

**Turkeyfoot
Valley
Historical
Society**

PASS IT ON
Share our history

Volume 17, Issue 3

3rd Quarter 2018

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,
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H.C. "Joe" Harned Historical Scholarship



Caleb Butler and Pastor Ron Schaeffer

At the 2018 Turkeyfoot High School graduation, Pastor Ron Schaeffer awarded one scholarship. The H.C. "Joe" Harned Historical Scholarship went to Caleb Butler.

Caleb joined the society last year and has done volunteer hours. Along with his application, he had to write an essay about this area's history. He titled his essay, "Somerset County, in American History." He briefly wrote about the beginning days of past history and concluded with recent current history of our county.

Caleb was the Salutatorian & Top Technology Center Student. He plans on attending West Virginia University and majoring in "Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering."

My name is Billy Conn, and I was a 2014 recipient of the Turkeyfoot Valley Area Historical Society scholarship. This April, I graduated Summa Com Laude from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Civil Engineering Technology. Currently, I am working at The EADS Group in Somerset, PA, in their Structures and Transportation department. At my job, I mainly help to inspect bridges and work on bridge rehabilitation projects. The Historical Society Scholarship greatly helped me achieve my goal of obtaining employment in the field of civil engineering.

Confluence

By N. A. BRACH
Confluence and Vicinity

The 19th birthday of Virginia Black was celebrated in Washington, where she is attending school. She attended "Twelfth Night" in which Helen Hayes is the star and was a dinner guest of one of her classmates. She will be home the latter part of this month for a ten day vacation. During April she will be a page at the D. A. R. Congress, permission having readily been received from the school.

The March meeting of the D. A. R. was a luncheon at the Dodds Hotel in Confluence. Regent Mrs. Harry Campbell, presided. Plans were started for the inspection of probable repair of chimney and fire places at the Chapter Toll House in Addison with the idea of holding late fall meetings there. Mrs. E. B. Black read a very interesting paper on the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C. Luncheon preceded the meeting. April meeting will be at Uniontown with Mrs. John Augustine the hostess.

The first report on the arrival of Sir and Lady Robin was given by Mrs. Paul Fike of Confluence on the morning of March the 12th. She reported four robins in the pear tree in her yard, looking almost frozen.

Nelson Wright, of Addison, is quite ill at his home. He has not been well all winter and on Thursday he became acutely ill, the physician in charge making several calls. His daughter, Mrs. R. Collier, of Monesson, a registered nurse, is at her home in Addison and is much pleased with his improvement.

Mrs. Scott Rush was a Johnstown visitor on Wednesday. Following flu, Mrs. Rush had suffered a badly infected ear and takes treatment in Johnstown.

Mary Lou Holliday, 18-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Holliday, of Somerfield, is very ill at her home. For six weeks she has lived in an oxygen tent.

The Evening Genius, Uniontown, Penna. Friday, March 21, 1941

Mrs. Florence West, of Cumberland, Md., was weekend guest of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Campbell, the latter and Mrs. Campbell are sisters.

Tom Reynolds, a Confluence youth, who enlisted in the army and was stationed at Camp Belvoir, Va., was transferred to Georgia and left for there on Saturday.

Rev. and Mrs. Gillum, of Grantsville, and Rev. Mary Richey, of Addison were Wednesday evening dinner guests of Rev. and Mrs. John Rodehaver, of near Harnedsville.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Swartz, of Albany, Pa., have taken residence in the furnished apartment at the home of Dr. Briscoe. Mr. Swartz is employed by the Postal Telegraph Corporation.

Miss Myra Cleo Snyder, of Everett, Pa., and Mrs. Fairbanks, of Colebrook, Mass., were Saturday night guests of Mrs. Rebecca Snyder and son, Cecil, in Confluence.

William Limberg, who lives on a farm above Ursina, is spending several weeks as the guest of his son-in-law and daughter in Pittsburgh.

Sunday visitors of Cecil Snyder and his mother, Mrs. Rebecca Snyder, of Confluence, were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Feters and Mr. and Mrs. Duhl and son, Bobby, of Bedford, Pa.

Calvin Stark of Addison was visiting his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stark, in Confluence. From there he went to Uniontown to visit his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Snoddy.

E. L. Beggs, of the Beggs Brothers Printers, was a business visitor in Uniontown on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Hershberger, of Johnstown, were Sunday guests of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Fick in Confluence. Mr. Hershberger returned home, Mrs. Hershberger remained until Wednesday evening when she joined her husband at Jennerstown, where they both attended the Clover Farm Store Banquet.

Mrs. Davis, of Addison, was taken to the Memorial Hospital in Cumberland, Md., and from there taken to John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Raerick and daughter, Suzanne, of Everett, Pa., were Saturday guests of Rev. and Mrs. James Shannon of Confluence.

Mrs. J. O. Martin is suffering from laryngitis. Mrs. Paul Fike is also suffering from the same malady.

Mrs. Judson Enos, of the Jersey district, was the weekend guest of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fike in Confluence. While there she celebrated her 77th birthday, which came on Saturday.

Mrs. Nancy Griffith, of Harnedsville, who had been visiting her son and daughter-in-law in Selbysport, returned home last week. She makes her home with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shope.

Miss Beatrice Bower, of Confluence, spent the weekend in Brownsville.

Mrs. Cordell Emerick and son, of Connellsville, were weekend visitors in Confluence, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Emerick.

Mr. and Mrs. Starr are making their home with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Thompson.

Mrs. C. W. Frantz accompanied her sister, Mrs. Laurence Kurtz, to Uniontown on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Friend, who have been staying in Wilkensburg, spent the weekend at their home in Confluence.

Joe Critchfield, who is one of the State Fish and Game Commissioners, attended a meeting in Rochester, Pa., on Friday night. His son, Rex, accompanied him. On his return he picked up his daughter Mary Jane in Pittsburgh, where she attends Grace Martin Business School. On Sunday the Critchfield family visited Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Critchfield, who is an employee at the Fish Hatchery in Bedford, moving there the first of the month. They found them very pleasantly located in a charming cottage. Mary Jane returned to Pittsburgh Monday morning.



News from the Turkeyfoot Lending Library

BOOK CLUB

The Turkeyfoot Lending Library is sponsoring "The Book Club," which is a group of readers who meet monthly to socialize and discuss a book chosen for that month. The Book Club meets the 1st Monday of every month at 1pm at the Lending Library (across from the Confluence Post Office), and would enjoy seeing new faces at the monthly meetings. **The Club book for October is JOY LUCK CLUB by Amy Tan.** Books for the Club can usually be found at the Library.

Recent books added to the Lending Library are:

- ♦ THE BLACK BOX by James Patterson and David Ellis
- ♦ THE FIX by David Baldacci
- ♦ THE PECAN MAN by Cassie Dandridge Selleck
- ♦ ROBERT B. PARKER'S BILLING THE BLUES (a Jesse Stone novel) by Michael Brandman.



New additions to the Juvenile Bookshelves are:

- ♦ ABOUT AVERAGE by Andrew Clements
- ♦ RHINO RESCUE: CHANGING THE FUTURE FOR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE by Garry Hamilton.

Other popular adult books include: HALF BROKE HORSES, A MAN CALLED OVE and an older book, but a endearing one-THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL SOCIETY.

Hours: T, W, TH 3:30pm-7pm and Saturday 10am-2pm

MEYERSDALE REPUBLICAN.

VOL. XIV.—No. 38.

12 PAGES

MEYERSDALE, PA., THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1914.

PART 1—8 PAGES

WHOLE NO. 722.

DESTRUCTIVE CYCLONE : The Blow That Laid Ursina Low

WORST STORM

IN YEARS VISITS

SOMERSET COUNTY

Town of Ursina Almost Wiped Off the Map.

Titanic Fury of the Tornado

Many Buildings Demolished and Some of Inmates Seriously Injured—J. L. Biddle and Mrs. Henry Cameron Most Severely Hurt—Wreckage Borne Miles Away on Wings of the Wind—After Tearing Through Southwestern Part of This County, Cyclone Spends Its Fury in Garrett County, Md.



One section of stricken Ursina. Schauble residence in center of picture blows off foundation and otherwise damaged. Ruins of Biddle's store at right. Steel safe left standing on wreckage outside foundation of building. Door was torn from safe and carried halfway up Hog Back Hill on opposite side creek. Hog Back Hill in background. Gable end of Biddle store carried across Laurel Hill Creek nearly to top of Hog Back. Large trees torn up by roots carried across creek and deposited on opposite hillside.

URSINA CITIZENS CALL FOR AID

URSINA, SOMERSET COUNTY, PA., JUNE 6, 1914.

We, a committee appointed by the Council of Ursina, Friday evening, June the 5th, for the purpose of estimating the damage caused by the cyclone passing over our town, destroying much property, do hereby submit the estimate of about \$15,000.00, the majority of which damage is done the poorer classes, who if help is not given, will be in dire distress in rebuilding their homes.

The immediate wants so far as food and clothing are concerned have been well cared for by the community, we do now respectfully appeal for donations of money for the purpose of rebuilding the homes, etc., which money may be forwarded to either of the following committee.

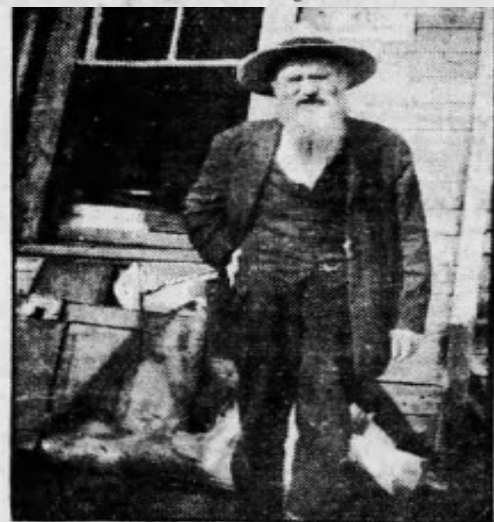
CYRENIUS W. KUTZ, Chairman, Ursina, Pa.
REV. J. C. CUNNINGHAM, Ursina, Pa.
REV. ARTHUR SELLERS, Ursina, Pa.
REV. E. B. BOYER, Confluence, Pa.
W. J. B. BENFORD, Sec'y. and Treas. Ursina, Pa.

All contributions will be greatly appreciated and promptly acknowledged and applied to proper use.

Contributions for the Ursina cyclone sufferers will be received and forwarded by The Republican.



J. L. Biddle residence and restaurant. Mr. Biddle's home and two places of business were wrecked by the storm and he may not recover from his injuries.



"Uncle Davy" Cronin, Turkeyfoot representative of The Republican, "Johnny on the Spot" after the storm. His whiskers were saved.

Baltimore and Ohio Magazine, January, 1926

Five Generations Present at Death of Grand Old Mother Brown, of Confluence, Pa.

All Her Nine Children but One Had Served Baltimore and Ohio

By W. S. RAFFERTY, Relief Agent, Connellsville Division

MRS. DORCAS NESMITH BROWN, Confluence's oldest resident, died at her home there on November 30, death being due to the infirmities of old age. She was born at Monroe, Pa. (now Hopwood), Fayette County, near Uniontown, on October 23, 1829, being ninety-six years old at the time of her death.

On October 18, 1849 she was married to the Rev. James R. Brown, at Brownsville, Pa., by the Rev. Henry Palmer. Of this union nine children were born, seven of whom are still living: Mrs. Cyrus Sanner, Mrs. Charles Kurtz, James R. Brown, Thomas Brown, D. H. Brown and E. B. Brown, all of Confluence, and Calvin Brown, of Dawson, Pa. A son, Ross, died in infancy and another son, John W. Brown, formerly our agent at Confluence, died twenty-nine years ago. In addition to the children surviving, she is also survived by forty-one grandchildren, fifty-one great grandchildren and fourteen great great grandchildren. Five generations of the family were present at the home when Mother Brown passed away.

Funeral services were held on December 2, in the Christian Church, next door to her home, being conducted by the Rev. Paul Brown, of Jefferson, assisted by the Rev. W. H. Barnes, pastor of the Confluence and Jersey Baptist Churches. Her remains were laid to rest beside her husband in the old Jersey Cemetery, near Confluence. Her husband served throughout the Civil War, being a sergeant in Company

H, Sixth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Artillery. After the war, they settled at Confluence where he was a minister in the Baptist Church for more than forty years. He died on March 24, 1908.

Mother Brown, as she was familiarly known at Confluence, was a splendid example of Christian womanhood, a life-long adherent to the Baptist faith and is remembered by the oldest residents of that section as one who was always going about trying to help those who needed help. She was a true Baltimore and Ohio mother in every sense of the word. With the exception of the son who died in infancy, all her children have been associated with the railroad at one time or another.

John W. Brown, who died a number of years ago, spent many years as our agent at Confluence. Edward B. Brown, dean of warehousemen on the division, is still holding that position at Confluence, with a record of having given thirty-eight years of faithful service at one point. Calvin Brown, of Dawson, was in our service for a number of years, later going to the P. & L. E. R. R. at Dickerson Run where he served that line for many years as scale agent. He was recently retired with honors. James, David, Thomas and Mrs. C. W. Kurtz all have at one time served with our line in some capacity, while the other daughter, Elizabeth, is the wife of Cyrus Sanner, who is at the present time employed on the division. One of her great, great, grandchildren is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Treutle, of Connellsville, Mr. Treutle being one of our most efficient conductors. Thus it will be seen that the Brown family has played a prominent part in the development of the railroad.

Mrs. Brown's father, James Nesmith, who was reared in the South, not being in sympathy with the slavery movement, moved to the North, locating near Uniontown where for some time he operated a comb factory many years ago.

Mother Brown has passed away, 'tis true, but then

She had passed her allotted three score and ten.

Saint Peter beckoned, please come to me
And she answered, having served here faithfully.

Would that we, too, could all
Know that when we answered the final call
We could go up there and receive our crown
As deserving as did Grand Old Mother Brown.



The late "Mother" Brown, of Confluence, Pa., as she appeared several years ago

Do you remember the cannon in the park?

The cannon in the park came from Fort Fremont in Beaufort, SC. This was a Coast Artillery fort that mounted Coast Artillery cannons. According to information found, when the fort was closed in 1920 one of the cannons was given by the Army to Confluence, PA. It was on display in the town square until it was donated to a scrap drive during WW II.



The cannon was received without the gun shield (photo at right). It also looks like this photo was taken just after it was received and the concrete platform for it was built.

Below are two photos of the same gun but with a shield that was donated at the same time to the town of Danielsville, GA.



That is me (Ted) in the photos dressed in a reproduction of the uniform of the Coast Artillery of the early 1900's that I wear when we host tours of the fort.



No. 9424.			
4.72" Armstrong Gun, 45-Caliber.			
DATE	BY WHOM	TO WHOM	REMARKS
7/1/17		Ft. Fremont, S.C. Rds. Fired.	
6/19/20	Ft. Fremont	Aberdeen P.S.	S.O. 68172233 S/L 173398
4/13/26	Donated to	Confluence, Penna.	CO 400,335/19077

Also, here is a photo of the Gun Card. That was the way the Army kept records of what happened to the guns. It has the date the gun was donated to Confluence in 1926.

Fort Fremont had two of these cannons. There is no record of what happened to the other cannon after 1937 when the Army still had it in Maryland. I have asked the Army to try and find out for us. --THEODORE PANAYOTOFF keepertedp@gmail.com

Thanks to Ted Panayotoff for this information. He is a member of the Friends of Fort Fremont an organization in Beaufort, SC that is working to preserve Fort Fremont which dates from the early 1900's. If anyone has additional information on the cannon, please contact Ted or Lisa.

Thanks!

2018 Programs

March 19th: Monthly Meeting 6:30pm

April 16th: : *“Remarks on a March” The Life and Times of Charlotte Browne* - Erica I. Nuckles, Director of History and Collections, Fort Ligonier

May 21st: *“Fallingwater”* - Ashley Andrykovitch, Curator of Education at Fallingwater

June 18th: *“WWII: Women’s Air Service Pilots”* - Heinz History Center Program

July 16th: *“The Changing Faces of Fort Necessity”* - Brian S. Reedy, Chief of Interpretation & Visitor Services, Fort Necessity NB & Friendship Hill NHS

August 20th: *“The Steel City in WWII”* - Heinz History Center Program

September 17th: Monthly Meeting 6:30pm

October 15th: *“Spanish American War”* - Dr. Eric Greisinger

November 19th: Monthly Meeting 6:30pm

December Event: *TBA*

All meetings and programs start at 6:30pm at H. C. Harned Center unless otherwise noted.



Pumpkinfest is almost here! October 5, 6 & 7...

If you can spare some time please help volunteer at the historical building or library.
Contact Pastor Ron Schaeffer or Janice Fike to schedule.



Pastor Ron
814-395-5168
ronnell62@verizon.net

Janice
814-395-5125
eaglewing01us@yahoo.com

Membership

This fiscal year is quickly coming to a close. Our new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2018 and runs through June 30, 2019. It is time to send in your dues. Please use the form below.

Thank you for all your support!

TURKEYFOOT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – 7/1/18 to 6/30/19

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.

