

Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society

PASS IT ON

Share our history

Volume 16, Issue 4

4th Quarter 2017

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

Change of date...

Please join us for our Christmas event on

FRIDAY, December 8th... Christmas Dinner & Caroling

Dinner: 6:00 p.m./Cost \$12 catered ham dinner

Caroling: 7:00 p.m./Free to all



Held at

Trinity Lutheran Church

Parish Hall, Confluence, PA



RSVP by Dec. 1st - tfvhs@tfvhs.com or phone Lisa at 814-395-3820

Pumpkinfest Weekend

Thanks to all who helped make it a great success!

Thanks to the following who donated bake goods: Pam Hughes, Pat Beggs, Kathy Bender, Maureen Smith, Dawn Walters

Volunteer Helpers: Terry & Kathy Bender, Julie Conn, Caleb Butler, Phoenix Stratemeir, Conner Tressler, Nellie & Ron Schaeffer

350 Visitors during the weekend - 24 on Friday, 211 on Saturday, 115 on Sunday

\$135 - From Bake Sale Donations

\$ 23 - From Donation Box

\$116 - Book & Other Items Sales (Including Sales Tax)

These funds will be recorded on our October, 2017 Treasurer's Report.

MABEL AT THE FOUNTAIN



(Uniontown Public Library, Walter "Buzz" Storey collection)

Mabel at the Fountain once stood at the intersection of Morgantown, South and Church Streets. The Women's Christian Temperance Unions and the "Y" of Fayette County donated the public drinking fountain to Uniontown, PA. It was inscribed, Come brim your cups with nectar true, That never will make slaves of you. It was unveiled July 3, 1896 during Uniontown's centennial celebration. Josiah V. Thompson accepted the gift on behalf of the community. Mabel weighed 3500 pounds and stood 14-feet high. It was built by J. W. Fist of York, PA. The water poured out from four horse heads and a dozen drinking cups were chained to the pedestal for the public's use. Humans, horses and dogs all shared the cool water that spouted from the Grecian-looking statue. Around 1919 the fountain was taken to Confluence and, regrettably, it was melted down during a World War II scrap drive. A horse head from the fountain is the one and only relic known to exist today and may be seen at the Uniontown Public Library. (*Do You Remember When....*, p.27)

T

hanksgiving



Very little is known about the 1621 event in Plymouth that is the model for our Thanksgiving. The only references to the event are reprinted below:

“And God be praised we had a good increase... Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.” *Edward Winslow, Mourt’s Relation: D.B. Heath, ed. Applewood Books. Cambridge, 1986. p 82*

“They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty. For as some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercised in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want; and now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which is place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides, they had about a peck a meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports. *William Bradford, Of Plymouth*

Plantation: S.E. Morison, ed. Knopf. N.Y., 1952. p 90

If there is one day each year when food and family take center stage, it is Thanksgiving. It is a holiday about “going home” with all the emotional content those two words imply. The Sunday following Thanksgiving is always the busiest travel day of the year in the United States. Each day of the long Thanksgiving weekend, more than 10 million people take to the skies. Another 40 million Americans drive 100 miles or more to have Thanksgiving dinner. And the nation’s railways teem with travelers going home for the holiday.

Despite modern-age turmoil—and perhaps, even more so, because of it—gathering together in grateful appreciation for a Thanksgiving celebration with friends and family is a deeply meaningful and comforting annual ritual to most Americans. The need to connect with loved ones and to express our gratitude is at the heart of all this feasting, prayerful thanks, recreation, and nostalgia for a simpler time. And somewhere in the bustling activity of every November’s Thanksgiving is the abiding National memory of a moment in Plymouth, nearly 400 years ago, when two distinct cultures, on the brink of profound and irrevocable change, shared an autumn feast.

The classic Thanksgiving menu of turkey, cranberries, pumpkin pie, and root vegetables is based on New England fall harvests. In the 19th century, as the holiday spread across the country, local cooks modified the menu both by choice (“this is what we like to eat”) and by necessity (“this is what we have to eat”). Today, many Americans delight in giving regional produce, recipes and seasonings a place on the Thanksgiving table. In New Mexico, chiles and other southwestern flavors are used in stuffing, while on the Chesapeake Bay, the local favorite, crab, often shows up as a holiday appetizer or as an ingredient in dressing. In Minnesota, the turkey might be stuffed with wild rice, and in Washington State, locally grown hazelnuts are featured in stuffing and desserts. In Indiana, persimmon puddings are a favorite Thanksgiving dessert, and in Key West, key lime pie joins pumpkin pie on the holiday table. Some specialties have even become ubiquitous



Continued on page 7



Congress Establishes Thanksgiving

On September 28, 1789, just before leaving for recess, the first Federal Congress passed a resolution asking that the President of the United States recommend to the nation a day of thanksgiving. A few days later, President George Washington issued a proclamation naming Thursday, November 26, 1789 as a "Day of Publick Thanksgivin" - the first time Thanksgiving was celebrated under the new Constitution. Subsequent presidents issued Thanksgiving Proclamations, but the dates and even months of the celebrations varied. It wasn't until President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Proclamation that Thanksgiving was regularly commemorated each year on the last Thursday of November.

In 1939, however, the last Thursday in November fell on

77TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 41

JOINT RESOLUTION

Making the last Thursday in November a legal holiday.

- 1 Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives
- 2 of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 That the last Thursday of November in each year after the
- 4 year 1941 be known as Thanksgiving Day, and is hereby
- 5 made a public holiday to all intents and purposes and
- 6 the 1st day of January, the 22d day
- May, the 4th day of July, the
- of November, and

In the Senate of the United States,

Resolved, That the joint resolution from the House of Representatives (H. J. Res. 41) entitled "Joint Resolution making the last Thursday in November a legal holiday", do pass with the following

AMENDMENTS:

Line 3, strike out [last] and insert: *fourth*
Amend the title so as to read: "Joint resolution making the fourth Thursday in November a legal holiday."
Attest:

Thos. A. Nelson
Secretary.

ARNOLD'S MEN'S SHOP, INC.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

August
15th
1939

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Roosevelt:

Would like to give you the view point of the small merchant in regard to your change of the Thanksgiving date.

The small storekeeper would prefer leaving Thanksgiving Day where it belongs. If the large department stores are over-crowded during the shorter shopping period before Christmas, the overflow will come, naturally, to the neighborhood store.

Before writing, have consulted with my fellow directors of the Flatbush Chamber of Commerce, as well as my fellow trustees of the Flatbush Board of Trade, and the executive of the Associated Retailers of Greater Brooklyn of which I am chairman.

Have waited many years for a late Thanksgiving to give us an advantage over the large stores and we are sadly disappointed at your change in this matter.

Kindly reconsider and oblige thousands of retail storekeepers throughout this country.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Arnold

ARNOLD'S MEN'S SHOP, INC.
CHARLES A. ARNOLD

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B.

Written in book

Adam Hat
head

TEDDY

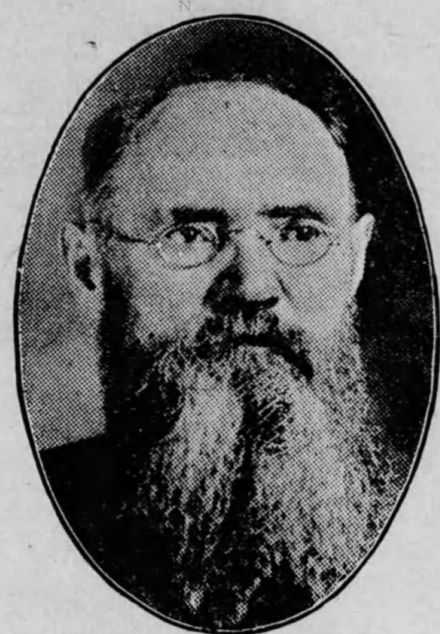


Happy Franksgiving to you. Happy Franksgiving to you. Happy Franksgiving to you. Happy Franksgiving to you. Happy Franksgiving to you. Happy Franksgiving to you. Happy Franksgiving to you. Happy Franksgiving to you. Happy Franksgiving to you. Happy Franksgiving to you.

Continued on page 7

The Prosperous, Fertile Turkeyfoot Region -- A Land Rich in Natural Resources

(Thanks to Sam Everhart for sending article from the Meyersdale Republican, May 27, 1915)



DAVID CRONIN,
Manager Turkeyfoot News Bureau of
The Meyersdale Republican,
Confluence, Pa.

The Turkeyfoot region, comprising the townships of Addison, Upper Turkeyfoot and Lower Turkeyfoot and the boroughs of Addison, Confluence, Somerfield and Ursina, since the first settlement of the country has always held a prominent place, not only in state and local affairs, but during the many wars from that of the Revolution down to the Civil and Spanish-American Wars. It is not the aim of this article to bring before our readers its history of the past, but to show its present standing among the agricultural, industrial and commercial communities in the county.

In agriculture, the whole region takes a high place and while there may be a few isolated places where the cultivation and fertility of the soil may not be up to the average, the farms of Addison and Upper and Lower Turkeyfoot Townships will compare very favorably with any other agricultural sections of equal extent in Somerset county. While it would be impossible in the scope of this article to make even a brief mention of the many fine farms, there are some that deserve more than a casual notice.

There is the fine farm of Jasper Augustine on the National Pike, about midway between Somerfield and Addison, with 1500 acres of highly cultivated land, with barns



CHAS. MARQUART,
Proprietor Hotel Dodds,
Confluence, Pa.

residences and other improvements that must be seen to be appreciated. In Upper Turkeyfoot Township, extending in an unbroken line along the main road through Paddytown and towards Kingwood there are many fine farms. There is the Jersey Church section of Lower Turkeyfoot township and the fertile bottom lands along Laurel Hill Creek and other prosperous localities.

Population of the Region.

The population of the townships and boroughs of the Turkeyfoot region according to the census of 1910 was as follows: Addison township at that time also including what is now Addison borough, 1,847; Confluence borough, 890; Lower Turkeyfoot township, 923; Upper Turkeyfoot, 1,079; Ursina borough, 338; Somerfield borough, 180; making a total of 5,257 inhabitants.

Since that time the big works of the Enterprise Lumber Co. at Hum-



J. H. COLFLESH,
Veterinarian,
Confluence, Pa.

bert were inaugurated, which with other new settlements would probably bring the population of the whole territory to over 6000. Besides the above mentioned territory there is a strip west of the Youghiogheny river, extending along the border of Fayette county, comprising most of Henry Clay township and the village of Thomasdale opposite Somerfield. There is also Jockey Valley, a flourishing country community. These latter places have been always regarded as part of the Turkeyfoot region.

The Turkeyfoot Towns.

Confluence, the largest town in the district, is a flourishing place, having at the present time an estimated population of between 1000 and 1100. Its largest industry is the Beggs & Cobb tannery, at the present running at 40 per cent. of its normal capacity. There is also a cold storage plant erected two years ago at a cost of over \$40,000. Confluence has two large department stores, a clothing store, hardware store, icecream and mineral water factories, two blacksmith shops, one bank, three hotels,



EARL R. BEGGS,
Insurance—Any Kind—Anywhere,
Confluence, Pa.

two garages, a lumber yard, a planing-mill, a grist-mill, and the borough conducts and owns its electric light plant. The town has an abundant supply of pure mountain water, furnished by the Citizen's Water Co. There are a number of other accommodations, besides two trunk lines of railroad, the Baltimore & Ohio and the Western Maryland, and two branch lines—the Confluence & Oakland and the White's Creek Branch of the B. & O., with a train each way every day, except on Sunday.

2018 Programs

Tentative Schedule

January - No meeting

February - No meeting

March 19th: Monthly Meeting 6:30pm

April 16th: *Heinz History Center Program - TBA*

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

June 18th: *Heinz History Center Program - TBA*

July 16th: *TBA*

August 20th: *Heinz History Center Program - TBA*

September 17th: *TBA*

October 22nd: *Heinz History Center Program - TBA*

November 19th: *TBA*

December Event: *TBA*

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



“Thanksgiving”

regional additions to local Thanksgiving menus; in Baltimore, for instance, it is common to find sauerkraut alongside the Thanksgiving turkey.

Corn, sweet potatoes, and pork form the backbone of traditional southern home cooking, and these staple foods provided the main ingredients in southern Thanksgiving additions like ham, sweet potato casseroles, pies and puddings, and corn bread dressing. Other popular southern contributions include ambrosia (a layered fruit salad traditionally made with citrus fruits and coconut; some more recent recipes use mini-marshmallows and canned fruits), biscuits, a host of vegetable casseroles, and even macaroni and cheese. Unlike the traditional New England menu, with its mince, apple and pumpkin pie dessert course, southerners added a range and selection of desserts unknown in northern dining rooms, including regional cakes, pies, puddings, and numerous cobblers. Many of these Thanksgiving menu additions spread across the country with relocating southerners. Southern cookbooks (of which there are hundreds) and magazines also helped popularize many of these dishes in places far beyond their southern roots. Some, like sweet potato casserole, pecan pie, and corn bread dressing, have become as expected on the Thanksgiving table as turkey and cranberry sauce.



“Congress Establishes Thanksgiving”

the last day of the month. Concerned that the shortened Christmas shopping season might dampen the economic recovery, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a Presidential Proclamation moving Thanksgiving to the second to last Thursday of November. As a result of the proclamation, 32 states issued similar proclamations while 16 states refused to accept the change and proclaimed Thanksgiving to be the last Thursday in November. For two years two days were celebrated as Thanksgiving - the President and part of the nation celebrated it on the second to last Thursday in November, while the rest of the country celebrated it the following week.

To end the confusion, Congress decided to set a fixed-date for the holiday. On October 6, 1941, the House passed a joint resolution declaring the last Thursday in November to be the legal Thanksgiving Day. The Senate, however, amended the resolution establishing the holiday as the fourth Thursday, which would take into account those years when November has five Thursdays. The House agreed to the amendment, and President Roosevelt signed the resolution on December 26, 1941, thus establishing the fourth Thursday in November as the Federal Thanksgiving Day holiday.

<https://www.archives.gov/legislative/features/thanksgiving>
<https://fdrlibrary.org/>



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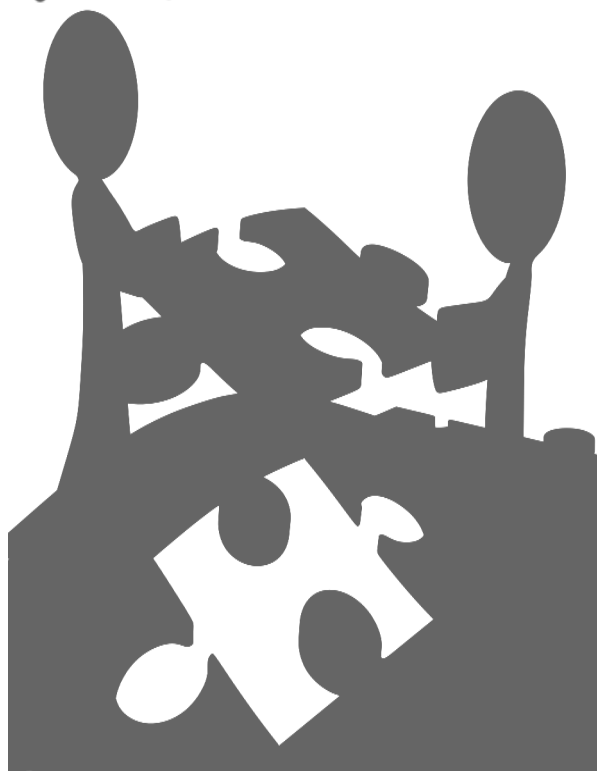
uy a book

...And this, too, was. is available!

Through the pages of time, a continuing history of Price
Hospital and Confluence, PA.

Please contact Irene “Toby” Koontz at 814-395-5078.

MEMBERS



Corporate Members

Gold Members

Confluence Lions Club

Silver Members

Somerset Trust Company

Bronze Members

Bean Counters III, LLC

Hanna House Bed & Breakfast

Confluence Cyclery; Beggs Printing

Turkeyfoot Lending Library; Sechler Sugar Shack

We want to thank those who have supported our society thru means of attendance at the meetings, any volunteer hours that anyone has given and most of all for your membership. Many have already paid for the new year, 7/1/17 to 6/30/18. We are grateful for this. We are now accepting memberships for the new year. Please feel free to call me 814-395-5168 or email me (ronnell62@verizon.net) if you have any questions about your membership. ~ Ron

TURKEYFOOT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – 7/1/17 to 6/30/18**

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.

