



**Turkeyfoot
Valley
Historical
Society**

PASS IT ON
Share our history

Volume 13, Issue 2

2nd Quarter 2014

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."

With our elections being held in June, this indicates that my 2-year term is up, and I will be passing the responsibility on to the new president. Thank you for helping and supporting me these past two years.

I want to close my viewpoint with some good news. Some of you may be aware that we applied for a grant to help with insulation, which will help with lowering our heating bills. Janice Fike did a lot of the paper work for this and I want to say a big "thank you" to her. Now the good news, we have been informed by the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies that we have received a grant in the amount of \$2,000 for the project, *Preserving Our Local History*. This grant was made possible through the Benjamin Bosler Fund of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.

However, before we receive these funds, we need to have an energy audit done so that the funds can be applied to the greatest areas of need as determined and documented by the audit. When the application becomes available for this, which should be any time now, we will be making application for this so that we can receive the above funds.

Old Home Days will be coming up soon (June 21st). We will once again be selling hot dogs and Kraut, plus some baked goods, on the sidewalk in front of the Society's building, from 9:30 until we run out of food. Please stop by and join us for a snack either before, during or after your foray into the community-wide yard sales.

We also look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Ron Schaeffer

New Members

Mia Custer, Confluence

Barb, Bill, Billy, Eddie, Danny & Emily Conn, Confluence

Maria Woodmancy, Confluence

Jenna Frazee, Addison

Samantha Phillippi, Confluence

Gary Fike, Champion

Jack Henry, Champion

Lee Gower, Phoenix, AZ

Donations

Irvin Fortney Estate – various Meyersdale Republican newspapers from 1930 – 1973; The Daily Courier 1907
Genie Younkin – Envelope and letter sent to Robert Hill from Wendell Yeagley, Liberty Theater – 1949
Barry Woods – 1953 war stamps & “My Victory Book”
Nancy Gribble – J.B. Davis & Sons Lumber invoice – 1924
Chris Ogden – Meyersdale Republican newspapers – 1929
Linda Holliday – newspaper articles, photo & diploma for Lawrence Colflesh, etc.
Vivian Hall Estate – various paper items (diplomas, Gobblers, report cards, postcards, etc.)
Bob Edwards – items from 1983 Centennial
Mona Tissue – vintage hats and hatboxes

VanSickel-Black Nuptials

Miss Mary Elvira VanSickle, daughter of Jefferson J. VanSickle of Ursina, and Charles Braden Black, son of Mrs. W. T. Black of Confluence, were married last week at the home of Rev. and Mrs. N. H. Sanner at Dormont, Pa., the former being the officiating clergyman and the latter the bride's aunt.

Mr. and Mrs. Black are a very estimable young couple. The bride, who has been living in Ursina since the death of her mother when she was very young, is a graduate of the Confluence High School and since her graduation has been teaching, and both in her home town and those places where she has taught, is very popular and highly respected. Mr. Black is a young, progressive business man, being a member of the A. G. Black's Sons Company. He is also a graduate of the Confluence High School and is a young man of unimpeachable character in every respect.

- Meyersdale Republican, 2/28/1929

TURKEYFOOT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – 7/1/14 to 6/30/15**

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.

Letters, We Get Letters

Dear Friends,

Want to write and tell you how surprised and very happy to see the last paper! Especially to see the pictures you had in it – I knew all of them and especially my mother, Edith Hyde. You made my day! I have made copies of it and sent to my brothers, John and Charles Hyde. I do thank you so much and enjoy the paper and all the news.

Sincerely, Elizabeth A. Gurto

Editor's Note: Thank you Ms. Gurto for the kind words. Following are a few more photographs – hope you enjoy them and find someone you know.



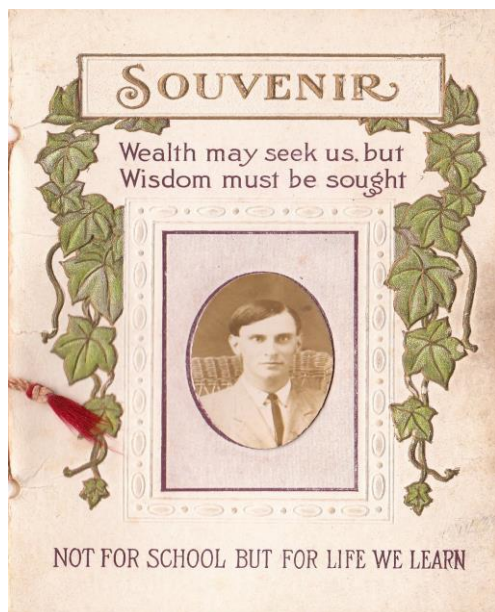
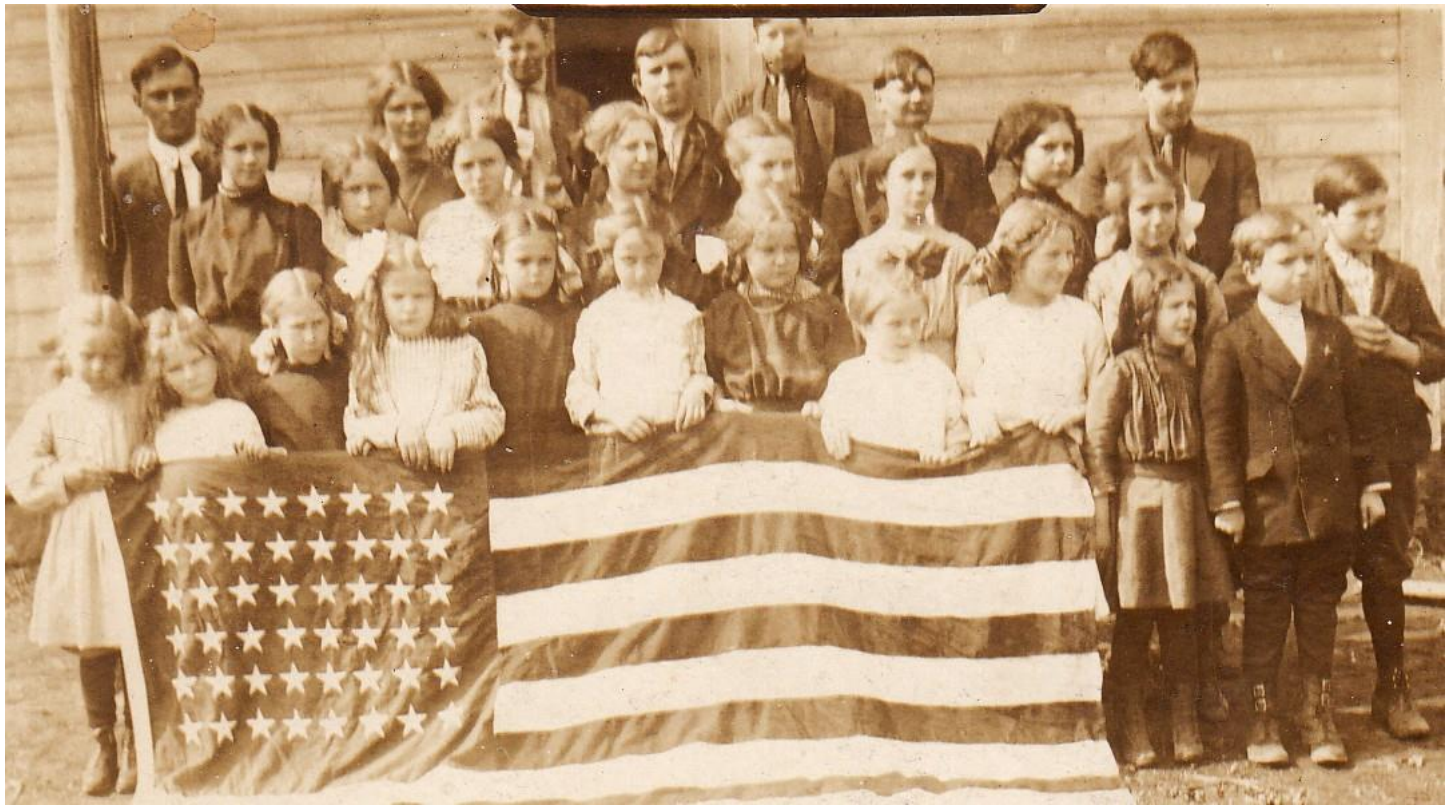
Special Recognition Dinner for members of the Confluence Methodist Church who had been members for 50 or more years. Back row: Alta Flanigan, Esther Brooke, Beatrice Rush, Robert Brown, Felecia Flanigan, Bertha Finzel, Florence Peck, Mrs. John Rodahaver, Charles Humbert, Rev. John Rodahaver and May Bower. Front row: Margaret Miller, Bessie Howell, Helen Hershberger, Clara Lenhart, Beatrice Shaffer, Kenneth Glover, Ruby Black. Present, but not in photo: Nellie Frazee. Those unable to attend: Allie McClintock, Blanch Burow, Sarah Lenhart, Harriet Black, Albert Bowlin, John Close, Irvin Fortney, Edith Hyde, Ida Moon, J. Tome Reynolds, Rose Seymour and Ronald Close. (Photograph courtesy of the Irvin Fortney estate)



Latrobe Avenue (Photo courtesy of the Dennis Hilliard estate)

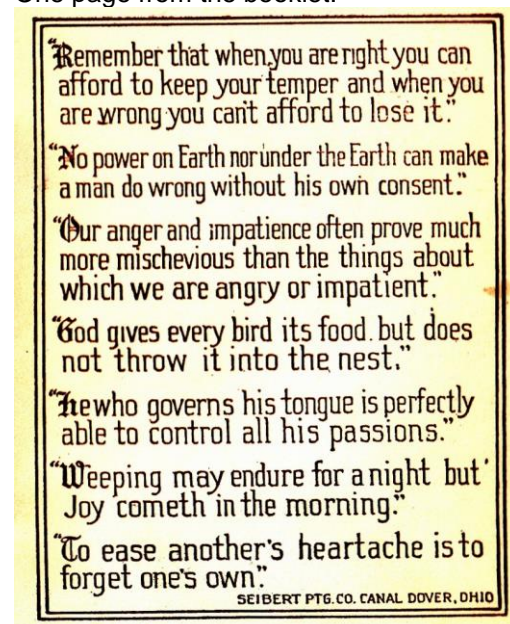
The following photo is of the River Side School, District No. 5, Henry Clay Township, Fayette County, Pa. The School Board consisted of Albert Frantz (President), F. J. Thomas (Secretary), J. A. Thomas (Treasurer), J. R. Burnworth and W. S. Shaw. Kimmel VanSickle was the teacher. Date of the photograph is unknown.

The pupils were: Helen Fortney, Levada Osler, Laura Bowlin, Marie Hileman, Albert Bowlin, William Fortney, Ervin Fortney, Willis Osler, Ester Rodahaver, Marie Rodahaver, Janet Fortney, Wilma Hall, Mary Show, Elizabeth Show, Bertha Osler, Minnie Ringer, Wilma Bowman, Ruby Havener, Effie Rodahaver, Arthur Borman, Willis Havener, Wade Ringer, Harry Havener, Bessie Rodahaver, Mary Bowman, Isabella Osler, Cora Osler, Wilma Show, Mabel Show and Nellie Groff. (Photo courtesy of Neva Bowlin)



Front cover of the Souvenir Booklet, with a photo of the teacher, Kimmel VanSickle.

One page from the booklet:



The Star – Original Poems by Grades 7-8

Another interesting item donated by the Irvin Fortney estate is a copy of the 1942 issue of The Star, published by the Confluence school. It contains original poetry written by the students of grades 7 and 8. The Editor was Mary Ellen Goller; Assistant Editor, Jean Enos; Faculty Advisor, Mr. Suder; Proofreaders, Martha Kurtz, Marilyn Skinner and Mary E. Goller. Following is a sampling of the poetry.

Somerfield

Somerfield, Somerfield,
The town that's doomed to die.
Among the street and in the house,
We hear this humble cry.

"Move, move, get away.
Pack up your trunks and go.
From homes and friends you hold so dear,
And do not be so slow."

With heavy hearts and loaded cars,
The homesick people leave their place.
Here they go, they're on their way,
Among the great American race.

Somerfield, Somerfield,
The town is now alone.
They've traveled East, they've traveled West,
But alas! No more to roam.

They've settled here, they've settled there,
Apart from friends so dear.
New homes to build, new friends to win,
With no more thoughts of fear.

So now my friends, that is the way
Some people have to do.
In order to make room for things,
That please a certain "few".

By Mary Patton

The Draketown Roamer

"Oh! I am a Draketown girl,
Far away from home.
If I ever get back to Draketown
I never more will roam.

Fair Oaks is too cold for me,
The winters are too long.
When school lets out in the springtime
I will sing a cheery song.

Now I've worked down in Fair Oaks,
Where the girls grow six-feet high.
And the boys are such rustlers
They seldom ever cry.

Oh! I've worked up in Ruggtown,
Also down on the plateau;

Where the boys are all good fellows,
But they have many a foe.

But the bad lands of Confluence,
Are the worst I've ever seen.
The boys are all just tenderfeet
And the girls are all too lean.

Come all you Draketown boys,
And take warning from me;
Do not go to Confluence
A lady friend to see."

By Erma Hyatt

Washington Crossing the Delaware

Of all the dates in History,
To me there is but one;
Which plainly shows the courage of
Our famous George Washington.

He and his men crossed in '76
Which was a daring feat;
And as they journeyed on their way,
They never thought of the word "retreat".

'twas X'mas night George went to see,
We are told the weather was snappy;
But George went on to meet the foe
Which did not make them happy.

George was a very brave leader,
The British they caught napping;
He led his men to victory,
By some very clever mapping.

He had dangers on this journey,
The river contained much ice.
But on he pressed, with courage brave,
Never stopping to think twice.

His men were brave, unflinchingly so,
Their hearts beat just as one.
As on they pressed, new ground to gain,
Before the rising of the sun.

He met then, conquered, and departed,
Returned home to his base;
His men were pleased, so we are told,
For they had won the race.

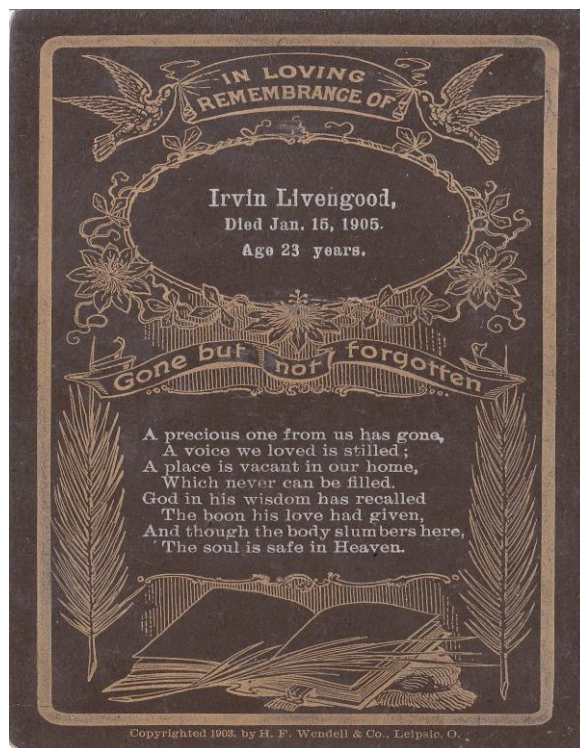
By Roy Paul Tressler

This publication even had sponsors:

- Bower's Shoe Shop (Shoes for all. Come in.)
- Kurtz Gas and Oil Co. (We have plenty of anti-freeze, batteries, gas and oil)
- Dodd's Hotel (Dinners 65 cents, Plate lunch 35 cents)
- Ringer's Super Market

Irvin Livengood

Irvin Livengood was born January 28, 1881 and died January 15, 1905. His parents were Mahlon Livengood and Lavina (Enos) Livengood. He was married to Samantha Gower, and they had one child, Mabel Edith (Livengood) Warner. His siblings were Calvin Livengood, Henry Clifford Livengood, Lewis Livengood, Anna M. Livengood Gower, Olive (Livengood) Tressler, Etta (Livengood) Matthews and Mary Livengood. He is buried at Silbaugh Cemetery.



Samantha Gower Livengood Nevils

Samantha (Gower) Livengood Nevils was born June 9, 1885 and died August 9, 1967. Her parents were Sullivan Gower and Lavila (Holliday) Gower. Her siblings were Emma (Gower) Tressler, Pete Gower and Wilson Gower. She had one child – Mabel Edith (Livengood) Warner. Samantha was married twice – to Irvin Livengood and Martin Luther Nevils. She is buried at Silbaugh Cemetery.

Two of Irvin's sisters are pictured below:

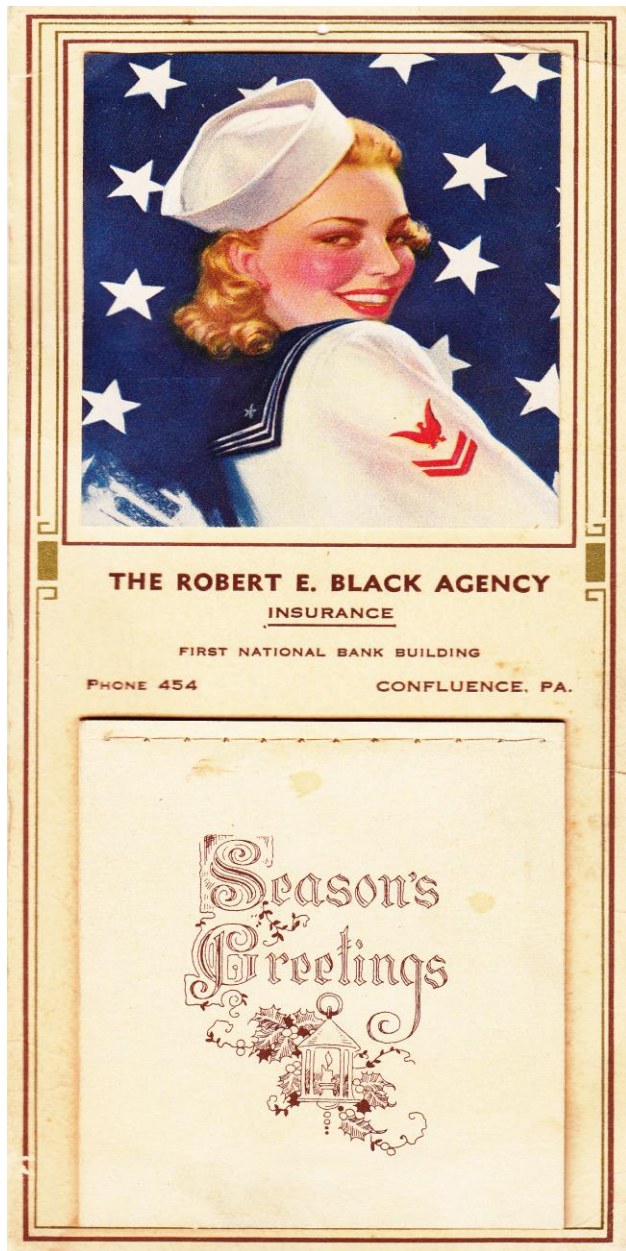


Etta (Livengood) Matthews



Mary Livengood





1943 Calendar (Courtesy of the Irvin Fortney estate)

Busy Week for Fire Laddies

The Confluence Christian Church on Williams Street was totally destroyed by fire on Sunday morning, with a loss of between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The fire was first seen about 8:15 a.m. at which time the floor of the structure was a mass of flames. The furnace of the building was attended by Ray Hyatt, who had looked after the fire at about 7:30 a.m. and went to his home on Meyers Street for breakfast.

The church part of the building was of brick veneer, with wooden studding and flooring. The air space between the brick and plaster acted in the manner of a chimney, drawing the fire throughout the four walls of the building in a very short time. At the rear of the church was a frame structure, over fifty years old,

used as a Sunday school room and formerly used for church services before the brick church was built. Before being used as a church, it was used as a school house of Confluence Borough. This frame structure was also completely destroyed.

The cornerstone of the new church was laid in August, 1896, and the edifice was dedicated the following year.

The Confluence Volunteer Fire Department was immediately called to the scene, but finding the fire had gained such headway that it was practically impossible for them to save the building, they confined their activities to saving the buildings in close proximity to the church, one building, owned by Jesse Taylor, being within six feet of the church. This building was unoccupied. Another building owned by Mr. Taylor and containing the grocery store of P. S. Wilson, was also a very short distance from the church. The new fire truck can be given the credit for saving these buildings.

One of the firemen, Robert C. Kurtz, was overcome by smoke, and taken to Dr. Frantz's hospital and from there to his home. He has recovered.

The church furnishings were all completely destroyed, but the furniture in the Sunday school room was removed safely. There was \$4,000 insurance on the building.

The Confluence Volunteer Fire Department has had a hard month in February, answering five alarms, two local and three foreign fires. The first fire of the month was in the building of A. A. Ringer, which was gutted, but the firemen succeeded in saving the frame work and a number of nearly residences.

The second fire call was from Somerfield, where the residence of Dick Brooks was practically destroyed by flames, but again the Fire Department did good work, and saved buildings nearly, after making a run of 14 miles with the truck in 19 minutes, a very good speed record for this equipment.

The third alarm was received from Addison at the home of Clarence Augustine, but word was received before the apparatus left town that the fire was under control and that the truck would not be needed.

The fourth alarm came from Ohiopyle on Washington's Birthday, with word that the I.O.O.F. Hall was in flames and help was needed. The Fire Department made this run of 33 miles in about 56 minutes, but found, upon their arrival that the fire was practically under control, after fire damage to the Odd Fellow's Hall of about \$1,000.

The fifth alarm responded to was for the Christian Church fire, as detailed above.

The Confluence Volunteer Fire Department has been giving service not only to the citizens of Confluence, but to all localities in this section of Somerset County and Eastern Fayette County as well. These boys are working without pay, risking their lives, their health and their clothing for the security of the lives and property of all the people in Confluence and surrounding country. They must pay an installment on their truck on April first. They need other equipment. Are the good citizens of Somerset and Fayette counties going to let them fail in their aim of

maintaining an efficient fire department or are you – everyone protected by them – going to buckle down to the fight and help them along? Give them a pat on the back, even if they make a mistake. Give them the financial support necessary, and let Confluence have a really good fire department. Your cash donations will show how much you appreciate the services of the heroic band of fire fighters. Give till it hurts to lift the fire department out of debt and provide it with proper equipment, and then give more.

- Meyersdale Republican, 2/28/1929

2014 TENTATIVE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

June	John Josselyn, "Buzz One Five" – History of the B-52 Crash near Salisbury
July	Currently open – maybe the Society Picnic or a PHC Speaker
August	James Monticue, "Civil War Weapons"
September	Currently open – maybe a PHC Speaker
October	Matthew Dodd, "History of American Roads"
November	Marcy Kalasky – a history of her grandfather's military service

NOTE TO MEMBERS

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



Robert C. Kurtz, who ran for the office of Clerk of Courts of Somerset county in 1931.

Handwritten receipt from BLACK'S Department Store, CONFLUENCE, PA. The receipt is dated 6-30-1923. It lists items purchased: 2 Union Suits for \$9.00 and Dry Goods for \$14.00. The total is \$23.00. The receipt is signed "Paid" and dated 12-11-30. The receipt is marked with a red "14" and the text "OFFICE RECORD. DESTROY NO SLIPS".

(Courtesy of the Helen Tressler estate)