



**Turkeyfoot
Valley
Historical
Society**

PASS IT ON
Share our history

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4th Quarter 2014

Pass It On
is a quarterly
publication of the
Turkeyfoot Valley
Historical Society

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**Corporate Sponsors for
7/1/14– 6/30/15**

Silver Members

Somerset Trust Company

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Hanna House Bed & Breakfast
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NOTE TO MEMBERS

If you are interested in
receiving your copy of Pass It
On electronically, please
contact the Society at
tfvhs@tfvhs.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society will not hold meetings during the months of January and February.

Effective March 1, 2015, meetings will be held the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. instead of the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Also effective March 1, 2015, regular meetings will not be held on nights when there is a guest speaker. However, the Board of Directors will meet on those nights as needed.

GOOD NEWS!!!! – As you know, since Peggy Findling had to leave her position with the Historical Society, we've had a problem finding volunteers to keep the Historical Building open. Peggy has agreed to work in the Historical Building from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Tuesday (as her schedule permits) through the end of 2014.

**Christmas Open House
Thursday, December 18, 6pm-8pm**

Join us at the historical building and bring along a finger food for all to share. This year we have something new... wear your ugly Christmas sweater and bring good cheer, it's that time of year. Start shopping now for a sweater, the uglier the better! At the end of the night we'll reward the ugliest sweater with an award.

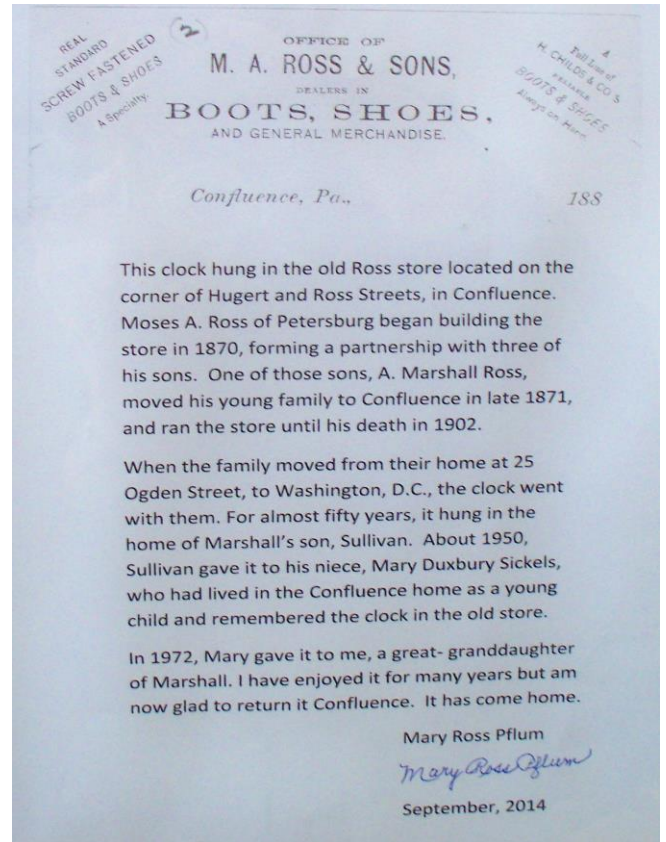




Clock is on display at the Turkeyfoot Historical building



Andrew Marshall Ross



Andrew Marshall Ross

Born March 23, 1842, Andrew Marshall Ross was the son of Moss A. and Cynthia Mitchell Ross, and was born in the living quarters above his father's store in Petersburg (now Addison), Pennsylvania.

Marshall entered the Union Army when he was twenty years old, serving a nine-month enlistment in Company E, the 133rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment. For gallant services in the Fredericksburg Battle, Marshall won a commendation for bravery and a reward. During the battle, he rescued Captain George F. Baer's sword from the battlefield. It was later awarded to Marshall and is now in the possession of a great-granddaughter.

On March 17, 1870, Marshall married Laura Blanche Hagans of Brandonville, West Virginia. They had four children: Felicia, Mary Virginia LeMaire, Ethel Mansfield and Sullivan Johnson Ross.

Marshall and his brother, Robert, entered into a partnership with their father in January, 1871, under the name M. A. Ross and Sons. Land had been purchased in the new town of Confluence in October, 1869, and in January, 1870, a store building was started (at the corner of Ross and Hugart Streets). Marshall and his family moved there, and he ran the Ross store until his death in 1902. He was buried in Newbury Cemetery in Addison.

The photograph and information about Andrew Marshall Ross and the Ross family was donated by Genie Younkin. She also provided a copy of the following letter which was written August 8, 1900 to Paul M. Ross from his Uncle Marshall. It sounds as though Confluence was a pretty swinging town at the turn of the century.

“Dr. Paul

The great party will be tomorrow (Thursday) evening. I am authorized by the committee to invite you.

Come if you can and bring Mitchell. I have special but verbal, invitations for both. Or if he should be from home, or cannot come, and you wish to do so, bring someone else. It will be alright.

Confluence parties generally begin at 8 or 9 and break up sometime before daylight next morning. But come down early, if you can get away. And, of course, have your “dancing legs” with you.

If anything should occur to cause postponement we will let you know by mail or the phone and if you do not hear from us, or Sull, by 4 or 5 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, can be sue the party is a “go”.

All popular young ladies of the city will attend, of course. But I presume, judging from what I noticed the other evening, that you will be either a _____ or Elsie Beggs man.

**Your
Uncle Marshall”**



Lillie Stark, Mary Nuhem, Maggie Stark and Paul Ross
(July 4, 1897 at Confluence)

Paul M. Ross

Paul Marshall Ross, aged 36 years, son of Robert E. Ross, the well-known merchant at Addison, died early yesterday morning (October 29, 1918) at the Fort Pitt Hospital in Pittsburg, of influenza. The deceased was a graduate of the University of Virginia and was prominently known as a school teacher. He was a life-long member of the Methodist church.

NOTE: Paul had a cigar shop at Addison. He taught school at Addison, Newbury and Listonburg. He was working as an engineer in Pittsburg when he became sick and died very quickly from the Spanish influenza. He was buried at Addison. He was 18 years old when the letter was written to him inviting him to the Confluence party. (The reference to “Sull” in the letter is to Sullivan Johnson Ross.)

Four-Hour Torchlight Parade Restores Confluence Football

Members of the Confluence high school six-man grid team have their football back today but only after a four-hour torchlight parade protest in which 150 students, 50 parents and members of the borough’s volunteer fire department took part.

The parade, orderly and quiet except for occasional screeches from a siren on the town truck, broke up about 11 p.m. after newly-appointed Burgess D. H. Pore returned the football which he had ordered seized earlier in the day in an effort to break up the use of Community Park for athletic events.

Pore, who became burgess only three days ago, succeeding Dr. Edwin Price, who resigned after 3-1/2 years in office, announced he would enforce an old borough ordinance which banned athletics in the park.

When a dozen members of the high school grid squad turned out for practice yesterday, policeman Ned Hoyt appeared and took possession of their ball, saying Burgess Pore had directed him to break up the game.

The protest parade which followed, citizens said, was similar to a demonstration staged 15-20 years ago when the no-athletics ordinance was passed originally. At that time, the council yielded and permitted the park to be used for athletics, but the ordinance was never repealed.

Ray Mitchell, a spokesman for the protestants, said that citizens’ committee would be named to draft an ordinance permitting athletic events in the park.

On The Map

There is no question about Confluence being on the map. The recent doings in that borough having rated "first page" all over the country, the most skeptical have nothing on which to base their skepticism on this question.

Athens, Tenn., got into the headlines when a group of returned veterans undertook to overturn a political group that had manipulated the politics of the community for years.

Confluence has won her spurs as the result of the zeal of a new burgess for the enforcement of an ordinance that had been repealed by common consent, if not by borough council's action.

The public park Confluence boasts might well be the pride of any town. Confluence appreciates it.

About the time the ordinance forbidding the playing of games in the park was passed, another was sought for putting a fence around it. There can be no charge of lack of appreciation of the park in either case. Perhaps if there had been no demonstrations against the fence and the forbidding of the playing of games, some Confluence citizens might have insisted a little later upon putting the park in a glass cage.

The utilitarians in the community triumphed however. They felt that a park should be a thing of beauty, but also a joy forever. If the kiddies and the youths were denied the use of the park for a playground, it might have been a thing of beauty without bringing joy to anyone.

So, doings in Confluence have sent some folks elsewhere a little backward in geography to fresh studies of their maps of Somerset and Fayette counties.

- Both articles about the park published 9/14/1946 - Submitted by Margaret Minnick

New Members

Taylor King-Nickelson, Addison
Tom Breiding, McMurray, PA

Donations

Ginny Halverson – World War II Navy flyer's jacket once belonging to R. W. Lenhart.
Genie Younkin – Clock belonging to Moses A. Ross and info about the Ross family (see pages 2 & 3)

TURKEYFOOT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – 7/1/14 to 6/30/15

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

___ Individual - \$15.00

___ Bronze Corporate - \$50.00

___ Husband & Wife - \$20.00

___ Silver Corporate - \$200.00

___ Youth 12-18 - \$5.00

___ Gold Corporate - \$500.00

___ Child Under 12 – Free

___ Platinum Corporate - \$1000.00

___ Additional financial contribution of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society and mail to the Society at PO Box 44, Confluence, PA 15424. NOTE: We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) exempt organization. Donations are deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

AMENDMENT NO. 8
BY-LAWS - TURKEYFOOT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Effective July 11, 2014, the following changes were made to the Society's By-Laws:

1. Article III – Officers and Directors – Section 1 was amended to combine Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary into one position.
2. Article III – Officers and Directors – Section 2 was amended to change the Board of Directors from ten members to seven members, consisting of four officers and three directors.
3. Article IV – Duties of the Officers and Directors – Section 4 was deleted and Section 5 was amended to combine the positions of Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary.

Following is an updated copy of the By-Laws:

BY-LAWS
TURKEYFOOT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
(As Revised By Amendments 1-8)

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the organization shall be Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society, Inc.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to study, collect and preserve documents, buildings, sites, landmarks, and other items of historical interest and aesthetic and social value relating to the history of this area and its people and to foster interest in and appreciation for the history of our area and to carry on research regarding that history.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. The elected Officers of this organization shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, all of whom shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. The term of office shall be two years, and no elected Officer shall hold office for more than three consecutive terms.

Section 2. There shall be a Board of Directors of seven members, consisting of the four elected Officers plus three elected members of the Society. The terms of the members shall be for two years and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. When a vacancy occurs in an elected office, the unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors until the next general election.

Section 4. Five members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The outgoing President will serve one year as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board to ensure a smooth transition.

Section 6. This organization is a volunteer organization. No member, officer or director shall receive any monetary compensation for their services. The Board of Directors may approve reimbursement for necessary and reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

Section 7. This is a non-profit organization, and all proceeds from its operations shall be assigned to the general fund for use in organization projects, unless otherwise specified by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings and shall serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 2. The Vice President shall assist the President and perform the duties of the President in case of his absence or disability.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall have the custody of the organization's funds, shall keep full and accurate records of receipts and disbursements belonging to the organization and shall deposit all funds in the name and to the credit of

the organization at such depositories as shall be designated by the Board of Directors. Checks covering all disbursements shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other officer. For disbursements over \$500, the Treasurer must have permission from a quorum of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall make a report of all financial transactions at each Board meeting, each regular meeting, and each Annual Meeting. An annual audit shall be conducted by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors, with the results being reported at the Annual Meeting.

Section 5. The Secretary shall attend all sessions of the Board and all meetings of the members and record all votes of the organization and the minutes of all transactions in a book to be kept for that purpose. The Secretary shall give or cause to be given notice of all meetings and perform other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or the President. The Secretary shall keep in safe custody the corporate seal of the organization and, when authorized by the Board, affix the same to any instrument requiring it. The Secretary shall handle all correspondence for the organization as required.

Section 6. The Board of Directors shall have general control of the property and affairs of the organization, shall fix dates of meetings, shall appoint chairmen of standing committees, and shall appoint other offices and committees as from time to time may be needed.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Any person interested in the objectives of this organization is eligible for membership.

Section 2. The annual dues for all classes of membership shall be set by the Board of Directors and approved by the general membership of the organization at the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. There shall be six classes of membership, defined as follows:

- Individual
- Husband and Wife
- Youth between age 12 and 18
- Children under 12
- Honorary (granted in unusual circumstances as recommended by the Board of Directors)
- Corporate Sponsorship – categorized as Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Section 4. Child membership shall include all the privileges of regular membership except the right to vote at meetings or to hold an office.

Section 5. Annual dues are due and payable at the Annual Meeting for the fiscal year which shall run from July 1 through June 30. Members who have not paid their dues by October 15 shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section 1. The time and place of the Annual Meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Notice of the meeting will be provided to all members at least 30 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Dates for regular meetings shall be established by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Ten members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at regular meetings.

Section 5. Roberts Rules of Order shall be used to cover areas not covered in the By-Laws.

Section 6. Only Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society, Turkeyfoot Lending Library or Confluence Tourism meetings shall be held in the Society's building.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees of the organization may be standing or ad hoc, and the Board of Directors shall appoint all committees. Standing committees shall consist of a minimum of three members. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, appoint additional members of any standing or ad hoc committee.

Section 2. Each standing committee shall report to the Board its recommendations upon all areas of responsibility.

Section 3. The standing committees and their assigned functions shall include but not be limited to the following, and the Chairman of each committee shall be responsible for developing a job description for approval by the Board of Directors.

- (1) Membership Committee: Responsible for developing programs for maintaining and expanding membership and for maintaining the schedule of volunteers working at the Society's building.
- (2) Finance Committee – Responsible for developing and reviewing fiscal procedures and an annual budget with the Board of Directors. Responsible for developing means of raising funds and applying for grants. The Treasurer shall be a member of this committee.
- (3) Curator Committee – Responsible for collecting, cataloging, care, repair and storage of items collected, and shall report any additions to the collection at each meeting and shall prepare a written report for the Annual Meeting.
- (4) Historical Research Committee – Responsible for developing answers to questions received concerning genealogy or the history of our area, conducting historical research projects, and preparing articles for the Society's newsletter.
- (5) Advertising Committee – Responsible for public relations through all media to publicize activities of the Society.
- (6) Program Committee – Responsible for arranging programs that educate and entertain the Society's members and the general public.
- (7) Property Committee – Responsible for cleaning and general maintenance of the Society's building.
- (8) Scholarship Committee – Responsible for working with Joe Harned, the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies and any additional foundations to generate scholarships for Turkeyfoot Valley Area High School students or graduates.
- (9) Social Committee – Responsible for furnishing refreshments for meetings and special events, as requested.
- (10) Gift Shop Committee – Responsible for maintaining inventory of gift shop.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of members present, provided the amendment has been submitted to the members at the previous meeting.

ARTICLE IX – DISSOLUTION

This organization may be dissolved by the consent in writing of not less than two-thirds of its members. After payment of all debts and liabilities and the return, whenever possible, of all articles held on loan, the property of the organization shall be turned over to another historical society.

These By-Laws, as shown with Amendments 1 through 8 being incorporated within, were approved and adopted at a meeting of the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society on June 19, 2014.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

At our last director's meeting we did some brainstorming and came up with the following ideas for 2015...

- Fundraising – TICKET RAFFLE – We'd like donations to add to a raffle ticket or a donation idea you can help us acquire. (Please see Josh Sechler with ideas or donations)
- COLLECTIBLES SHOW – Remember our Collectibles Shows of a few years ago. We'd like some input as to how you feel about having another. Maybe even with a twist... How about being able to sell or trade your items during the show? Give any of the officers and directors your ideas and comments.
- "SAVE OUR LOCAL HISTORY FESTIVAL" – We'd like to increase the activities during Old Home Days. This would be the perfect time to have it. It could turn into a wonderful fundraiser each year. We are thinking big! No ideas can be too wild. Do some brainstorming and let the officers and directors know your ideas and comments.