



**Turkeyfoot
Valley
Historical
Society**

PASS IT ON
Share our history

Volume 14, Issue 3

3rd Quarter 2015

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

Just a Reminder . . .

Our fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th. Your membership dues for the year 7/1/15 through 6/30/16 are now due and payable.

Also, don't forget that our meetings are now held the **third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.**

None of us got to where we are alone. Whether the assistance we received was obvious or subtle there were people who helped along the way. One of those people, Mona Tissue, is moving from the area. Mona has been an officer or director in the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society since its inception and has spent many volunteer hours helping us and other organizations in our community.

Our lives have been enriched by your friendship and your kindness is sincerely appreciated. We would like to say *'thank you'* for everything you have done for the historical society and the community. You truly are a blessing and will be missed.

Congratulations – Winners of the Historical Society Raffle

1st Prize - \$250 – Donna Norseen

2nd Prize - \$100 – Joe Harned

3rd Prize - \$50 – Mr. & Mrs. Brad Smith

Winners were drawn at the Society's Annual Picnic on July 20th. We would like to thank everyone who participated.

Our condolences go out to the families of two of our members –
Carl Burow and Carol Collins.



FAIR OAK
PUBLIC SCHOOL

District No. 7

Lower Turkeyfoot Twp.,
Somerset Co., Pa.

A. W. SAYLOR, Teacher

Pupils

Grade 1

Clyde Smith	Herbert Lingenfield
Fred Hyatt	Chas. Morrison
James Morrison	William Thomas
Grace Wilttrout	Hattie Smith

Grade 2

Dewey Hyatt	Harry Kreager
Joseph Wilttrout	Ruth Kreager
	Sadie Thomas

Grade 3

James Hyatt	Hudson Burgess
Ralph Smith	Maggie Whaley
Mary Lingenfield	Angie Hyatt
	Margaret Murray

Grade 4

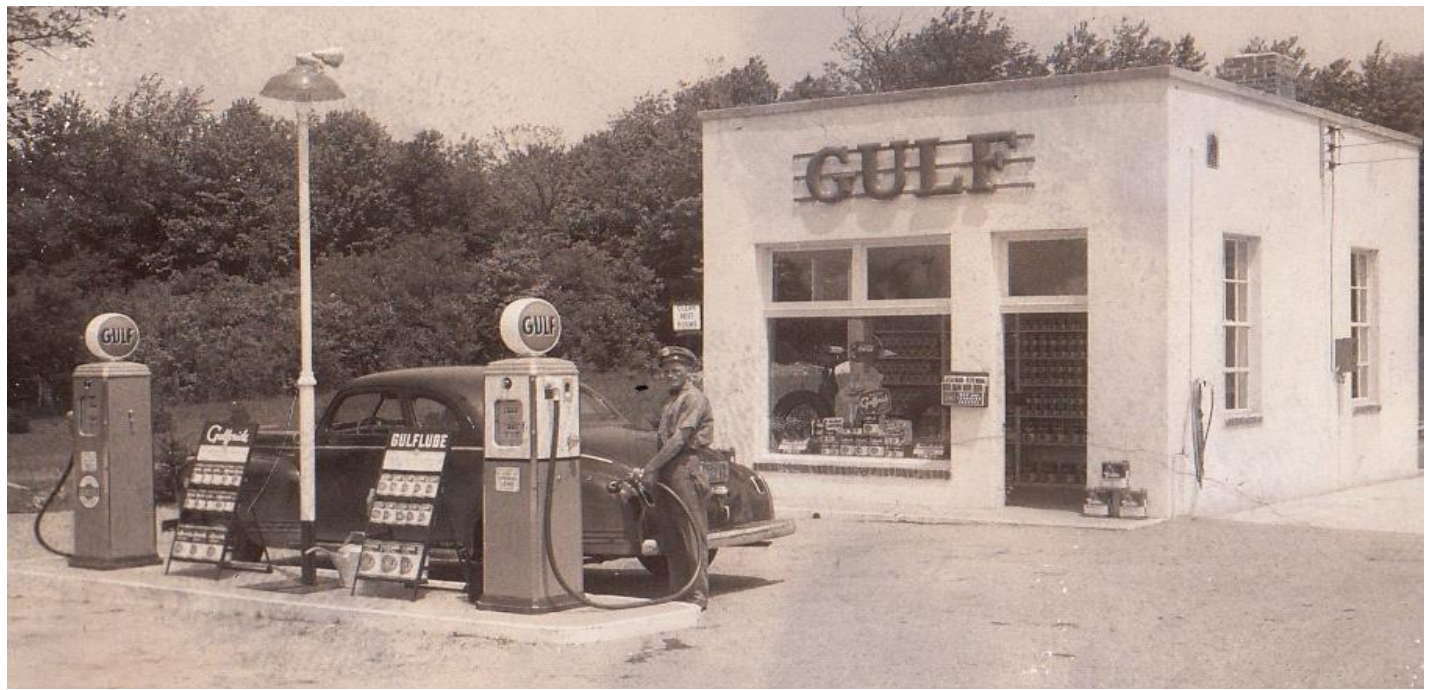
Joseph Hyatt	Susie Hyatt
	Minnie Wilttrout

Grade 5

William Rush	Charles Lingenfield
George Hyatt	Edwin Murray
Rebecca Lingenfield	Emma Whaley
Lilly Whaley	Fern Murray
	Bertha Wilttrout

School Board

James Colborn,	President
Elmer King,	Secretary
George Colborn,	Treasurer
John Haytt	George Gullar
	Judson Amos



Nicklow's Service Station, Addison, PA (Photo courtesy of June & Park Nicklow Estates)

New Members

Jay and Jody Best, Confluence
Scout Best, Confluence
Addie Best, Confluence
Garnet Peters-Dennis, Farmington
James & Christine Richey, Johnstown

Chris Stoner, Markleton
Rodney & Beverly Barkley, Wadsworth, OH
Lloyd R. Gower, Armada, MI
Lloyd Gower, Kalkaska, MI



Donations

- Wooden desk from the Monterrey Restaurant – Jeff and Danni Conn
- Nail pouch from Confluence Lumber Company, Evelyn Blubaugh certificate of perfect attendance (1925), Gobblers, yearbooks, report cards and other papers, Eugene Keslar dogtags, – Evelyn and Clarence Keslar Estate
- Victrola and '78 RPM records, copies of the Somerset Herald from 1889 with stories about the Nicely Brothers trial, WWII pictorial history, vintage umbrella, Confluence Centennial pennants – Mona Tissue
- R. W. Lenhart Navy uniform – on loan from Ginny Halverson
- Yeagley Steam Bottle Works bottle, yearbooks – Vicky Whaley
- Oden Street postcard – Pam and Brett Tressler
- Kennedy assassination information – Lori Walker Geiger
- History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton County dated 1884 – Sam McClintock
- 1939 Bible in pictures once owned by Noah Wilburn of Somerfield – Mike Thomas
- 1906 Fair Oak Public School program (see below) – Vicki Reynolds Brown
- Confluence baseball uniform – Shirley and Glenn Wass
- Confluence and Turkeyfoot high school reunion booklets (1991–2013) and commencement programs (1933–1955) – Shirley and Glenn Wass
- Photocopies of pictures of Listonburg and Winding Ridge Station owned by E. R. Lenhart (see below) – Donna Collins
- Photograph of the Confluence high school football team (unknown year) – Shirley and Glenn Wass
- Confluence Christian Church plate (1892-2002) - Fern Ringer Tressler estate
- Photo of the 1921 Heinbaugh reunion and another photo of the Heinbaugh family - Linda Spoerlein
- Unamis Lithia Water bottle dated 2/2/1893 – Bob Burow
- 1973 parade and the newspaper clippings – unknown donor

2015 H.C. "Joe" Harned Scholarships

Pastor Ron Schaeffer presented two scholarships at the Turkeyfoot Valley High School graduation on June 7th. A committee consisting of members of the society and two school teachers sat down one afternoon to review the five applications. All five students were deserving of the scholarship. After much consideration, the committee chose the following graduates to each receive a \$5,000 scholarship: Shelby Conn and Taylor King-Nicholson. Both of these students gave some volunteer time to help the society this past year.

We congratulate the students on this award. The scholarships are provided by H. C. "Joe" Harned, who established these scholarships several years ago to benefit Turkeyfoot graduates. Mr. Harned feels that contributing to education is all about potential and that when he invests in education, he is investing in the potential of our city and nation. The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies administers the funds for disbursement through the Historical Society.



50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Z. I. Tannehill of Draketown, Lower Turkeyfoot township, Somerset county, Pa., celebrated at their residence the Fiftieth Anniversary of their marriage on Sunday, March 3rd, 1907, and were represented by their children, grandchildren, great-grand children and other near relatives who presented them with quite a number of valuable and useful gifts, after which all present repaired to the dining room and partook of a bountiful repast prepared for the occasion. The children present were Mr. and Mrs. Eleyan Conn and sons William and Harry, Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Tannehill and sons Willis and Palmer and daughter Hester, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Witt and son Donald and daughter Pearl of Wheeler, Fayette county, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Tannehill and son Carl of Confluence, G. N. Tannehill of home, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Willingham of McKees Rocks and daughter Margaret, other near relatives were Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Case of Fort Hill, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Tannehill, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Yowler and daughter of South Connellsville, Bruce Hyatt of Harnedsville, and others present were J. K. Johnson,

L. S. Thomas and wife, Mrs. Phoebe Ann Younkin and daughter Edna, Alexander Roomsburg and son Calvin, Nolan Kimmell, Mrs. Ernest Cunningham and Grant Tissue the Photographer of Confluence who took a group picture of all present and also a family group, after which they enjoyed themselves with music by a string band and conversation until a late hour.

The gathering contained a representation of the Tannehill families of six generations from the time of the emigration of James Tannehill, the great-great-grandfather, from Scotland to America during the reign of Mary, the Queen of Scots. Z. I. Tannehill, son of Zakariah and Mary A. Tannehill, born the 14th day of April, 1834, aged 72 years, and Susan Hinebaugh, daughter of George Hinebaugh of Addison township, Somerset county, was born May the 22nd, 1838, aged 68 years, were married by Alexander Hanna Esq. March 31st 1857.

- From the Turkeyfoot News, March 7, 1907

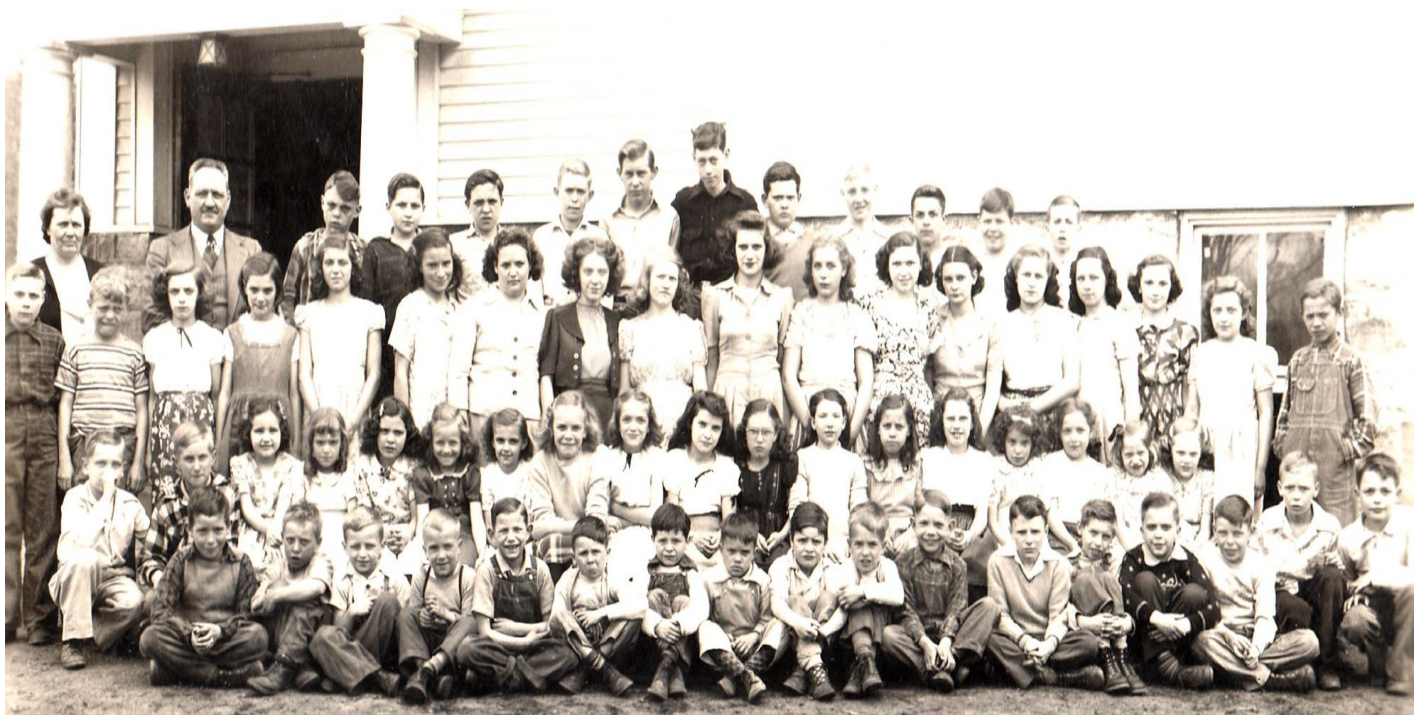
History Buff Kept Westinghouse's Memory Alive

One of our favorite speakers at the Turkeyfoot Historical Society passed away on June 17th – following is an excerpt from his obituary in the Tribune-Review:

More than 300 times, Ed Reis sported gray muttonchops, a top hat and other formal attire to bring inventor and entrepreneur George Westinghouse to life. Mr. Reis began nearly each of his character pieces with a variation of the greeting, "It's like a miracle for me to be here tonight. I passed away in 1914." "When he did the character, tell you a fact or crack a joke, he'd look at your sideways and give you a half smile and twinkle in his eye just to see if you got it," said Andy Masich, president and CEO of the Senator John Heinz History Center.

Edward J. Reis of Baldwin Borough died June 17, 2015, in Allegheny General Hospital from complications after bypass surgery. He was 76. Mr. Reis was a Westinghouse employee for 25 years and a board member with the Westinghouse Museum Foundation and executive director of the George Westinghouse Museum, which merged with the history center in 2007. He collected Westinghouse memorabilia and conducted oral history interviews with members of the Westinghouse family and retired Westinghouse employees.





Listonburg School, Grades 1 through 8, 1947-1948:

Front Row: Leroy Heston, _____, Tome Leydig, Tom Lichty, Glenn Butler, Eddie Burow, Richard Schartiger, Floyd Platter, Bert Enos, Dale Lichty, Alvie Butler, Max Eisentrout, Stanley Hoover, David Diehl, Bob Burow, Harold Thomas, Bobby Platter.

Second Row: Blaine Pullin, Ervin Graham, Fonda Tissue, Kay Thomas, Minnie Enos, Joan Leydig, Ruth Colflesh, Ruth Montague, Bonnie Lichty, Nelda Phillippi, Donna Fisher, Etta Pearl Nichols, Leona Butler, Marlene Frazee, Virginia Platter, Mary Rugg, Freda Butler, Nancy Zimmerman.

Third Row: _____, Bob Lenhart, Agnes Wable, Shirley Wable, Delores Thomas, Lucy Enos, Gay Wilhelm, Edna Mae Pullin, Alverda Ringler, Margaret Wable, Phyllis Leydig, Marilyn Cramer, Valda Graham, Imogene Nesmone, Norma Nicklow, Hilda Holliday, Verna Rugg, Jack Butler.

Fourth Row: Viola Cuppett, Jim Wilkins, Tom Lenhart, Aaron Rugg, Junior Smith, Carl Bender, Arnold Hoover, Robert (Buck) Jones, Earl Wilkins, Parley Deal, Roy Lichty, Jr., Bill Frazee, Bob Bender. (Photo courtesy of James O. Wilkins Estate. Names of students provided by Ervin Graham and Kay (Thomas) Koontz.



C. E. Yeagley and his Kentucky Bluegrass driving horse, Bob, standing at 454 Latrobe Avenue in Confluence (circa 1900)



Back: Charles and Alverda Yeagley, Unknown
Front: Wendell Yeagley



Harvey Tishue, Harry Hostetler and Charles Yeagley
(Three photos from the Yeagley collection)

Hot Air Balloons & How They Relate To Confluence

On November 21, 1783, the first free flight carrying a human occurred in Paris, France. It was in a hot air balloon made of paper and silk made by the Montgolfier brothers. The balloon carried two men, who stood on a circular platform attached to the bottom of the balloon. The fire was hand-fed through openings on either side of the balloon's skirt. The balloon reached an altitude of at least 500 feet and traveled about 5½ miles before landing safely 25 minutes later.

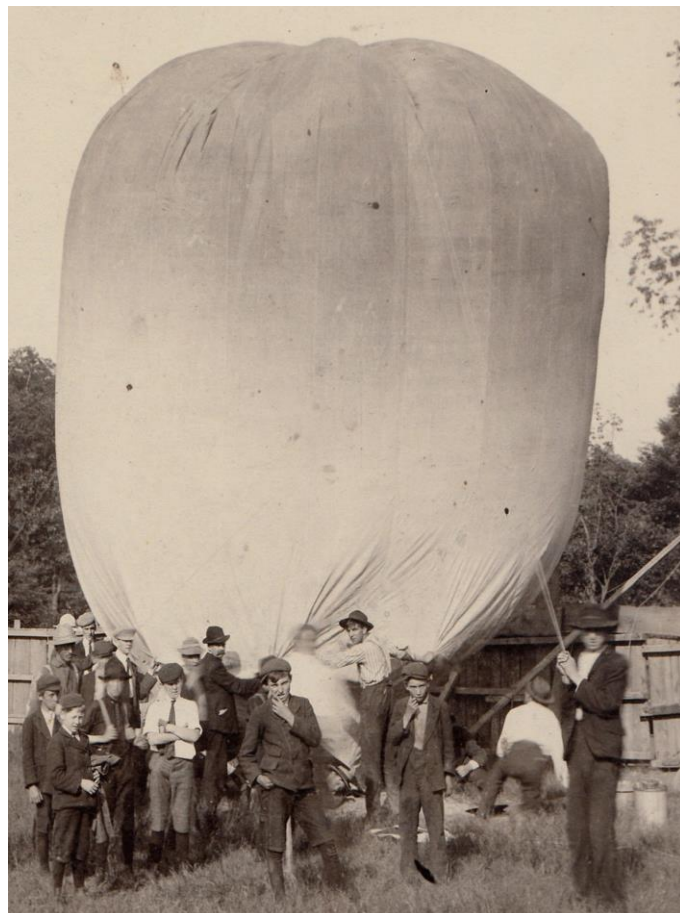
Gas balloons continued to be the primary mode of air travel until the invention of the powered and controlled airplane by the Wright brothers in America in 1903.

During the Civil War, many ballooning "firsts" were established. For example, in 1861 Confederate artillery, under E. P. Alexander, fired on a Union balloon and thus became the first anti-aircraft battery. Union Chief Aeronaut Thaddeus Lowe built the first mobile hydrogen gas generators (above) so that he could fill his balloons anywhere he needed to.

During World War I, hot air balloons were deployed extensively along the Western Front in particular. Winched into the air, seldom alone, they were usually accompanied by one or two others for comparative observation purposes. Observation readings were passed down via the use of flags or occasionally by radio, and balloon operators would generally remain in the air for hours at a spell. It was regarded as a dangerous job, for although observation balloons were invariably heavily protected by anti-aircraft and machine gun fire and by wire meshes dangled between groups of balloons, they were often the irresistible stationary target of enemy aircraft. In 1978, the Double Eagle II became the first balloon to cross the Atlantic, another major benchmark in the history of ballooning. The first Pacific crossing was achieved 3 years later in 1981.

According to Chuck Yeagley, balloon flights were a big part of the Independence Day celebrations in Confluence. The photos below were taken on July 4, 1898, when Charles E. Yeagley was tied to a trapeze-type seat underneath the balloon. He then made an ascent to an unknown height

(estimates ranging from a few thousand feet to well over a mile, to out of sight). At the top of his ascent, he cut the ropes holding him to the seat and parachuted back to the ground. The first picture is before the ascension; the second picture is after landing. Obviously, a happy moment!



(Photos from the Yeagley Collection)



Early 1930's Confluence Baseball Team – Front Row: Bud Hall (Batboy), Cricket Sands (Pitcher), “Fat” Kreger (Catcher), Dick Bower (Short Stop). Second Row: “Squirley Havner (Pitcher), George Groff (Right Field), Charles Mitchell (Left Field), Charles Groff (Center Field), Bill Gross (First Base). Third Row: “Smut” Smith (Outfield), Ralph VanSickel (Manager), Carl Chidester (Second Base), Dade Kurtz (Asst. Manager), Merle Prince (First Base), George Roberts (Outfield, Catcher).

Letters. . . We Get Letters. . .

The Society recently received the following letters:

- From Barry Hayman of Genesee, PA – Great to see photos of familiar teachers in the previous newsletter. Just ended a 35-year teaching career, and George Groff was a role model. I was reminded of how many high-quality educators we were fortunate enough to have had.
- From Naomi Mattingly Compton of Newark, OH – My fourth great-grandparents, Captain Oliver Drake (1744-1809) and Frances Skinner Drake. (Captain Oliver Drake of New Jersey founded Draketown, PA). My third great-grandparents were David Drake (1774-1867) of Draketown and St. Albans Twp., OH, and Mary Melick Drake.

My second-great-grandparents were Osmer Curtiss Drake and Lucinda Siler Drake of St. Albans Twp. My great-grandparents were Leroy Pratt Drake and Mary Purvis Drake of St. Albans Twp. And my grandparents were Sarah Maud Drake Spohn and Ferdinand Spohn of St. Albans Twp. Please accept the enclosed donation in honor of my ancestors.

We would like to thank Barry and Naomi for writing to us.

TURKEYFOOT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – 7/1/15 to 6/30/16

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.



Annual Picnic – July 20, 2015

Farewell

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the editor of "Pass It On" since its inception in 2002 and also to serve as either an Officer or Director since that time. I've seen the Society grow from a group of 10 dedicated individuals to a membership of almost 300 people. I'm proud of the work we've accomplished, and I look forward to seeing how the Society will continue to grow in the coming years.

But now it's time for me to say "farewell". I'm moving to Tennessee to be closer to my family, and this will be my last newsletter. I will definitely miss everyone and will be thinking about you all a lot. Many thanks to Lisa, Kurt, Josh, Peggy, Pastor Schaeffer and everyone else who works so hard to keep this organization going. Keep up the good work.

Lots of love and best wishes – Mona Tissue

T. R. EDGAR, Confluence, Pa.
Practical Wagonmaker and Repairer.

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W. G. TISSUE,
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