

**Turkeyfoot
Valley
Historical
Society**

PASS IT ON
Share our history

Volume 20, Issue 2

2021

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

Address:
600
Logan Place
PO BOX 44
Confluence, PA
15424
Email:
tfvhs@tfvhs.com
Web:
www.tfvhs.com

Officers & Directors

President
Lisa Hall
Treasurer
Ronald Schaeffer
Secretary
Janice Fike
Directors
Neil Bender
Ginny Halverson
Jerry Hall

NOTE TO MEMBERS

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

H.C. “Joe” Harned Scholarship Recipients...

This year’s scholarship awardees are:

Abigail Hair – Abigail is planning on attending the Allegany College of Maryland. Her field of study will be law in hopes of receiving a paralegal degree. She finished 3rd in her class. Her activities at school include: VP of National Honors Society, Secretary of Student Council, Editor-N-Chief of School Newspaper, and County Highlights Writer. Outside of school she is a student teacher at Garrett School of Dance, attended the Ursina Church of God, Volunteered at Mountain Fellowship Center, and at the Turkeyfoot Historical Society. She was also a 2019 Pumpkinfest Princess, OYW Finalist 2020, and a 2021 Pennsylvania Maple Princess.

Sadie Lewis – Sadie is planning to attend the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg to become a Biochemist. Sadie was the Valedictorian (first) of her class. Sadie has served on the Student Council since 2018 and as Treasurer since 2019. She has served as a member of the National Honor Society since 2019 including being Vice-President and Treasurer. She was Class Secretary from 2016-2018, and Class Treasurer from 2018-2021. She serves on the Yearbook Committee, Treasurer of SADD, and Prom Committee. She was the Somerset Exchange Club Student of the Month, Student of the Year from 2017-2020, involved with the Challenge Program STEM receiving the Academic Excellence Award from 2018-2020, 2018 FFA Student of the Year, and a 2019 Women in Science Day Awardee. Outside of school is was a 2019 Pumpkinfest Queen, involved in a 2020 Living Nativity Scene at Chippewa Farm, has volunteered at the Turkeyfoot Historical Society. She also enjoys Skiing, Hiking, and Kayaking.



History of Confluence—By Sadie Lewis

Our small town is full of history, from the naming of the Youghiogheny River, to our early settlers, and finally, the building of our prosperous town. The Youghiogheny River was named from the Indian occupations that were once in our town. Many years ago, an Indian man shot at a white man, the man fell, pretending to be injured. The Indian said “Yough,” and started towards his “victim.” The fallen man stood up, killed the Indian and said, “Aha, you will ‘Yough’ again will you?” If you combine these words, in English, it is pronounced “Yough-a-gain-y.” This is where our beautiful river got its name. Confluence was used as hunting grounds for the Indian population. But there is evidence that tribes vacated the area of Confluence. The Iroquois and Mingoes are some tribes that were in our area. The first settlers in our town were Henry Abrahams, Ezekiel DeWitt, James Spencer, Benjamin Jennings, John Cooper, Ezekiel Hickman, John Enslow, Henry Enslow, and Benjamin Pursley. This information was found out by Rev. John Steele and his commission. They were sent to persuade the settlers all around our area to comply with the law. Before lawful land titles were issued in 1769, early settlers used The Tomahawk Rights. Settlers cut down trees near springs and marked them with their initials to show that it was their occupied land. The first recorded Council meeting for the Borough of Confluence was on March 2nd, 1874. Some major proceedings from the council meetings include, ordinance of putting down boardwalks on Oden Street, Logan Avenue and Latrobe Avenue (May 26th, 1874), petition signed by eighteen citizens to beautify the Park (May 6th, 1878), repairing the boardwalks (August 2nd, 1881), establishing poles on streets and alleys, not in the way of streets or others houses, and to have electric wires placed on them (October 5th, 1891), and building a pavilion in the Park that costs more than \$250.00 (July 5th, 1893). Our town has had an abundance of history happen in it and around our area. Today, The Great Allegheny Bike Trail brings in tourists to learn about the history of our beautiful town.

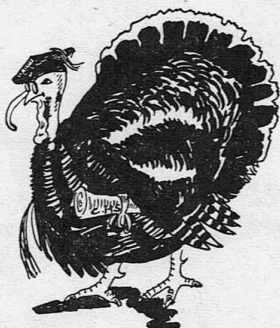
Our Area is Important to American History By Abigail Hair

Growing up in the Turkeyfoot area, I was told at a very young age the importance of our history. For the longest time I thought the things I was told about our area were made up stories. To me, I thought it was nonsense that former President George Washington was in our little town, let alone be the one who named it. Little did I know at the time, that it was all true! George Washington and a small group, traveled here to look for an area to set up a Fort. They decided that this was the perfect place on account of the three intersecting rivers: The Casselman, Youghiogheny, and Laurel Hill Creek joined together. That's how we got our name, because it looked to them as a turkey's foot.

Although this is just one example of how our community takes pride in our history, there are so many resources to learn more about it. Old Route 40 in Addison Borough, alone has the toll building, the little Red Schoolhouse, a museum, and several other historic buildings. We took field trips to these places in elementary school, where we learned to appreciate how our community preserves these marks. We also held trips to Youghiogheny, and learned about the grueling processes of building the dam. These attractions are things that tourists come all over to see, when it's right in our backyard.

As I'm growing older, and planning my future endeavors, it's become a moral of mine to continue to stay active in preserving our town's history. For as long as I can remember, our history was encouraged positively everywhere I went. Our town has always made our history fun for all ages to learn, and hold activities for kids to get involved. I hope to always be a resource to keep these wonderful traditions moving forward for my future children as well. I'm proud of the roots of my community, and always willing to tell any traveler everything they want to know about our area. Now, traveling to new places I always catch myself thinking about their history as well, and this is all thanks to the community I grew up in.

The



GOBBLER

TURKEYFOOT VALLEY JOINT HIGH SCHOOL

Volume Eight

CONFLUENCE, PA., MAY 1954

Number Four

Class of '54

FIRST ROW: Mary Hunter, Rita Kemp, Marilyn Smith, Mabel Tressler, Peggy Wilson, Phyllis Glotfelty, Sara Jane Glover.
 SECOND ROW: Sara Conn, Shirley Niner, Phyllis Leydig, Peggy Rodahaver, Cena Cummings, Joan Whetsell, Nancy Hall, Barbara Fike.
 THIRD ROW: Donna Vanaman, Donna Barkley, Charlotte Smith, Jack Wilkins, Ervin Graham, Grace Stewart, Shirley Turney, Elsie Lohr.
 FOURTH ROW: Robert Charlesworth, Ted Bisel, Gerald Rush, Curtis Younkin, Gene Livengood, Clarence Latshaw, Charles Hyde, George Wilson, Dane Ream.

THE *Mary Shaffer* PENSCOPE

VOL. II. NO. 1.

CONFLUENCE HIGH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 1941

ENROLLMENT DROPS IN H.S.

The Confluence Public Schools opened September 2, 1941 with an enrolment of 531. There are 362 pupils in the elementary grades.

In the 12th grade we find 37 dignified Seniors who are aspiring to soon become C. H. S. alumni; in the 11th grade there is the largest enrolment, there being 55 Juniors; in the 10th grade there are 36 gay young Sophomores; and there are 41 happy Freshmen in the 9th grade making a total of 169 in the entire high school.

P. T. A. MEETS

The first P. T. A. meeting of the year was held October 2, 1940. The meeting was opened with group singing; Rev. Shannon conducted devotionals. Mr. Good, the first speaker of the evening addressed the group on "What I Would Like The School to Mean to the Community." After the talk a piano duet was played by Paula Shaw and Marilyn Skinner.

The other speaker of the evening was Mr. Robert Brown who gave a talk about having a desirable school plus how much money is obtained to run the school. In his talk an especially interesting fact was that the cost of operation of the Confluence High school for the year ending in 1941 amounted to \$30,714.

The attendance award was given to Mrs. Folk's room. After introducing the new teachers the meeting was adjourned to the library where a social was held. The theme of the P. T. A. for this year is "Fitting the Child for the Modern World." The next meeting of this group will be held November 13.

C. H. S. HOLDS—ELECTION!

On November 4th the high school held a regular election of the candidates running for office on the Confluence Borough ballots. The only difference being that the students used specimen ballots donated by Beggs Bros.

An election board of five was on duty each period in Mr. Boor's home room. The only departure from the regular procedure was that the ballots of the out-of-town students were kept separate from the town students' votes.

One of the interesting side-lights was the closeness of the straight party tickets--39 for the democrats and 40 republican. Only three ballots were thrown out for being marked incorrectly.

Every one felt that they had gained some valuable voting experience and many questions concerning voting were brought forth by this election.

A complete tabulation will be found inside. The students were very much interested in comparing this vote with the results of the real election.

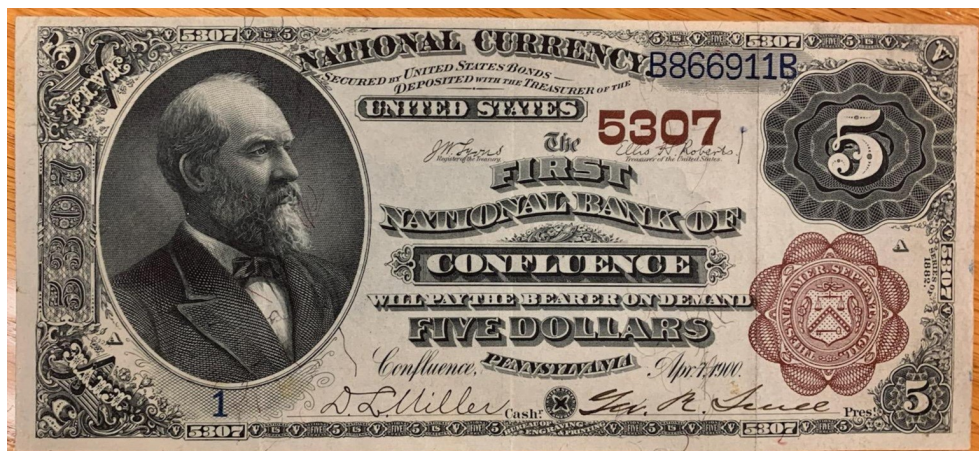
THE BAND PLAYS

The band under the direction of Mr. Neher has organized a swing orchestra. They are now learning to play four popular songs: Time Was, 'Til Reveille, Intermezzo and Daddy. They have so far been very successful and we hope they have continued success in their new venture.

At the Liberty Theater on the 15th of October the band sponsored the movie "Life Begins for Andy Hardy." A matinee was given and most of the school students attended. Tickets were sold by band members and a profit of \$22.16 was realized. This will be used to help buy more instruments and new music.

The First National Bank Of Confluence \$5 Currency

The First National Bank Of Confluence in Pennsylvania printed \$515,250 dollars worth of national currency. That is a high amount, but condition and serial numbers can make otherwise common currency from this bank quite valuable.



Thanks to Josh Sechler for sharing these images.



This national bank opened in 1900 and stopped printing money in 1935, which equals a 36 year printing period. That is a fairly normal lifespan for a national bank.

During its life, The First National Bank Of Confluence issued 13 different types and denominations of national currency.

The First National Bank Of Confluence in

Pennsylvania issued 1,425 sheets of \$5, 1882 brown back national bank notes. That sheet output number is small. You can take the total number of sheets printed and multiply that number by four to get the exact number of 1882, \$5 brown back bank notes this bank issued. Each note has a portrait of James Garfield on the left hand side of the bill. Some notes are worth as little as a few hundred dollars, but most are worth a good deal more.



Jack E. Suder, 92, Hopwood, formerly of Confluence, passed away Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at Horizon Personal Care Home, Fairchance. He was born June 25, 1928 in Ursina, a son of Skyles and Sarah (Younkin) Suder. His parents and his first wife, Emogene (Glover) preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn (Moser); sons, Allan Todd Suder, Confluence and David Suder and wife, Darlene, Goodyear, AZ; daughters, Paige Harteis and husband, Sam, Bruceton Mills, WV and Leslie Rugg and husband, Don, Confluence and a brother, Joseph Suder, Kissimmee, FL; 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Jack was a graduate of Confluence High School, a WW II veteran of the US Navy, a member of Ursina American Legion Post 946, Confluence V.F.W. Post 7250, George C. Marshall Amvets Post 103, Hopwood, Moose Lodge 813, Ruskin, FL, Meyersdale Lodge 554 F. & A.M., Turkeyfoot Fish and Game Assoc., Bricklayers Allied Craftworkers Local 9 PA., life member of Confluence Vol. Fire Co. and

Turkeyfoot Baptist Church, Confluence. Viewing and funeral service will be private. Interment in Jersey Cemetery, Confluence.

James R. "Jim" Wass, 81, Confluence, passed away Friday, April 23, 2021 at his home. He was born June 14, 1939 in Addison, a son of Howard C. and Edna M. (Lint) Wass. His parents, brother, John and wife, Betty, sister, Helen and husband, William Stairs and son-in-law, Vince Smith preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Edith (Sabin); daughter, Toni Smith and fiancé, Roger Wolfe, Confluence; granddaughter, Courtney Gardner and husband Ben, Addison; great granddaughters, Avery and Vivienne Gardner and grandson, Brennon Wolfe; brother, Glenn Wass and wife, Shirley, Addison, and a number of nieces and nephews. In his lifetime, Jim worked for H.C. Wass and Sons, American Development Co., M & Y Service and Maple Mountain Industries. He retired in 2001. He enjoyed hunting at his camp in Elk County. He was the fire chief of Addison Vol. Fire Dept. for over 30 years and a forest fire warden for 40 years. Friends will be received from 2-4 and 6-8 PM Tuesday at the Humbert Funeral Home in Confluence, where a service will be held at 11 AM Wednesday with Amedisys Hospice chaplain Mike Lyons and Rev. Tim Rogers officiating. Interment will follow in Addison Cemetery. There will be viewing one hour prior to the service on Wednesday. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Addison Vol. Fire Dept.

Zaloma P. "Sis" Blubaugh, 96, formerly of Ursina, passed away Sunday, June 13, 2021 at Meadow View Nursing Center, Berlin. She was born August 21, 1924 in Selbysport, MD, a daughter of Gladys Umbel Groff and Ralph C. Lear. Her parents, husband, John E. Blubaugh, Jr., who died in 1982, a great grandson, Adam Weyand and brothers, William A. Lear and Herbert Sanner preceded her in death. She is survived by daughters, Judith Weyand (Lester), Mooresville, IN and Linda Gary (Sherm), Markleton and a son, Bradley (Teresa), Confluence; grandchildren, Julie Ann Kreger (Mark Smith), Meyersdale, Lori Frazee (Brian), Markleysburg, David Weyand (Julie), Waxahachie, TX, Leslie Powell (Jeff), Mooresville and Derek Blubaugh, Pittsburgh; great grandchildren, Justin Frazee (Abigail), Acacia Svonavec (Matt), Jessilyn Holp (Mike), Kaitlyn Jenkins (Brian), Zachary Stallings (Brianna), Chelsea Cook (Kevin), Ashley Sanders (Will) and Andrew Weyand; great great grandchildren, Lane, Morgan and Kyle Svonavec, Izze, Callen, Pippy and Penn Frazee, Elijah, Audrey and Layna Holp, Leah and Lilah Jenkins, Levi Stallings, Jolee Cook and Herschel Sanders. Zaloma was a member of the United Community Church of God and W.C.S.C. in Ursina. Friends will be received from 2-4 and 6-8 PM Tuesday at the Humbert Funeral Home in Confluence. A funeral service will be held at 11 AM Wednesday in the United Community Church of God with Rev. Dean Hay, Jr. officiating. Interment will follow in Addison Cemetery. There will be viewing at the church on Wednesday one hour prior to the service.

Linda Sue Margroff, 76, Confluence, passed away at Uniontown Hospital on June 16, 2021 with family by her side. She was born February 8, 1945 in Confluence, a daughter of Walter Scott and Olive (Plume) Conn. Her parents, brothers, Jack and Robert and sister, Patricia Lewis preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband, Jack and children, Tim (Missy), Confluence, Neal (Heather), Farmington and Jubal (Jenn), Farmington; grandchildren, Jess, Char, Deidre, Gabby and Lizzy and a great grandson, Max; sisters, Shirley Holliday, Kay Bowlin (Terry) and Debra Conn and a brother, Ron Conn, all of Confluence. Her wisdom will live through her legacy, which was to work hard, never give up and persevere. Friends will be received from 1-4 PM Saturday at the Humbert Funeral Home in Confluence. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



*Monthly meetings will begin
September 20th at 6:30pm*

Membership News

THANK
YOU

Thank you for the following corporate sponsors for this past 2020-2021 year:

Silver

Confluence Lions Club
Confluence Tourism
Somerset Trust
Turkeyfoot Lending Library

Bronze

Beggs Brothers Printing
Hanna House Bed & Breakfast
Sechler Sugar Shack
TMI Group LLC
J. Davy Yockey ESQ



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. Schaible residence in center of picture blown 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.