



**Turkeyfoot
Valley
Historical
Society**

PASS IT ON
Share our history

Volume 12, Issue 4

4th Quarter 2013

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

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**Corporate Sponsors for
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Our condolences go out to the family of Beverly Tannehill, a member of TVHS, who passed away June 30th. Beverly's husband, George, is also a member.

From my viewpoint. . .

A lot of events have happened since our last newsletter. In July, we had Ed Reis from Westinghouse, who shared about some early industrial factory practices. We had our annual picnic in August. September was a singing month as Jay Smar shared coal-mining songs. Some of those stories that he shared were near to where I grew up. Then in November, we had President Lincoln come and share the Gettysburg Address. Actually, Ralph Lincoln, who is a distant relative of the real President Abraham Lincoln, dressed in his outfit and shared the address. Then we had a period of questions and answers, which were very enlightening.

One major problem we've had is that one of our heating units went out. After many phone calls, etc. and with the approval of the Board of Directors, we purchased a new compressor heat pump for a price of \$4,000 with a 10-year guarantee. Our thanks to two organizations that helped with half of the price. If you are in the giving mood this Christmas season, we could use some funds to finish off the purchase. Any amount that you give would be greatly appreciated.

One last event coming up is our Christmas Open House to be held on Thursday, December 19th from 6-8pm. Please bring some of your favorite finger goodies to share with everyone. We will also have a silent auction and ask that you donate some items for the auction. We will not have a meeting in January or February.

Ron Schaeffer

New Members

Zaloma Blubaugh – Confluence
City Business Machines – Uniontown

Donations

- Leslie reunion photograph from 1919 and other photos – Bob Percy
- Two framed photographs of Humbert – Betty Jane Conn
- Valentines, Ralph Hostetler's report card, various paper items – Ruth Parnell
- Casselman Valley Farm milk bottle, Pore's shoehorn, medicine bottles from Drs. Price and Kamons – Vivian Hall Estate
- Turkeyoughas from 1948 to 1951 – Pam Wable
- Boy Scout uniform – Bob Bowser
- Postal scale – Sam and Sandy Everhart
- Baby shoes – Neva Bowlin
- Postcard of Casselman River dated 7/12/11 – Don & Janice Fike

NOTE TO MEMBERS

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



From the collection of Donna Collins, listed in no particular order - Barbara Bowser, Mazie Fisher, Clara Grove and Uncle Earl (last name?)

Who We Are

Do you like statistics? The following information was recently compiled about the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society. On a cold, dark, snowy night – January 9, 2002 – ten inspired people met at the Confluence Community Center to discuss how to organize an historical society for our area. Those people were Virginia Edwards, Marjorie Frantz, Joe Holt, Martha Holt, Louise Koontz, Nancy Koontz, Margaret Minnick, Florence Phillippi, Barbara Tussing and Mona Tissue.

From that humble start, our organization now has 286 members – 89 Individual Members, 67 Husband & Wife Members (134 people), 10 Student Members, 43 Lifetime Members, 2 Honorary Members, 4 Corporate Bronze Members, and 4 Children Under Age 12.

Two Hundred Twenty-four (224) of our members are from Pennsylvania and 14 from Maryland. We also have members from Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Canada. One of our Pennsylvania members is actually living in Wales, but also has a Pennsylvania address.

Letters, We Get Letters

The following letter was received from the family of Eli Chidester: “Thank you so much for publishing the picture of the school children from 1899. My grandfather, Eli Frank Chidester, is the little boy in the front row. His brother, Henry, is also in the picture. My grandfather lived to a good, old age (88) and lived extraordinary life as a child and young man. Special thanks to Tony Crosby for submitting the picture.”

The Prissy Legend

While doing research on the Israel Rhoades Farm graveyard (Rugg Cemetery), Janice Fike used the website <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~treasures/pa/somerset/lowerturkeyfoot/israelrhoadesfarmgyorruggcemetery.htm> and found the following information:

The article is about Priscilla Rugg, wife of Samuel Rugg and states, “It seems she was mentally unbalanced to some extent. Tradition has it that she owned a white horse which she used to ride over the countryside, making visits to the camps of Revolutionary War soldiers, where she spent a considerable amount of time. The road passed the site of the graveyard and came out at the top of the hill at the farm owned by John Garlitts. After her death, “Prissy” continued her rides, and the natives insist that she is still riding the same white horse and making the hills ring as she promised to do before she died.”

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.

Floyd Pullin

Floyd Pullin made the headlines of *USA Today* when he purchased a new Ford F-150 pickup from Thurby's Riverside Ford in August. You might think there's nothing out of the ordinary about that – but then, you might not know that Floyd had just celebrated his 102nd birthday!

Here's what *USA Today* had to say: "Pullin, who looks more spry than most eighty-somethings, has been a Ford customer since the 1920's. This new truck was his 16th new Ford. To celebrate one of its most loyal customers, a party was thrown at Pullin's local dealership, Thurby Riverside Ford, in Confluence, PA. A state senator, Rich Kasunic, came to note the occasion, and Ford workers prepared a video for Pullin to note the occasion. Now, the question is, when will he be back to buy his 17th Ford truck?"

On September 13th, Mr. Pullin was interviewed by Janice and Don Fike of the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society and Neil Bender and Joan Whetsell from the Old Petersburg-Addison Historical Society.

Floyd's special birthday treat was a limousine ride. He has always owned Ford vehicles – his

first was a 1929 Model T. He currently owns a Ford pickup truck.



Floyd was born in 1911, near where he currently lives at the Pennsylvania-Maryland border, off Route 40 near Pig's Ear. He was the youngest of five sons, the other boys being Howard, Wilbur, Carlton and John. Floyd attended school at Unamis – two of his teachers were Olive Cramer and Bertha Lenhart.

Obituary of David Heimbaugh

Floyd remembers the Depression and the hard times. In 1931, he worked at a dairy farm and earned \$25 per month, plus room and board. He purchased his first Ford from Jim Bender for \$30 - \$10 down and \$10 per month.

Floyd met his wife, Elizabeth (Lizzie), at a barn dance. They were married in a minister's home on Negro Mountain in 1934, and they celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary before she passed away in 2009. They have five children – Irma, Ruby, Bertha, Ronald and Mary.

In 1939, Floyd built the house he still lives in today. Sixty years ago, he purchased a "Home Comfort" stove for the kitchen, which is still used for cooking and heating, from a salesman who came to his house with a small "salesman's sample" of the stove. It was delivered to Unamis by train from Confluence.

Floyd owns and operates one of the oldest sawmills around and is currently cutting boards for a building he plans to work on soon. He works outside every day, sometimes from morning to nighttime.

Floyd once traveled to South Carolina to visit one of his daughters – that was his farthest distance he has ever traveled.

Floyd is a self-taught musician. His first musical instrument was a mouth organ. He also plays the piano. If you ever attend Trinity Methodist Church in Listonburg and arrive early, you may hear Floyd playing the piano.

Floyd doesn't have a garden, because there are too many deer near his house. In fact, when Neil Bender stepped outside to take photographs, three deer were standing beside Floyd's truck.

Floyd once had a dog named Maud who hunted foxes, coon and skunk. When asked "What do you want people to remember about you?" he replied, "No special thing."

We hope to have Floyd around for a lot more years. He will be remembered by many people, not only for his longevity, but for the very special person he is.

David Heimbaugh died at the St. Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, on Sunday morning, June 14 (1925), aged 82 years, 1 month and 25 days.

Mr. Heimbaugh was taken sick in January with an infection in one of his great toes which continued to grow worse. He was taken to Baltimore early in the winter and put under the care of the best specialists in that city, but he continued to grow worse until at last it was decided to take him to St. Agnes, where he underwent an operation, his great toe being first amputated, but the infection appeared to pervade the limb from the knee down until on Friday, June 12, the leg was amputated above the knee and he died the Sunday following the operation.

David Heimbaugh was born in Addison Township not far from Markleton, on April 19, 1843. He was a son of Samuel and Rachael Heimbaugh, pioneers of that section of Somerset County.

His mother was Rachel Pinkerton, a daughter of Matthew Pinkerton, who first lived on the Addison side of the Casselman, but later settled on land near Pinkerton Point on the Turkeyfoot side, where he died in the early 40's, leaving a large family. In the settlement of the Pinkerton estate, the land, comprising over 400 acres, became the property of the son-in-law, Samuel Heimbaugh, in right of his wife, Rachel. In 1858, Samuel Heimbaugh sold this place in two parts, one to his son James and the other to his son Jonas, both of whom moved onto their respective portions. In 1873, James, desiring to go west, sold his portion to his brother David, who then moved from the Addison side to the Pinkerton homestead, where he resided until about four years ago, when he moved to Confluence.

David Heimbaugh was married May 17, 1862, to Alive Wheeler of Upper Turkeyfoot, the ceremony being performed by Elder Jacob Hershberger of the Church of the Brethren. Six children were born of this union: William Harvey, now deceased; Emma, wife of Andrew Coughenour of Harnedsville; Hanna, who died in

infancy; Stella, at home; Savanna, wife of Harvey J. Nicholson of Connellsville, and Minnie E., wife of Harvey L. Meese of Baltimore. It was at the home of the latter at which Mr. Heimbaugh stayed while undergoing treatment for several weeks preceding his going to the hospital. Mrs. Alice Heimbaugh, wife of David, died in 1911.

He is survived by 21 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

In addition to farming, Mr. Heimbaugh followed the occupation of lumberman and sawmill operator for nearly 50 years, at which he was also very successful. After retiring from business and farming about four years ago, he purchased a fine home in the south part of Confluence Borough, which he remodeled and spent his declining days very happily in it, with his daughter, Miss Stella Heimbaugh.

Mr. Heimbaugh was a member of the Lutheran Church, an honest, industrious and persevering man. He was a true type of those rugged and industrious men who made Somerset one of the prosperous counties of the State. His long and useful life was not only beneficial to himself and family but also to the community in which he lived.

Notwithstanding his advanced age, he retained all his faculties, both physical and mental, until the last, and up to the time of his last illness, he drove his automobile and was able to be out in all kinds of weather, and enjoyed motoring as much as any man in the prime of life, and was an expert autoist.

Mr. Heimbaugh was of a type of citizenship which, unfortunately, is becoming too rare. He was unassuming, not self-assertive, preferring to live quietly the life of brotherly love and Christian rectitude. He was charitable to a marked degree, and in the days of his full strength, no undertaking involving physical labor was too great for his strength and courage.

The remains were brought from Baltimore to the family home at Confluence on Tuesday morning, June 16, accompanied by the deceased's son-

in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Meese, and their four children.

The funeral services were held at the family home at 10 o'clock on Thursday morning, June 18, Rev. Geo. O. Ritter, assisted by Rev. L. H. Powell, officiating. The choir of the Methodist Episcopal Church sang several fine selections. The remains were then taken to Mount Zion Church, Upper Turkeyfoot Township, where services were also held, the same clergymen officiating. His body was laid to rest in Mount Zion Church cemetery.

Obituary of Ellen Lepley Groff

Mrs. Ellen Lepley Groff, wife of George G. Groff, died at the family home at Confluence, at 5 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, July 15 (1917), after an illness of 4 months. She was aged 69 years, 2 months and 15 days. On the day of her death, she was cheerful and in good spirits. Her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Harvey Groff of Dunbar, was visiting her and before she left, Mrs. Groff told her to look out and not miss her train, and none of the family could see any difference in her condition. Before another half hour had passed, she was stricken and her spirit passed to the Great Beyond.

Mrs. Groff was born in Southampton Township, near Wellersburg, May 10, 1848. She was the youngest daughter of the late Daniel and Elizabeth Lepley, being one of a family of nine children, two brothers and seven sisters. One sister, Mrs. Samuel D. Yutzky of Pocahontas, survives. The deceased brothers and sisters are: Adam C. and Samuel, Louisa Troutman, Nancy Deal, Christena Bittner, Matilda Wilhelm and Dianna Light.

On October 10, 1867, she married George G. Groff. To this union were born six children, all of whom and the husband and father survive, this being the first break in the family. The surviving children are: Augustus T., Calvin L., Harvey W., Asa F., Minnie, and Edward E. Groff, at home. She is also survived by 23 grandchildren.

The funeral services were held at the family residence on Tuesday evening, Rev. H. C. Summers, officiating.

Obituary of Edward E. Groff

Edward E. Groff, aged 33 years, died at the home of his father, George G. Groff, at Confluence, Pa., on Thursday, August 9 (1917). He had been sick for several months of rheumatism and other ailments. His mother, Ellen Lepley Groff, preceded him to the grave by one month.

He was born at Confluence where he spent all his life. Since leaving school, he had been employed in the general store of G. G. Groff & Son. He was a young man well liked and had a large circle of friends. He was a member of the Lutheran Church and of Confluence Lodge, No. 814, I.O.O.F.

He was single and always resided at home, being the youngest member of his family. Besides his father, he is survived by the following brothers: Augustus T., Calvin L., Asa Frank, of Confluence and Harvey of Dunbar, and one sister, Mrs. J. T. Fox of Conshohocken, Pa.

The funeral services were held at 8 o'clock Saturday evening at the family home. In the absence of his pastor, Rev. H. C. Summers, Rev. Petria of Lavansville, a former pastor, officiated. The remains were interred in Union Cemetery, Meyersdale, on Sunday forenoon. Confluence Lodge, No. 814, attended the services at the house on Saturday evening, and over 30 of the members, in regalia, escorted the remains from the house to the B & O Station on Sunday morning.

Obituary of Olive Kretchman Groff

Mrs. Olive Kretchman Groff, 74, of Confluence, died Wednesday morning at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown.

Born in Somerset County on March 21, 1879, she lived in Confluence her entire life and was a lifetime member of the Lutheran Church there.

Her husband, Asa F. Groff, died only last Thursday at the age of 79 years.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Mary E. Martin of Pittsburgh, and Mrs. Dora L. Brown of

Confluence; one son, Ned K. Groff of Washington, D.C., seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two sisters, Mrs. Pearl Wolford of Seward and Mrs. Bess Howell of Confluence.

The body is at the Black Funeral Home, Confluence, where the service will be conducted at 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon in charge of Rev. Alden J. Allen. Burial will be made in Addison Cemetery.



Jay Smar, a PHC Commonwealth speaker attended our September meeting and performed coal mining songs of the Northeast.

Obituary of William F. Critchfield

William Fletcher Critchfield, a veteran of the Civil War, died on Monday, February 20, 1928, at the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. B. F. Cunningham, from the infirmities of age, he being at the time of his death aged 88 years, 7 months and 16 days.

Fletcher Critchfield, as he was familiarly known, was born on a farm in Henry Clay Township, Fayette County, near what is now known as Flanigan Station on the C & O branch of the B & O R.R., on July 4, 1839. In his young manhood, he married Isabella Butler, who survives. To this marriage were born ten children; of these, two died in infancy and one, a son, died when he was 21 years old.

The seven surviving children are: John Critchfield, Braddock; Prof. Charles B. Critchfield, Principal of the Union High School at Knoxville, Pa.; Frank Critchfield, Boyer, Pa.; Robert Critchfield, Monessen; Mrs. Alexander Reid, Mrs. Luther Show and Mrs. Fred T. Wilhelm, Confluence. He is also survived by 30 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He is the last of a large family to pass away, all of his brothers and sisters having preceded him to the grave.

He was a veteran of the Civil War and was all of his life a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and an earnest worker in both church and Sunday school, and a consistent Christian.

Funeral services were held in the Methodist Episcopal Church of Confluence on Wednesday, February 22, Rev. L. H. Powell officiating. Interment in Johnson Chapel Cemetery. Undertaker C. B. Humbert had charge of the funeral arrangements.



Ralph Lincoln was the speaker at our November meeting. He recited the "Gettysburg Address" and answered questions about Abraham Lincoln from the audience.

Obituary of Elizabeth Davis

Miss Elizabeth Davis, a pioneer settler of Confluence, who was born in Milford Township, near new Centerville, died in the Dr. Frantz Hospital on Tuesday, May 8th, after an illness of

several months, suffering from the infirmities of age. Miss Davis moved with her parents, the late John and Margaret Brallier Davis, from Milford Township to a farm in Lower Turkeyfoot Township, near Harnedsville, where her father died in later years. After her father's death, she assisted her mother in operating the farm for five years, then moving to Confluence, she opened a millinery store, which at that time was one of the leading millinery stores in the County.

She conducted this business until a telephone line was put into Confluence, when she was placed in charge of the local exchange, where she continued until a consolidation of companies necessitated larger quarters for the phone company, and she declined to hold her position any longer.

She then retired and lived a quiet life up until the latter part of December, when she was stricken with poor health, which confined her to her bedroom for eight weeks. She was slowly regaining her strength in February and would have soon been able to be around again, when, while walking in her bedroom, the strength suddenly left her right leg and she fell, breaking her leg between the knee and hip. She was taken to the Dr. Frantz Hospital, where she spent eleven weeks, before she passed away.

Elizabeth Davis was a woman of more than ordinary intelligence and was very ambitious. She had a congenial disposition; she was always ready to help the needy in times of distress, and she will be missed greatly in the community. She was a sincere Christian, and a life-long member of the Lutheran Church at Ursina, later moving her membership to the Trinity Lutheran Church at Confluence.

Surviving are two sisters, Miss Jennie Davis and Miss Nora Davis, both of Confluence. She was a sister of the late A. C. Davis of Somerset and the late J. B. Davis of Ursina, both well known and respected citizens of their community.

Funeral services were held at the late home on Oden Street on Thursday at 2:30 p.m., Rev. George O. Ritter, pastor of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Confluence officiating. Interment was in the Ursina Cemetery. Charles Humbert was the funeral director in charge.



Christmas Gathering

Thursday, December 19, 2013

6pm—8pm

Turkeyfoot Valley Historical building

Join the holiday festivities! Come and celebrate the season. We look forward to a very merry evening with music, fellowship, refreshments.

Please bring a plate of your favorite finger goodies to share with everyone.

Also, we will have a silent auction. We ask you to donate an item to be sold at the auction and remember to bring some money along to bid on the auction items. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa at 814-395-3511. We will need the donated items dropped off before 6pm. Hope to see you there!



Silent Auction Instructions: Each donated item will be numbered and the bid paper will also have a corresponding number to match each item. Items may begin with a minimum bid and have specific increase amounts. Persons wanting to bid may do so by writing their name, telephone number and amount of bid on the bid sheet. The silent auction will run from 6pm until 7:30pm. For winning bidders, payment is due at end of auction. All sales are final.