



**Turkeyfoot
Valley
Historical
Society**

PASS IT ON
Share our history

Volume 12, Issue 1

1st Quarter 2013

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

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From my viewpoint. . .

Welcome to another edition of the TVHS "Pass It On." It has been a slow couple of months. We had a nice time at our Christmas open house. Thanks to all who provided food for the evening and to Nellie for providing Christmas music.

We did not have a meeting in January due to weather. In fact, our Board of Directors voted that we would not have January or February meetings in the future.

With the winter months come high electric bills and our account balance usually runs low. Thus, I am appealing to our members if you have a little extra, please consider giving a donation to the society. I will set the example by being the first to give a donation.

Also, we desire to start getting the upstairs renovated, but before we can begin we need the electric entrance up-dated. We do have a category fund set aside for this if anyone feels led to contribute to this.

One last note, Josh Sechler has scheduled some interesting programs coming up starting in April so plan on attending these meetings.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Ron Schaeffer
President

New Members

William & Emily Degenhardt - Addison

Carol Collins - Somerset

Charles & Laura Groff - Confluence

Rick Greathouse - Clendenin, WV

Keith Russell - Addison

Thomas Russell - Addison

Kira Nixon - Fort Hill

Donations

- Late 1800's washing machine formerly owned by Eunice Kemp's mother - Grace Sheeley
- CD/DVD of movies taken by Irvin Fortney - Tony Crosby
- Western Maryland Railroad mile marker sign - Bill Holliday
- Arrowhead collection - Joe Harned
- Small bottle of Oil of Wintergreen from Mountain's Pharmacy - Tom Beggs
- Tin box holding slides of the Centennial Parade of 1973 & other parades - Tom Beggs

WILL CELEBRATE 65 YEARS OF MATRIMONY

On February 12, 1861, Miss Delilah Reiber, 18 years old and the daughter of John and Mary Reiber of Confluence, Pa., was married to Morgan Burnworth, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Burnworth of near Confluence, Rev. Tressler of Fayette City solemnizing the marriage in the Reiber home. Forty-five years later, the bride and groom of the sixties were present at the marriage of their son, Lawrence Burnworth, and Miss Amy Loughrey, which was solemnized in the parsonage of the Methodist Episcopal Church in West Newton. Tomorrow, both Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Burnworth and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Burnworth will celebrate wedding anniversaries which will mark a total of 65 years of matrimony, but owing to the fact that both Grandmother Burnworth and her little granddaughter, Dorothy Isabel Burnworth, have been ill, neither family will celebrate.

Following their wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Burnworth went to housekeeping on their farm near Confluence, where they lived until 1900, when they moved to Uniontown. Thirteen children came to bless their home and of these, seven are living, four of whom are residents of Uniontown. They are Hiram, Rev. John C., Mrs. C. J. Weller, Miss Cora, Mrs. O. D. Farr, R.P. and Lawrence. There are just 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild living, the latter being Richard Weller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Weller.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Burnworth went to housekeeping in Pittsburgh but soon returned to Uniontown, where they have made a home ever since. Of their three children, two daughters, Esther May and Dorothy Isabel, are living, but their son, Edward G., is deceased.



Joshua Sculley, a teacher of geography and history at A.J. McMullin school, spoke about aspects of the French and Indian War at our November 2012 meeting.



On February 12th, Cub Scout Tigers – Conner Weimer, Ryle Weimer and Montgomery Hilliard – were given a tour of the Historical Society by Mona Tissue.

Confluence Chat – Death of “Jack” Hawke

John Hawke, formerly policeman at Confluence, Hyndman, Berlin and Rockwood, died Saturday morning at 10:30 o'clock following a heart attack. He had been in good health and was cleaning a porch when death overtook him. He was aged 77 years and six months. His death was a shock to every person in this place. He had been walking around town as usual the day before his death and had a smile and pleasant word for every person he met.

John Hawke, familiarly known as “Jack”, was born in Cornwall, England, in April, 1849, and came to this country when very young. He was married to Miss Louise Crabbe, who, with one daughter, Mrs. Louis J. Constance, survives him; two children preceded him to the grave. He is also survived by one grandson and one brother, James Hawke, of Pittsburgh.

He was for many years constable of Confluence Borough and policeman. He served for a number of years as policeman at Rockwood, Berlin and other towns in Somerset and adjoining counties. He was a man of sterling qualities of head and heart, being reliable, honest and faithful and was highly respected in every community in which he served. He was a member of the Confluence Baptist Church and Confluence Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 Tuesday forenoon at the family home, Rev. W. H. Barnes and Rev. L. H. Powell officiating. The funeral was well attended. The pall-bearers were M. E. Goller, Fred Marquart, W. H. Hanna, L. J. Holliday, G. A. Frantz and Grant Pyle. Interment in Addison cemetery. Undertaker C. B. Humbert had charge of the funeral arrangements.



Christine Sechler spoke about Civil War nursing and the history of nursing at our October 2012 meeting.

Southern Somerset County's Most Destructive Flood Friday, October 15, 1954

What started out to be a normal day with a light rainfall, soon developed into a catastrophe which claimed five lives, left many people homeless and caused hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage. This is the story of how Hurricane Hazel from the east met a moisture-laden low-pressure area from the west and caused many tragedies still remembered today.

Locally, Roy (Patty) Barkley, 44, lost his life in the swollen waters of Whites Creek, near Listonburg, where he lived, while trying to aid a stranded mother and her children.

Part of a small foot bridge over Whites Creek at Dumas had been swept away and Barkley began laying planks across the gap so they could cross to their home. As the temporary structure was completed, the portion of the bridge on which he was standing gave way, hurling him into the swirling waters.

Barkley's body was later found some distance down stream. Barkley was well known in the Turkeyfoot valley, having worked hard to build a thriving lumber business in that area (Barkley Lumber Company).

On touring southern Somerset County on Saturday, it was not an uncommon sight to see highway road blocks with signs saying "bridge out". Such was the case along Route 53 north of Ursina and Confluence where the road to Fort Hill was blocked and so marked. Although the heavy steel and concrete bridge itself over the Casselman River at historic Fort Hill withstood the roaring fury of the flood waters, it was made impassable about 8:00 p.m. on Friday. Fed by dozens of small tributaries and hundreds of smaller mountain rivulets, the Casselman gushed right over top of the structure.

The western approach to the bridge was completely gutted and left only sufficient room for one person to walk along the bridge. The eastern approach, which makes a sharp turn as it rises upward, was also badly damaged and undermined by the flood waters. Area residents indicated that had the rains continued for another hour or two, the Fort Hill bridge also would have become a casualty in the county's worst flood.

Not only were highways damaged, but washouts along the B&O and Western Maryland railroads, which flank the Casselman River, delayed trains more than 24 hours.

Perhaps the hardest hit community in all of southern Somerset County was Confluence. Riverside Motor Sales (formerly Confluence Ford Sales) had seven feet of water in its showroom and parts and repair rooms. The large plate glass windows were smashed like thin sheets of paper. Truckloads of supplies were washed away, never to be seen again.

For Ward Newman and Donald Kaufman, young partners in the auto business, the disaster was a serious blow and caused an unestimated amount of damage. Most Confluence residents indicated that the U.S. Flood Control dam on the Youghiogheny River prevented the community from virtually being swept away by the savage flood waters. Some folks ventured a guess that if the gates at the dam had not been closed early in the day, the flood waters would have crested seven feet higher than they did in the business section of the community. No estimate of the amount of damage in Confluence is available, since most all residents were hit in one way or another.



Picture of Riverside Ford after the flood.

Although damage to Friend's Shoe Store in Confluence was heavy, with muck, mud, rubbish, shanties, and debris scattered everywhere, most people joined together in good spirits as they tackled a seemingly impossible job.

In Confluence, practically the entire community was under water at one time. The Casselman River broke over its banks beyond the high school building at the south end of town. As the muddy waters swirled through streets of the town, people realized that turbulent waters from the Laurel Hill Creek on the north would soon have the community blocked off from the rest of the world.

The Confluence Joint High School suffered considerable damage to band and orchestra instruments as well as other equipment and furnishings when the building's basement became filled with water. As in all other communities, Confluence firemen stayed on the job, pumping cellars and helping clean up.

Casselman River burst its banks above Confluence school house, cutting a new course over the town as it journeyed over to Laurel Hill Creek, leaving homes isolated by two feet of water. Cellars of business places were flooded by the fast-rising torrent as proprietors fought against time to save stock and refrigeration equipment.

On Route 53 from Confluence to Listonburg, an enlarged Whites Creek undermined the concrete roadbed at one point 20 feet across, requiring workmen to wave down traffic and edge cars over the opening on one side. As Whites Creek came rushing down Negro Mountain, it knocked out small river bridges above Listonburg, washing away entrances to others.

A hillside farmer in the area reported waist-high water in his front yard Friday evening from a small tributary to Whites Creek. All this drain-off rushed downstream to build up the swollen Casselman at Confluence.

Washouts on the B&O Railroad near Confluence held up transportation for a full day with trains being re-routed through Grafton, W.Va. Friday evening's mail train sat unmoved until late Saturday afternoon.

Friday, October 15, 1954, was a day long to be remembered and the tales of heroism and woe will be told for many years to come.

-- Taken from a book published by the Meyersdale Republican dated November 20, 1954

Gallant Civil War Veteran and Honored Citizen of Confluence Answers Last Roll Call

Hiram Frantz, one of the grand old men of Confluence, died at his home on Oden Street at 10:30 o'clock on Saturday morning, March 28, at the age of 77 years, 1 month and 14 days. He had been sick since January 6 and, while he suffered no physical pain, his health kept declining until the end came.

Hiram Frantz, son of Jonathan Frantz, and a veteran of the Civil War, was born in Garrett County, Md., near what the Cove, on Feb. 14, 1848. The family moved to Addison in 1856 and he enlisted in the United States Military service February 10, 1864, as corporal in the 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry, under Capt. Thomas Greet, to serve three years. He served under Gen. Phil Sheridan in the following battles: Kilpatrick's Raid, Virginia; Battle of the Wilderness; Spotsylvania Court House, Hanover, Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek. His company was posted for duty at the end of the war at Clarksburg, W. Va., where it was discharged and mustered out of the service on October 31, 1865.

After his return from military service, he married Miss Martha Welfley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Israel Welfley, who, with two sons and two daughters, survives him. One child died in infancy many years ago. The surviving children are Mrs. Harvey B. Tissue, Dr. C. W. Frantz, Mrs. Earl R. Beggs and Robert J. Frantz. He also left seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild and two sisters, Mrs. R. J. Kinter, Braddock, and Mrs. L. Brackenmyer, St. Louis, Mo.

After his marriage, he lived 46 years on his farm in the south part of the borough, now owned by his son, Dr. C. W. Frantz. On which the Casselman Dairy is located. He retired from farming a number of years ago and moved to his comfortable home on Oden Street, Confluence, in which he died.

Mr. Frantz, both before and after moving from his farm, was one of the most prominent citizens of the town and was a progressive citizen in every sense. He held a number of positions of trust in the town. He was for many years Street commissioner and served many terms as school director under the old code when the term was three years, and one full term of six years

from December 4, 1911 to December, 1917. He was continuously since 1911 a director of the First National Bank of Confluence and held the position at the time of his death.

He was a member of the Lutheran Church for many years and a member of Ross Rush Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and was post commander since the death of Dr. Mountain. He was a devoted husband and father, a sincere Christian and a loyal citizen and patriot.

Funeral services were held at the home on Monday evening, March 30, Rev. Geo. O. Ritter officiating. Interment in Addison cemetery on Tuesday morning. The American Legion furnished a firing squad of 14 men.

Death of Mrs. George H. Mickey

Mrs. Cordie Ellen Mickey, wife of George H. Mickey, was found dead in her bed at her home on Williams Street, Confluence, on Saturday morning, December 18th. She was aged 60 years and 5 months. Her death was due to heart failure.

Mrs. Mickey was born at Casselman, Somerset County, Pa., July 18, 1866. Her family name was Yowler. After her marriage to George H. Mickey, they moved to Connellsville, where they lived until 1912, when Mr. Mickey, who has been employed on the B & O Railroad, was made conductor on the Confluence & Oakland branch, and the family moved to Confluence and purchased a home on Williams Street.

Mrs. Mickey was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Sunday School and the auxiliary societies of the church. She was also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Order of Railroad Conductors of Connellsville and of the Lady Maccabees of Confluence. During her residence here she made many friends and was respected by all for her sterling character.

She is survived by her husband and nine children, namely, Mrs. Earle Hall, Mrs. Ray Hunter, Mrs. Ray Knight and Mrs. Jacob Younkin, Confluence; Mrs. Ira Whipkey, Mrs. Clark King and Mrs. W. G. Watson, Connellsville; Mrs. John Shanks, Somerset, and Clyde Mickey, Connellsville. Four children died in infancy. She leaves 27 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and three sisters – Mrs. Charles Pritts of Gray, Pa., and Mrs. Philip Nedrow and Mrs. Milton Rugg of Casselman, Pa.

Funeral services were held at 10 o'clock Monday morning in the Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. L. H. Powell officiating. The Ladies Auxiliary to the Order of Railroad Conductors of Connellsville and the Lady Maccabees of Confluence turned out in a body. The funeral was well attended. The pall-bearers were the

eight sons-in-laws of the deceased, Ray Knight, Ray Hunter, Earle Hall, Ira Whipkey, Albert Watson, Jacob Younkin, John Shanks and Clark King.

The Turkeyfoot News

The following information was taken from "History of Bedford and Somerset Counties", which was published in 1906: The initial number of *The Turkeyfoot News* appeared April 6, 1906. Its publishers are Beggs Bros. & Co. and the home of the paper is the town of Confluence. In its makeup, it presents a neat and attractive appearance. It is a fair local newspaper, and its publication is to the end of furthering the interests of its home town and the Turkeyfoot region generally. Politically it is classed as a Republican newspaper.

-- Submitted by Margaret Minnick

The following ad was found in the March 23, 1933, edition of The Meyersdale Republican:

ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF OUR
New Feed and Farm Supply Store
Cold Storage Building.

We will have on hand a full line of Feeds, Nails, Fertilizers, Seeds, Agricultural Lime, Lime for Spraying, Wire Fencing, Roofing, and other farm needs.

We will accept in payment live poultry, eggs, veal, pork in season, potatoes and all kinds of farm produce.

J. B. WATSON
CONFLUENCE, PENN'A.

Killed in Trying to Save Others

Elisha A. Hall, a section hand in the employ of the Western Maryland Railroad, was struck by a passenger train while in the discharge of his duty at Indian Creek on Tuesday, November 25, 1913, and killed.

At the time of the accident, he was wheeling dirt across the track when an extra passenger train westbound rounded a curve without whistling or other warning. Hall got the wheelbarrow off the track and hurried back to remove a plank when the train struck him. He could have saved himself, but his one thought was to prevent disaster to the train which might have been wrecked by the plank laid across the track. Thus, he lost his life while trying to save the lives of others. He was killed almost instantly as he breathed his last soon after being struck.

His body was carried to Connellsville on the same train, where it was prepared by undertaker Mitchell for

burial. Mr. Hall was a member of the lodge of Odd Fellows of Ohio, who attended his funeral in a body at Johnson Chapel, Thursday at 2 o'clock p.m.

Rev. G. W. Ringer of Ohio, also a brother Odd Fellow, conducted the funeral services.

Elisha A. Hall, son of Samuel A. and Mary A. Morrison Hall, was born near Ohio August 8, 1865. He was united in marriage August 8, 1889, to Miss Zella Glover, daughter of M. Van B. and Rhoda Burnworth Glover of Beaver Valley. He was a very fine blacksmith but owing to the loss of two fingers from catarrh of the hand, he had not been able for some months to work at his trade, but worked on the section of the Western Maryland Railroad instead.

He was a member of the M. E. Church of Ohio. Mr. Hall did not only believe in right living but lived right. He was an exceptionally kind husband and father. Besides his widow, he leaves to mourn his loss the following children: Harold H., clerk, Confluence; Leah K., teacher near Farmington, Pa.; Doris M. and Earle T. of Morgantown, W. Va.; Bertha R., Wilma E., Mary E., Rhoda H., Margaret T., at home; also the following brothers and sisters: Joseph of Sugar Loaf; Plummer of Belle Grove; George W., Star City, W. Va., Mrs. Frank Ridgway, Morgantown, W. Va.; Mrs. Geo. Eckman, Fayette City, Pa.; Josiah and Thos. L., of Winona, Ill.

The funeral was one of the largest held at Johnson Chapel, although the day was very wet and disagreeable. The deceased was a brother-in-law of Mrs. A. C. Eicher of Fort Hill.

Confluence News from March 25, 1948

A winter project of the Confluence Volunteer Fire Company has been the organization of a drum and bugle corps of 25 boys between the ages of 10 and 15. The group meets in the fire hall Tuesday and Wednesday evenings under the direction of Joseph R. Edwards and Walter Bower.

Easter worship services: The Lutheran church, under the leadership of Rev. J. V. Guss, Pastor, will hold Good Friday services from 2 to 3 p.m. Rev. S. A. Whitaker, pastor of the Baptist church, will hold morning worship services at 9:30, with special music by the young people. The Methodist church, Rev. W. Costick, pastor, will hold a Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m., led by the young people of the church.

The Reflector

Several issues of The Reflector have been discovered and made available to the Society. The Reflector was a monthly publication issued by the Journalism Club of

the Confluence High School, and its initial issue was printed February 1, 1933.

Volume One, Number One notes: The "Name the Paper" Contest sponsored by the Journalism Club between Jan. 10 - Jan. 20 was not much of a success. The purpose of the contest was to find an attractive and suitable name for the initial publication of a newspaper in the High School, but of all the names suggested, none seemed to please the club members.

So, due to a lack of a name with which to christen our publication, we asked for suggestions. And we were fortunate enough to have the name "The Reflector" suggested by Helen Beggs, one of the alumnae. Since we found the name both significant and attractive, it was adopted.

And we do want the name to be significant. It is not only to reflect the opinions and accounts of happenings as seen by the staff, but it is to reflect you – the student body of the Confluence High School.

The following local companies advertised in the newspaper: Ringer Oil Company, Irvin M. Fortney (expert watch and clock repairing), Ferrell's Barber Shop (located in the First National Bank Building), Charles B. Humbert (furniture and rugs), Wills Service Station, Lawrance Kurtz (insurance), Liberty Theatre, C. M. Bower (shoes for the entire family), Blacks' Home Service Store (the best of everything for less), The First National Bank, R. J. Frantz (paints, oils, varnishes), Hotel Dodds, Mountain's Pharmacy, The Orville Fike Insurance Agency, Meyers Motor Company, Confluence Builders Supply, The American Stores (D.M. Funk, Manager, Confluence), Mabel B. Howard (beautician), J. B. Watson (Allegheny Tableland Products - market or trade your farm products).



On March 26th, Confluence Cub Scout Pack 155 and friends were given a tour of the Historical Society. Front row: Trevor VanSickle, Emily Conn, Autumn McClintock, Jesse Culp and Rianna Culp. Back row: Danny Conn and Robbie Tusky.



Political Advertisement

A Man of Proven Ability . . .

DWANE E. RINGER

Highly Qualified
By Training and Experience

. . . FOR . . .

County Commissioner

No. 11 On The Ballot

- Now serving as County Commissioner by appointment.
- A former town councilman and school director.
- A progressive community worker and builder.
- A veteran of World War II.
- A successful business man in his own business.
- A man who will conduct the county's business from the standpoint of a business man's viewpoint, for the best interests of all citizens, and at the least expense to the taxpayers.

Work For and Vote For DWANE E. RINGER

Republican Primary, Tuesday, May 21, 1963



Members of the Confluence High School football team of 1928 are, front row from left: George Groff, Tommy Holt, Alvin Trimpey, "Itchy" Redrick, Charles Mitchell, "Finn" McKee, Frank Funk, Charles Groff and David Woods. Second row from left are: McMillan, Green, Lyndon Robinson, Sherman Emerick, Tommy Parker, Earle J. Sechler, George

Kreger, Ned Groff, Homer Rederick and Tommy Lenhart. Back row, from left are: C.C. Shaffer, coach; Roger Boor, equipment manager; and William Fritz, assistant coach. Photo and information submitted by Ned Groff and Everett Sechler.

2013 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

April 18 – 7:00 p.m.	“History of the Clark Candy Company” by Joshua Scully
May 16 – 7:00 p.m.	Presentation by Kurt Miller
June 28 – 7:00 p.m.	John Haigh, Chief Steward of Air Force One
July 18 – 7:00 p.m.	“Westinghouse – Early Industrial Factory Practices” by Ed Reis, Of the Heinz History Center
August	Picnic and Silent Auction (date and time to be announced)
September 19 – 7:00 p.m.	“Coal Mining Songs of the Northeast” by PHC Commonwealth Speaker, Jay Smar
October	Pumpkinfest
November 21 – 7:00 p.m.	Abraham Lincoln presentation and Gettysburg Address by Lincoln Impersonator, Ralph Lincoln



This is a picture of the River School in 1899, provided to us by Tony Crosby. If you have any information regarding the location of this school, please let us know.

Front row: Mabel Wagner, Ray Havner, Florene Wagner, Henry Chidester, Melissa Fortney, Harry Ringer, Harold Hall, Nora Fortney, Eli Chidester. Middle row: Myrtle Havner, Myrtle Fortney, Pearl Havner, Clarence Fortney, Lee Wagner, Arthur Wagner, Preston Fortney (w/ slate), Harry Burnworth, teacher. Back row: Clara Ringer, Mary Bowlen, Mida Hall, Pearl Reiber, Mary Hall, Mayme Havner, Sophia Ringer, Ernest Fortney.