*You meet us in our daily walk of life. You give us messages of hope. You surround us with little joys. And I thank You.
Amen.*

Millmont Times Fun Facts

The September 2013 issue is the 161st edition of The Millmont Times. I recently reviewed all of the back issues to see how many pages of material we have published since May 2000. The result was 1,760 pages! What is even more incredible is the fact that over that same period of time I have printed and distributed approximately 56,500 copies of The Millmont Times. That is a lot of folding, stapling, labeling and effort to produce that many copies over the past 14+ years. While not all of the 1,760 pages are available online, many of them are. For those that would like to review previous issues you can visit our website :

www.millmonttimes.com where you will currently find 117 issues available for review.

The September 2004 issue of The Millmont Times featured an article about "Old Doc Glover". Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes Glover (1868-1949) was a country doctor who served the residents of the West End for many years. He brought many children into this world and took care of the needs of his sick patients during his long tenure as a physician. Be sure to read more about this local country doctor in the September 2004 issue.

(Continued from page 7)

ness cycle, and long periods of inactivity. The drawbacks to the business included inferior raw material, which resulted in an inferior end product. Historian Richard VB. Lincoln noted that another obstacle for the business included that fact that the veins of ore were small, and the ore had to be transported for miles by wagon. The finished product also had to be transported by wagon to Lewisburg where it was loaded onto canal boats and shipped to distant markets.

The author of the Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania from 1891 noted that the failure of the furnace was due to the lack of sufficient power, and the owners failure to realize that the ores were cold short, and were consequently unfit for forge-irons. Even their attempts to mix them with Centre County brown hematites yielded little success as many of the ores of that county also contained a high percentage of phosphorus.

Members of the Church family tried repeatedly to revive the business. Circa 1901 John T. Church formed the Glen Iron Furnace Company in an attempt to revive the stagnant business. While the folks living in and around the village of Glen Iron rejoiced, its revival was short lived. Although the furnace survived numerous setbacks over the years, including fires, a crumbling stone stack, and upheavals in the business cycle, the fire on Sunday, July 6, 1913, brought an end to the Glen Iron Furnace. The fiery torch at the hand of an arsonist (or arsonists) resulted in widespread destruction of the buildings. Church pledged to the citizens of the community to rebuild, but it was not to be. (See Looking Back article on Page 9).

In 1923 Church developed yet another ambitious proposal to revitalize the furnace. He and others were planning to build an industrial plant known as the Glen Iron Power and Tool Company. The proposed company planned to build facilities at the site of the furnace to manufacture a pipe wrench of which R. F. Boop was the inventor, along with a nut wrench designed by J. W. Shook. Those plans also never came to fruition.

TLS

Editor's Note: My thanks to Mike Bezilla of Lemont for providing information about the iron ore sites in the West End and Tight End of the county, Bill Little of Millmont for bringing my attention to this subject through a recent email, and Emilie Jansma of State College for material she supplied from Louise (Goehring) Scott's oral interviews.

Sources: Iron Smelting in Union County by Tom Rich; The Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, 1888-1889, Report of the Geology of four Counties, Union, Snyder, Mifflin and Juniata, published in 1891; The Trail of History by Charles M. Snyder and published in The Mifflinburg Telegraph; The Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania, published by J. H. Beers & Co., Chicago, 1898; 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 in 1886; and the late Judy (Shively) Wagner.

The Millmont Times is distributed during the first week of each month, and is available through mail subscriptions. Mail subscriptions are \$10 per year (12 issues). The newsletter is also available at Koch's Country Store in Hartleton, PA. Telephone 922.0452. The single issue cost is \$1.50.

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

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

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 – Kathryn Steimling	11 – Kafy Long	23 – Tiffany Radel
1 – Eunice Swain	11 – Mary Bingaman	23 – Bernie Schmader
1 - Earnest & Margaret Boney - 1971	11 – Eleanor Hoy	24 – Kenneth Groff
2 – Pat Libby	12 – Henry Aurand	25 – Eleanor Hackenberg
2 – Carl “Bup” & Jeanne Sampsell – 1950	13 – Mallory Kerstetter Sampsell	25 – Anthony Guida
3 – Dale and JoAnn Dorman - 1976	15 – Emily Oberholtzer	25 – Richard Rothermel
3 – Bridget Catherman	16 – Doug & Lisa Bowersox - 2004	25 – Betty Stamm
3 – Martha Hoover	16 – Shayna Fultz	26 - Maryann Losik
4 – Fred and Rachel Keister - 1976	16 – Bryce W. Koonsman	26 – Joanna Vanatta
4 – Mary Jane Brungart	17 – Mervin & Pat Kline - 1965	27 – Karl Hassinger
4 – Joe & Kimmy Smith - 1993	18 – Morgan Richard	27 – Leroy S. Zimmerman
4 – Matthew Brubaker	18 – Earl Frantz	27 – Truman Motter
4 – Rosalie Badger	20 – Doris Walter	28 – Eugene Hackenberg
5 – Brad & Angie Walter - 1988	21 – Harry & Terry Mensch – 1974	28 – Lulu Hoffman
5 – Darlene Hackenberg	22 – Cam Hironimus	29 – Ryan Osborne
5 – Marjorie Bowersox	22 – Nancy Katherman	29 – James Camp
5 – William & Connie Bastian – 1957	22 – Tiffany Fultz	30 – Brenda Ilgen
6 – Ruthann Cooper	22 – Kyle Fultz	30 - Sam Ely
6 – Sue Hassenplug	22 – Julie Klingman	30 – Seth Weller
8 – Ronald Koonsman, Jr.	23 – Wayne M. Hess	30 – Christian Brubaker
8 – Orvie Zimmerman	23 – Steve Libby	
8 – John & Betty Stamm - 1951	23 – Theron W. Conrad (Happy 90th!!)	
10 – Marvin Englehart	23 – Donald Kahler	

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