



**Turkeyfoot  
Valley  
Historical  
Society**

**PASS IT ON**  
Share our history

**Volume 12, Issue 2  
2nd Quarter 2013**

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

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From my viewpoint. . .

It's that time again. As time goes by, history is being made. It's being made around the world, in our country, in our state, and even in our small communities. Our historical society has made history – where else can you attend a program and not pay a fee and get free candy? Maybe I need to explain that for those who have not been at our recent meetings.

When Joshua Scully came and shared about the Clark Candy Company, it brought back memories of eating those candy bars as a kid and only paying 5 cents for them. At the end of the program we had free samples of the candy bar.

In May, Kurt Miller shared a video of an interview with his grandmother, Vivian Hall. Here again, I learned new historical facts about her and our community, and we were treated to free candy at the end of the program.

Now we look forward to our summer program. Old Home Days will soon be here. At 7 PM, Friday, June 28, we will be having John Haigh, former Chief Steward of Air Force One, speaking to the society. Then on Saturday we will be selling hot dogs and having a yard sale and bake sale starting at 9 AM.

One last word, we are still in need of donations. So when you renew your membership, why not add an extra donation. I want to say "thank you" to those who have already donated to the historical society in whatever means possible.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Ron Schaeffer

**New Members**

Kira Nixon – Fort Hill, PA  
Acasia Lytle - Confluence

**Donations**

History of Bedford, Somerset and Fulton Counties, dated 1884 – Sam McClintock (on loan)  
Photograph of 1957 Harnedsville Cub Scout Troop – Sam McClintock  
Postcard of Main Street, Harnedsville, circa 1900 – Sam McClintock  
Valentines and a 1939 newspaper about Abraham Lincoln – Sam McClintock

**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).**

### An Interview with Edna Criss

As I enter the homely setting I approach an older woman sitting in her favorite chair. There are flowers and cakes strewn throughout her living room and kitchen as she is opening the many letters she has received that day. It is this woman's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday, and there are many people sending her their birthday wishes. Edna is surprised to see me as I ask if she would be willing to talk to me about herself and her many years on this earth. She tells me that she doesn't know where to begin so I ask her to start with her childhood.

Edna Criss was born in 1916 and raised alongside nine other brothers and sisters. She grew up on a homely farm in Mill Run. She did not have many of the simple things that we usually take for granted in today's world. Edna grew up in a place with no electricity, no bathroom, and no grocery stores or supermarkets. Edna and her family had to grow their own food and didn't even go to a doctor - her doctor was her mother. This speaks to the independency of people in that time.

Edna told me that she didn't know what money was at the time because they never used it. Everything they had, they made by hand or traded with others. "Everything was done the hard way," she told me, and even the toys she played with were made by her or family members. She and her friends usually swam in the creek in Mill Run at a favorite spot of theirs.

Edna had to walk two miles each day to a one-room schoolhouse. It didn't matter whether it was raining or snowing, they would still go. "The weather isn't like it used to be", remarked Edna, telling me of torrential rainstorms and massive amounts of snow that would completely change the landscape. She told me that she never went to high school, probably because she would have had over a five mile walk just to get there. Growing up, one of Edna's activities was attending plays at the school or socials at the church. Communities were a lot closer during this time. She told me that if people needed help, there was always someone willing to pitch in and help one another, which isn't typically seen today.

While only 15 years old, her house burnt down alongside her grandparents house nearby and were both eventually rebuilt in 1960. In 1936, she married her husband Clark and they moved to Addison in the 1940's. When they first moved to Addison, their house wasn't much, so they spent years remodeling and fixing it up.

One of Edna's passions and hobbies throughout the years is gardening and working outside. She would mow the yard herself and maintained a beautiful garden for years and wishes that she were able to go out and maintain it like she used to. She and her husband also ran a small shop in Mill Run for several years. Edna told me that it was a good business and that she met many wonderful people throughout the time they started it until they left it in 1974. Her husband died in 1986 and she maintained the rebuilt farm for ten years after his death.



When asked for advice for today's generation, Edna told me a quote that her mother told her. "Hard work doesn't kill anybody", was that quote and I believe that it holds true no matter what happens. She told me that she's worked hard her whole life and was always happy with how things turned out.

Edna truly is an inspiration and is full of so many wonderful stories about herself and her life that they could fill a book. She received Addison's Citizen of the Year award in 2012 and I believe that she really does deserve it. I thoroughly enjoyed speaking with Edna and this is only a small fragment of this amazing woman's life. If you ever get the chance to, I highly recommend that you talk with her, whether it's for a couple minutes or several hours, because she is bursting to the seams with stories and advice that are best heard when she tells them herself.

- Submitted by Keith Russell

### Confluence Man Got Fatal Shock

Confluence, June 3, 1925. While at work for the Public Utility Corporation near Dumas, about four miles from here, at 4 o'clock last Thursday afternoon, Amos J. Previere, a well-known resident of this place, was electrocuted and two fellow workmen, Howard Keefer and Joseph Wilson, had their hands badly burned. The men were employed in extending the power lines of the Utility corporation from Confluence to Listonburg, Addison, Somerfield and into Garrett County, Md.

Mr. Previere was foreman of the gang that was stringing wires. There was already a wire on the brackets that was charged with 22,000 volts of the electric fluid, and a loose wire was hanging from the bracket. A wire that Mr. Previere and his assistants were putting on a bracket five feet under the live wire rebounded and struck the loose end of the charged wire, causing circuit through the men's bodies. Mr. Previere received the full force of the shock. His two assistants received lighter shocks. Mr. Previere was instantly killed.

His remains were taken to C. B. Humbert's mortuary rooms, and Coroner H. S. Kimmell was sent for, and on Friday morning impaneled a jury consisting of Dr. J. H. Colflesh, C. R. McMillan, Ralph Glover, L. L. Mountain, Frank Whaley and L. J. Holiday. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that Amos J. Previere came to his death, while in the employ of the Penn Public Utility Corporation, by a wire which he was handling rebounding and striking a highly charged wire, carrying a current of 22,000 volts. The jury also recommended that in future, all loose wires be secured so as to eliminate all danger of similar accidents.

After the inquest, the remains were taken to the family home on Sterner Street, where the body reposed until the funeral at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

Amos J. Previere was born at Ursina on May 14, 1879. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Previere. Both of his parents preceded him to the grave. On November 21, 1900, he married Miss Dillie Cover of Friendsville, Md., who survives him, as do also two sons and one daughter. Another child died in infancy. The surviving children are Kenneth C., Frank R and Olivet Iona Previere. He is also survived by two brothers, Ben F. Previere on Pittsburgh and Frank Previere of Ursina, and one sister, Minnie, wife of Frank Yost of Wheeling, W. Va.; one half-sister, Mrs. Charles Weisel, Cleveland, Ohio, and one half-brother, Sherman Huston of Indian Head, Pa.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Previere lived at Friendsville and Ursina until 15 years ago when they moved to Confluence. Mr. Previere worked for the State Highway Department and later for the Borough of Confluence and also for the B & O Railroad Co., and

last for the Penn Public Utility Corporation. He was a member of the Christian Church and of Confluence Lodge of the Odd Fellows. He was a man of good, progressive ideas and of good executive ability in his occupation. He was a devoted husband and father and a good citizen.

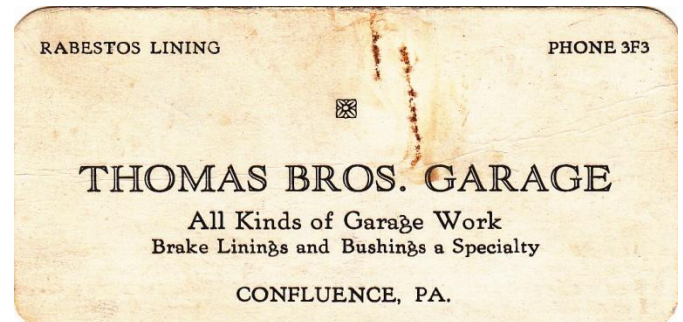
The funeral took place at the Christian Church at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, Rev. Crowe of the Christian Church, Somerset, officiating; interment in the Ursina cemetery. Confluence Lodge of Odd Fellows to the number of 50, or over, followed the remains to their last resting place. The floral tributes were beautiful. The Ku Klux Klan held services at his grave at 9:30 in the night.

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The following items were donated by Herb Phelps:



Thomas Bros. Garage



### Psalm of the Ford

The Ford is my car. I shall not want for another. It maketh me lie down in wet places. It soileth my clothes. It leadeth me into deep debts. It leadeth me into paths of ridicule for its namesake. It prepareth a breakdown for me in the presence of mine enemies. Yea, tho I run through valleys, I am towed up hill. I fear great evil when it is with me. Its rods and engine discomfort me. It anointeth my face with oil, its tank runneth empty. Surely to goodness if this thing follows me all the days of my life, I shall dwell in the house of the insane forever. AMEN.



Old Timers picnic held in Ringer's Grove, August 15, 1939. Do you know anyone in this photo?

The following photos were donated by Tom Beggs and were taken during the Centennial celebration in 1973. The slides, and a CD of the slides, are kept on file at the Historical Society.



KKennedy's Store – former location of Black's Department Store.



The Confluence Jail – now the location of the Confluence Community Center.



Clover Farm Store and Liberty Theater, now the location of Diamond Produce and Liberty Beauty Salon

## 2013 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

June 28 – 7:00 p.m.	John Haigh, Chief Steward of Air Force One
June 29	Old Home Days – Bake Sale, Flea Market and Hot Dog Sale at the Society's building, starting at 9:00 a.m.
July 18 – 7:00 p.m.	"Westinghouse – Early Industrial Factory Practices" by Ed Reis, of the Heinz History Center
August 18 – 4pm	Picnic and Silent Auction
Sept. 19 – 7:00 p.m.	"Coal Mining Songs of the Northeast" by Jay Smar, PHC Commonwealth Speaker
October	Pumpkinfest
Nov. 21 – 7:00 p.m.	Abraham Lincoln presentation and Gettysburg Address by Lincoln Impersonator, Ralph Lincoln

### Hyatt Family History

John Hyatt was one of the early settlers, native of Maryland. He came to the Lower Turkeyfoot area with several others, accompanied by a number of slaves. While crossing the Negro Mountain, a party of Indians fired upon them and mortally wounded one of the Negroes – the strongest man in the company. A piece of hollow log was found and placed over the Negro to shelter him. Throwing it off, he said, "Save yourselves and never mind me. I shall die soon." It is said Negro Mountain took its name from this circumstance.

John Hyatt married Susan Friend, daughter of Capt. Andrew Friend. Their children: John (born in February 1791, died in 1850, married to Mary Skinner), Andrew (1792-1863), Charles (born 1796, married Nancy Tannehill), Jemima (Heinebaugh), Keziah, Sally (Tissue), Diana (married Sylvester Colborn), and Polly (married Jacob Moon).

Of these children, John is buried in the Jersey Church cemetery. He was the father of A. S. Hyatt, who was the school director and auditor of Lower Turkeyfoot Township. In 1880, Draketown Methodist Episcopal Church was built for \$1,100, and A. S. Hyatt was a trustee. Two brothers, John and Charles, patented land in Lower Turkeyfoot Township.

There is a story that a first Hyatt was married to an Indian, daughter of an Indian chief. The daughter warned the Jersey Baptists of an impending attack, and they were able to get into a fort and save themselves, but the chief was killed. Thomas Hyatt is buried in the old Hyatt lot in Jersey, and there is an unmarked grave next to his, which holds a DAR marker. This is the grave of the Indian chief, so this story is probably true.

There is very little to be found on Charles and his family, other than the fact that he had a son named Thomas. Thomas married Susannah \_\_\_\_\_. He died young from a rattlesnake bite. He is also buried in Jersey cemetery. Thomas and Susannah had four or five children – Jesse, Elijah, Samuel and Sarah – and perhaps another daughter.

Thomas died in 1821, and his estate is filed in the Somerset County Court House. Elijah lived in Somerset County and died there. Samuel may have died young. Sarah moved to Ohio and married John Birch. There was a split in the Jersey Baptist Church, and a lot of the members moved to Ohio and started another church. Sarah and John Birch owned 160 acres of land in Licking, Ohio. Other records show that Thomas Hyatt's son, Samuel, married Anna Gordon. They are both buried in Green County, Ohio, where they died without issue.

The census of 1800 lists Charles Hyatt as being over 45, so he was born prior to 1755. It shows a female under 45, which would be his wife. It also shows they had two sons between 10 and 16 and one female between 16 and 26. In 1810, they are both over 45 and had one son between 16 and 26 at home. The same census of 1810 lists Thomas Hyatt and one female – both between the ages of 16 and 26.

(NOTE: This information was provided by the Charles and Dorothea Hyatt estate, from information provided by Mildred Elnora Hyatt Shank.)



#### **Harnedsville Cub Scouts, 1957.**

Kneeling, left to right: Robert (Frannie) Sweitzer, Dave Arrich, Jimmy Johns, Jack Koontz (deceased). Standing, left to right: Duane (Bub) Clark, Dave Holliday, Bill Keslar, Sam McClintock, Denny Charlesworth, Larry Glover, Bill Charlesworth (deceased).

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Norman Ream Young Officer**

First Lt. Norman Bruce Ream, of the 85<sup>th</sup> Pa. Vol. Infantry, was very possibly the youngest commissioner officer in the Union Army who rose from the ranks.

Norman was born November 5, 1844, to Levi and Highley (King) Ream in or near Harnedsville in Lower Turkeyfoot Township. After attending school until he was fourteen, he worked on his father's farm, taught school for one term of four months, and traveled about the country making ambrotypes between terms of the Somerset Normal School, which he attended until 1861.

He enlisted as a private in Co. H., 85<sup>th</sup> Regiment on October 1, 1861, more than a month before his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. When the company was organized at its rendezvous camp, he was appointed a sergeant, from which rank he was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. on February 7, 1863, to rank from Aug. 15, 1862. Promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. was dated from March 14, 1863.

Lt. Ream's service was particularly notable at the Battle of Winston, N.C., December 14, 1862, where he was personally commended on the field by regimental Col. Joshua Howell. He had already taken part in the Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks), May 31 and June 1 of that year.

During the entire campaign in South Carolina, in front of Ft. Wagner and Ft. Sumter, Lt. Ream was on duty with his regiment. He was severely wounded during an expedition to White Marsh Island near Savannah, Ga., on February 22, 1864, and again while commanding a portion of his regiment near Ware Bottom Church near Petersburg, Va., June 17, 1864. He was discharged due to his wounds August 31, 1864.

After returning from the war, he clerked in a Harnedsville store; in 1866 he moved to Princeton, Ill., where he conducted a general mercantile business. His foundation as a highly successful businessman began after he moved to Chicago, where he began trading as a commission merchant in grain and livestock. In 1866, he organized a syndicate which erected the first steel frame building in Chicago, the Rookery. He was one of the promoters in the formation of the National Biscuit Co. and was involved in many other business enterprises in Chicago and New York.

Mr. Ream married Carrie Thompson at Madison, N.Y., on February 17, 1876, and they had six children. As a result of his war wounds, he was forced to undergo a series of critical operations during the summer of 1913; after a year and a half, he was again operated on, from which he did not recover, dying on February 9, 1915. Funeral services were held in New York, and among the pallbearers was Robert Todd Lincoln, eldest and only surviving child of the wartime president.

Did you notice the word "ambrotype" in the above article and wonder "what in the world is an ambrotype?" Well, it's a photograph that creates a positive image on a sheet of glass, using the wet plate collodion process. In the United States, ambrotypes first came into use in the early 1850's.

The wet plate collodion process was invented just a few years before that, but ambrotypes used the plate image as a positive, instead of a negative. In 1854, James Ambrose Cutting of Boston took out several patents relating to the process and may be responsible for coining the term "ambrotype".

The ambrotype was much less expensive to produce than the daguerreotype, and it lacked the daguerreotype's shiny metallic surface, which some found unappealing. By the late 1850s, the ambrotype was overtaking the daguerreotype in popularity; by the mid-1860s, the ambrotype itself was supplanted by the tintype and other processes.



Postcard of Main Street, Harnedsville (donated by Sam McClintock)

### **Death of Beeson S. Shipley**

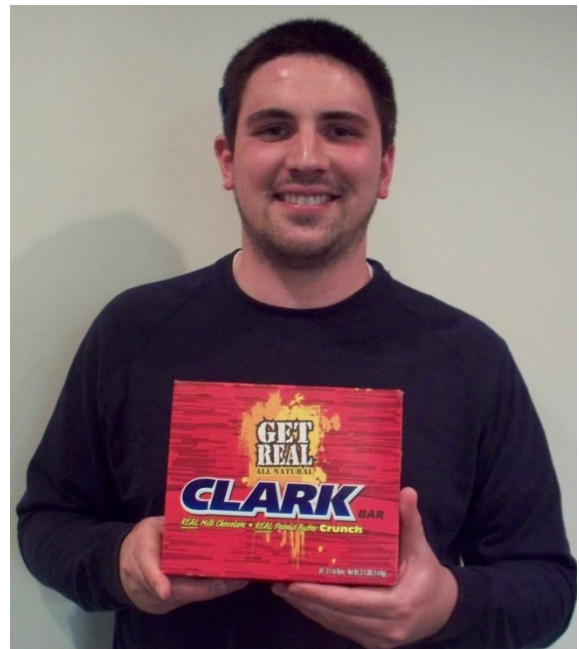
Beeson S. Shipley died at his home on Page Street, Confluence, on Sunday, June 14, 1925, at the age of 59 years and 7 days. He had been sick for a long time, suffering from cancer.

He was born in Fayette County on June 7, 1866. When a young man, he married Erma Sterner, who, along with the following children survive him: Harvey Shipley, Connellsville; Mrs. Lewis Ream and Mrs. Hazel Menefee, Elmer, Mabel and Robert Shipley, all of Confluence, the three latter living at home. He is also survived by four grandchildren and two brothers, Louis Shipley, of Bidwell, and Creighton Shipley, Ohiopyle, and three sisters, Mrs. George Morrison and Mrs. George Dittman, McKeesport, and Mrs. Mary Close, Friedens.

He lived in Confluence many years and followed the occupation of livery stable keeper until automobiles crowded out that business, when he was engaged at hauling and drayage until his health compelled him to retire from active business pursuits. He was an honest, industrious man and had many friends.

Funeral services were held at 1:30 Tuesday afternoon at the family home, Rev. Geo. O Ritter officiating. The pallbearers were H. L. Sellers, M. E. Goller, W. H. Hanna, Fred Marquart, H. A. Collins and P. S. Wilson. Interment in the Baptist cemetery, West Confluence.

Last Thursday the people of Confluence and vicinity celebrated the formal opening of the new improved cement road between Confluence and Addison. The new stretch of improved highway covers a distance of eight miles which was a completion of the Confluence-Addison section of State Route No. 6. (Somerset County Times, 9/22/27)



Joshua Scully spoke at our April meeting about the Clark Candy Company.

### **Copperhead Snake Bite is Fatal to Boy**

Marion Shope, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shope of Confluence, passed away at the Frantz Hospital last Thursday as a result of being bitten by a copperhead snake. The boy was bitten by the snake while attending a corn roast with a group of school children on September 8, and his death resulted one week later. He was bitten on the arm and had suffered untold pain from the time he was admitted to the hospital, which was on Sunday, September 11. An operation was performed in an attempt to save the boy's life. (Somerset County Times, 9/22/27)



Janice Fike, Pastor Ron Schaeffer and Maddie Bender at the walk bridge, following the 2013 Memorial Day Parade



Kurt Miller was the speaker at our May meeting. He presented a video of his grandmother, Vivian, reminiscing about the past.

## REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

### **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.