



**Turkeyfoot  
Valley  
Historical  
Society**

**PASS IT ON**  
Share our history

Volume 12, Issue 3

3rd Quarter 2013

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

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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](mailto:tfvhs@tfvhs.com).

*P.S. If you haven't paid your  
dues for 2013-2014, this will  
be your last newsletter.*

From my viewpoint. . . .

Pastor Ron's editorial will be back with our next newsletter. In the meantime, enjoy what's left of your summer and come visit us at Pumpkinfest.



**PUMPKINFEST -  
OPERATION No BAKE**

Many times we've heard people say  
I would rather give a "dollar" than bake today  
So we have a plan that's bound to be a success  
You are invited to NOT bake a cake, pie, cookies, or brownies.  
You do NOT have to find the recipe.  
You do NOT have to shop for the ingredients.  
You do NOT have to mix.  
You do NOT have to cook.  
You do NOT have to cut.  
You do NOT have to wrap.  
You do NOT have to wash dishes.  
You do NOT have to clean up your kitchen.  
You do NOT have to deliver the baked product.  
You do NOT have to stand in the heat/cold/rain to sell the baked product.

Join Operation No Bake, and keep your kitchen spotless. Just send or drop off to the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society the money it would take to bake a dozen brownies or a homemade cake, or send in the money it takes to buy a box of cookies or a sweet apple pie. You'll save time, that's for sure... but more importantly, you'll help us keep history alive.

**New Members**

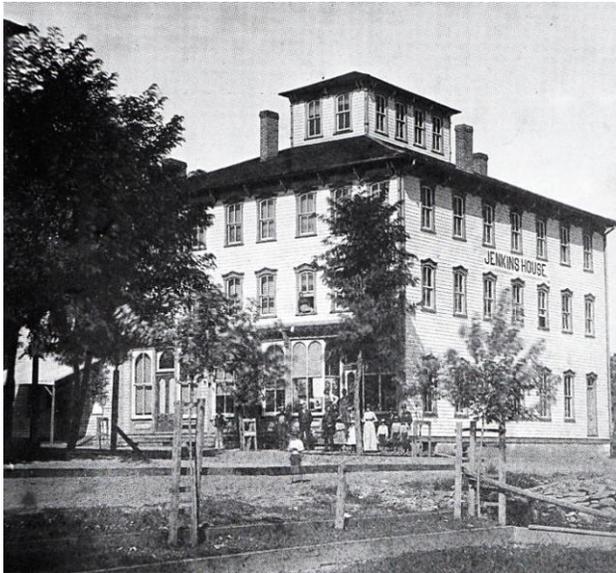
Carl Brinkley – Markleysburg  
Ray and Brenda Burow – Confluence  
Jim and Linda Johns – Confluence  
Karen Mara - Pittsburgh  
James and Kathleen Merlino – Delmont, PA  
Sarah and Buck Newman – Lake St. Louis, MO  
William and Susan Pepper - Canonsburg  
Luann Price – Holsopple, PA  
Julia Thomas – Farmington, PA  
Wanda Hall Truitt – Mechanicsville, VA

**Donations**

Cigarette holder belonging to Cecil Benning - Grace Sheeley  
World War II blanket of Warren Shipley's – Grace Sheeley  
Hand-made meat tenderizer and a Confluence Centennial plate and cup –  
Grace Sheeley  
1919 Somerset Democrat newspaper – Mona Tissue  
Photographs of Confluence and newspaper clippings – Collene Reeves



The town of Ursina circa 1860-1870. Photo was taken from the Daily American Somerset County History and was submitted by Erma (Jenkins) Glass.



The Jenkins House Hotel, circa 1885, located in Ursina. Photo was taken from the Daily American Somerset County History and was submitted by Erma (Jenkins) Glass.

**Letters, We Get Letters**

Shirley Ringer Overturf of Willoughby, Ohio, sent us the following information:

“I cried when I looked at the photo of the River School and saw all the dear faces. My 93-year-old cousin, Ferne Tressler of Rockwood, said the school was located near the Wass farm, where my cousin’s wife, Goldie Wass, still lives. Her dad, Wade Ringer, went to the school. He was born 1899 – the youngest son of John Ringer. I am the daughter of Sophia Ringer, niece of Myrtle Fortney, Clara Ringer, and my mother’s twin, Harry Ringer. They are all in the picture.”

**The Gobbler – 1964**

Charter members of the National Honor Society were Connie Bryner, Ann Geyer, Sarah Coughenour, Candise Guthrie, Beverly Koontz, Wayne Woods and Linda Tressler.

The Valedictorian was Sarah Coughenour, who planned on enrolling at the University of Missouri to major in journalism. The Salutatorian was Candise Guthrie, and she was awarded a scholarship at West Virginia University to study library science. Harvey Reckner, Jr., was the senior class President.



Do you remember the cannon in the park? (Photo donated by Collene Reeves)



Memorial Day in Confluence – Unknown Year. Throwing flowers in the river as a memorial to soldiers. (Photo donated by Collene Reeves)

**Sterner Memorial Window  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Confluence, PA  
Dedicated April 17, 1904**

The new Lutheran church is progressing very rapidly and the decorations on the interior are nearly completed. The memorial windows have been received and placed in position. The style of workmanship, artistic designs and also the memories they commemorate deserves more than a passing notice. On the south side is a beautiful window in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sterner, contributed by their daughter, Mrs. Mollie Hammill. This window is beautifully ornamented and has a life-size picture of Martin Luther.

Next to this window is one in memory of the late John Reiber and wife who, besides being pioneers here, were among the founders of the original Lutheran church here. This window was donated by their children, William Reiber, Mrs. Jedi Show and Mrs. Jacob C. Show. On the other side is one presented by Mrs. Elizabeth Scott in memory of her husband, the late W. L. Scott. On the north side is a beautiful window contributed by the family of Israel Welfley and represents the "Good Shepherd" and is in memory of Elizabeth and Decatur Welfley. The next one is in memory of the late Dr. A. J. Welfley, contributed by his friends in Confluence.

On the west end of the church near the front vestibule are three fine windows, the first is in memory of Catharine Augustine, of Addison, contributed by Mary Thomas of the same place, who is a sister of the deceased. The next is in memory of Jacob and Hester Humbert, former well known residents and members of the original. The late Jacob Humbert died in 1871, and Mrs. Humbert in 1889. This memorial was contributed by their children, A. R. Humbert and Mrs. Harriet Hanson. The next is in memory of the late Alexander Read, formerly of Lonaconing, MD, and was erected by his children who reside near town.

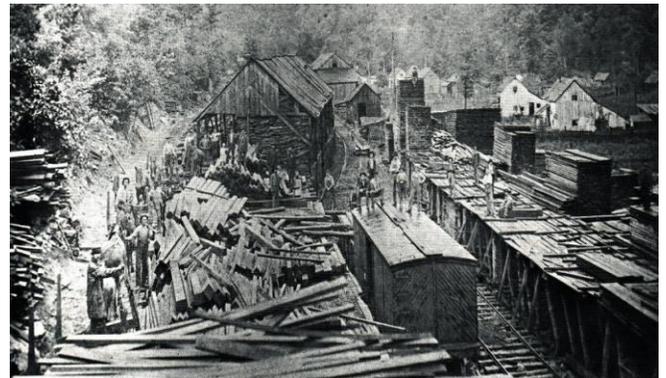
On the left side is one in memory of Sibiani Frantz, contributed by her parents. Another is dedicated to the memory of little Leotta Groff, daughter of Harvey Groff, of Dunbar, presented by the Groff family. These memorial windows give the church a fine appearance and reflect credit upon the donors.

Taken from a newspaper article dated 1904.  
Contributed by Linda Reeves Spoerlein.

**Logging Railroads of the Laurel Highlands**

Have you ever heard of Pinkerton? It was located seven miles northeast of Confluence along the Casselman River. You won't find it on a map today, as it has vanished, as have many other small lumber towns. The Pinkerton Company was organized December 1, 1879, but was closed in 1886 due to various financial problems. The operation changed ownership several times, but local tradition constantly refers to it as the Pinkerton Lumber Company.

In its heyday, Pinkerton consisted of the sawmill, hemlock bark storage sheds, numerous houses for the workers, a school, store and a picnic grove, complete with a homemade horse-drawn merry-go-round. A large two-story log "clubhouse" was erected at the summit of Pinkerton Point, directly over the B&O Railroad tunnel. Edward Alcott of Ursina had a stave mill at Pinkerton. The Pinkerton Company also manufactured a large number of coke slats for the ovens of Fayette County.



An early view of Pinkerton. The center tracks are the B&O railroad siding. The village of Pinkerton forms the background.



Another photo of the Pinkerton Lumber Company.

- Information obtained from "Stemwinders in the Laurel Highlands, 1973 edition

**Remember When?**

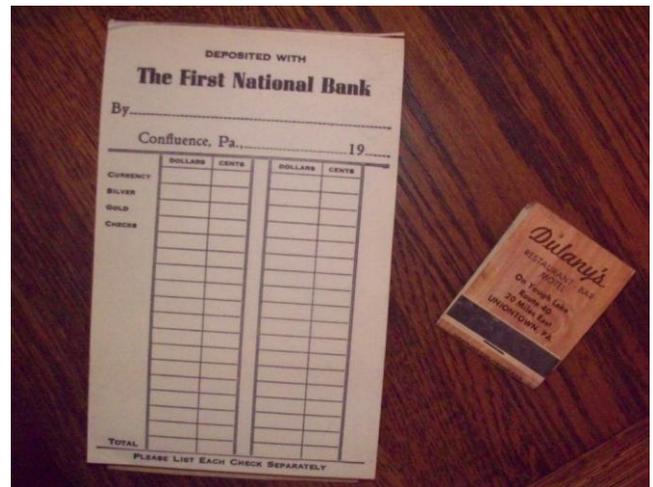
- 1871 First school built in Confluence.
- 1882 Two-story frame building, seating capacity of 200 students, cost about \$2,000, was constructed and used for elementary grades and a two-year high school until 1924.
- 1900 School term was lengthened from six months to seven months.
- 1901 School year was increased to eight months.
- 1908 Confluence was recognized as an approved two-year high school.
- 1917 First Orville Fike Achievement Award given to Louise Augustine.
- 1918 Minerva Baker believed to be the area's first woman principal.
- 1921 First four-year curriculum approved.
- 1922 C.C. Shaffer became principal and introduced football as an extra-curricular activity. He was the first football coach.
- 1923 First four-year class, consisting of six boys and one girl, graduated.
- 1923/24 Confluence High School built, at a cost of \$42,000. It was constructed with buff brick and had nine classrooms, an auditorium, two large halls running lengthwise, four restrooms, a science laboratory, a large furnace room and storage rooms.
- 1924 First class to graduate from the new high school. Commencement exercises held in Sellers Hall on May 22, 1925.
- 1931 School busing began. James Stairs, Sr., transported high school students from Markleysburg and Addison at a cost of \$8 per month per student. High school enrollment was 177 students.
- 1936 First school newspaper, The Spotlight, published by the freshman class.
- 1939 First school yearbook published, with James Davis as editor. The book was dedicated to Faye Rush and cost \$1 per book. First class rings issued, costing \$6 for girls and \$8 for boys.
- 1941 Name of school newspaper changed to The Periscope. Price is 5 cents.
- 1942-47 Newspaper and yearbook were not printed.
- 1946-47 School Patrol organized to protect children crossing the street in front of the school.
- 1947 Newspaper publication resumed under the name of The Gobbler. Third edition of the yearbook, the Turkeyougha, was published. Football was reinstated.
- 1949 Softball and football teams were named the Confluence Blue Jays, and the blue jay became the mascot. Charles Groff was the principal.
- 1954 Joann Whetsell became first Maple Princess.
- 1955 Last class graduated from Confluence High School. The ram was chosen as the new mascot.

- 1956 New high school dedicated. Howard Trexel was supervising principal. Cost of building was \$658,584.
- 1957 Elementary school moved to Confluence High School building.
- 1958 Nancy Hall hired as first woman physical education teacher.
- 1966 Under Supervising Principal Leonard G. Bailey, the elementary school was added to the high school, at a cost of \$864,876.
- 1972 The Rams were Somerset County Football Champions under coach Jimbo Bower.

And, a lot of has happened since 1957. Check out the school website at [www.turkeyfoot.k12.pa.us](http://www.turkeyfoot.k12.pa.us) for more information.

**Turkeyfoot Memorabilia**

You just never know what you're going to find at yard sales. The following items were all discovered this summer.



Deposit slips from The First National Bank of Confluence and a pack of matches from Dulany's Restaurant-Bar-Motel on Yough Lake



Tool and nail bag from Barkley Lumber & Buildings Supply in Listonburg



Memorial Day Parade in Confluence – Unknown year. Kenneth Hall and Harry Kregar are riding Dr. Price’s riding horses. (Photo donated by Collene Reeves)



Memorial Day Parade in Confluence – Unknown year. The woman in white is Louise Smith. (Photo donated by Collene Reeves)

## 2013 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- Sept. 19 – 7:00 p.m.      “Coal Mining Songs of the Northeast” by Jay Smar, PHC Commonwealth Speaker
- October 5 & 6              Pumpkinfest. The Society’s building will be open.
- Nov. 21 – 7:00 p.m.      Abraham Lincoln presentation and Gettysburg Address by Lincoln Impersonator, Ralph Lincoln

### TURKEYFOOT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Individual - \$15.00

\_\_\_\_ Husband & Wife - \$20.00

\_\_\_\_ Youth 12-18 - \$5.00

\_\_\_\_ Child Under 12 – Free

\_\_\_\_ Bronze Corporate - \$50.00

\_\_\_\_ Silver Corporate - \$200.00

\_\_\_\_ Gold Corporate - \$500.00

\_\_\_\_ 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.



## **Pumpkinfest is almost here! October 4, 5, & 6...**

If you can spare some time please help volunteer at the historical building this weekend. We plan to be open Friday, October 4 & Saturday, October 5 from 9am – 2pm and then Sunday, October 6 from 10am – 3pm.

This year, as listed on the front page of this newsletter, we are trying something different. Since there are so many organizations and volunteers who work tirelessly to make Pumpkinfest a success for Confluence we thought we'd start "Operation No Bake" to lessen some of the "to do lists." Instead of baking we asked that you consider a monetary donation. Just stop by and drop your donation off either during Pumpkinfest or drop it in the mail. Please mark it for "Operation No Bake" so we can keep track. This fundraiser is running from now until October 31. Help us make a difference, please consider a donation today!



Just in time for Halloween...

## *Tales From Poe*

*Friday, October 25 @ 7pm.*

*Confluence Creative Arts Center*

Sponsored by Confluence Creative Arts Center & Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society

Remember Steven Anderson from last year's performance of A Christmas Carol? We welcome him back with some great tales of literature. You've heard these stories before... but never like this! Discover the original master of horror and suspense. Experience the madness of "The Tell-Tale Heart," the obsession of "Annabel Lee," the grief of "The Raven," and the tragic life of the author, Edgar Allan Poe. "Tales From Poe" is a one-hour show, mostly performance, with a little bit of history woven in. Don't be surprised if some Civil War ghost stories are also heard. Admission by donation.

### *Four score and seven years ago...*

Join us on **Thursday, November 21 at 7pm** for Lincoln impersonator, Ralph Lincoln. This will be our final program for the year. We have had such a great variety this year. Thanks to all who helped make these presentations a success. We look forward to more next year!

