

Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society

PASS IT ON

Share our history

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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 Awardees:

Pastor Ron Schaeffer presented the following H.C. (Joe) Harned Historical Scholarship at the 2023 Turkeyfoot Graduation Ceremonies.



Abigail Barlow – Abby was the Valedictorian of her class. She has been accepted to Yale University, which is the 3rd top university in America. Her field of study will either be biology and/or biochemistry. She plans to specialize in emergency medicine. She served as the Class Treasurer. Honors and special recognitions include: Challenge Program STEM and Community Service, PMEA Somerset County Chorus Festival Attendee, Highest honors for Honor roll, Soroptimist of Somerset County Volunteer recognition, Student of the month, Student of the year, Musical theater president, Chorus president, Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Sciences. Other activities include: Addison Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary (Secretary), Buffalo Creek 4-H Club (VP, treasurer, news reporter), Somerset County 4-H Exchange Club (News reporter), Member of the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society.



Kate Grove – Kate was the Salutatorian of her class. She has been accepted to Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She plans to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She was awarded the Trustee's Scholars Award from Indiana University. She served as the Vice-President of her class. Honors and special recognitions include: Highest Honors (1,2,3,4), National Honor Society (10th-12th), Challenge Program Award, WestPAC Softball Honoree. Other Activities include: Basketball, Softball, SADD President, Student Council Secretary, National Honor Society President, Basketball statistician volunteer, Special Recreation Day Volunteer at the Confluence Yough Dam, Member of the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society. She is employed at Mitch's Fuel and Food.



Historical Society Scholarship Essay

By Abigail Barlow

It is no secret that Confluence, PA and the surrounding regions are rich in American history. From George Washington's escapades as a young general to the crash of Flight 93, our area has played a key role in many of the nation's most important events. However, there is one aspect of our past that is often overlooked by local residents and tourists alike: Native American history. The indigenous peoples of Southwestern PA, as well as the archeological efforts to discover them, were an integral part of U.S. history.

Prior to the early 1930s, little was known about the history of Native Americans in Somerset County. Some prominent researchers even doubted that Native Americans had lived in the region before it was settled by Europeans. It wasn't until the Great Depression that American Indian artifacts were first found in our area. In an effort to create jobs, President Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration decided to enact archeological excavations across Somerset County, with some of the most well-known sites being located in Fort Hill and Meyersdale, PA. Edgar Augustine, an engineer from Addison, PA, was the field director and an avid supporter of these operations. He oversaw as local farmers and miners carefully excavated and documented artifacts, which could then be examined by historians and researchers.

In addition to providing financial support for families, the archeological sites in Somerset County helped to redefine previous historical knowledge of Native Americans in the region. The care and precision with which the workers handled their discoveries meant that their findings could be used by scientists for official research. Upon inspection of the artifacts that were recovered, one archeologist named Mary Butler realized that the objects did not match those that belonged to any known Native American tribe. Her observation allowed researchers to determine that the Somerset County region was once inhabited by a previously undiscovered group of American Indians, who are now referred to as the Monongahela tribe. Although it is still a mystery what happened to the Monongahela, historians have since been able to develop an understanding of how they lived and interacted with other tribes throughout the nation. Despite being overshadowed by other notable events that have occurred in the region, Somerset County's discoveries regarding Native Americans hold great importance in the scope of American history. The success of the archeological site's workers served as evidence of the nation's recovery from the Great Depression, while their material discoveries helped historians to uncover important new information about the indigenous people of America. Most importantly, however, the recognition of the Monongahela tribe as a result of the work done in our area has allowed them to take their rightful place in history as Native Americans and the first inhabitants of Southwestern PA.

Sources Cited

<https://www.dailyamerican.com/story/news/local/2014/09/12/monongahela-people-preceded-european-settlers-in-somerset-county-by-600-years/44139547/>

<http://paheritage.wpengine.com/article/archaeology-black-white-digging-somerset-county-past-during-great-depression/>

<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/archaeology/files/mysteryofmonindians.pdf>

The History of Confluence

By Kate Grove

Confluence, Pennsylvania and the surrounding areas have played an important role in our area's history. Confluence is at the location of three adjoining rivers: The Laurel Creek River, The Youghiogheny River, and The Casselman River. In 1754, George Washington passed through Confluence. At that time, the Confluence Valley was called Turkeyfoot by natives and settlers because of the three-pronged formation that formed what looks like a turkey's foot by the rivers in the valley. I live in Addison, Pennsylvania, right along the National Road and George Washington passed through our area directly behind my house.


The site of Confluence was laid out in 1870 as the railroad was arriving. Local citizens weren't thrilled with the idea of the railroad. They thought it would take away from their businesses. It actually brought a lot of prosperity to the area.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the area had factories, lumber mills, and coal mining. The biggest industry in the town was Beggs Tannery, which was located across the railroad tracks from town. That business stayed afloat until its closure in 1920.

After the timber was cut and the coal was mined, the trains quit stopping in the area. That's when the Youghiogheny Dam was built in 1944. It was built to control flooding watersheds belonging to the Youghiogheny River, the Monongahela River, and the Ohio River. They flooded the town of Somerfield with a lake. Men fighting in World War I came through the Youghiogheny River Valley as the national highway was the main route West from the East Coast. Somerfield was a town with homes and businesses. There was a tavern, a hotel, a drug store, a general store, a garage, a blacksmith barn, several practicing doctors, various churches, and the town's First National Bank.

The town of Somerfield began to become rundown but with the construction of Confluence, the town began to grow again. Around 200 people abandoned their homes with the Army Corps of Engineer's decision to flood the area for the dam.

Those are just a few things that I find interesting and important about the area that I've called home for 18 years. I feel fortunate to live in a small, rural area that is so rich in history.



Information from Betsy Hill

Betsy has been enjoying our FaceBook page and found the photo of the Confluence Fire Dept. in 1927 interesting, she saw it in a previous newsletter, but not with names. She wanted to add one more name: Robert H. Funk, top row, 3rd from left. He moved to Washington, DC in 30/31 and unfortunately died of TB in 1933. He was her uncle. She attached an article/obit. from the Meyersdale Republic paper. His mother was a Hyatt, with many relatives in the area, his father was a German immigrant who was a chef at the Sanitarium for several years.

Betsy writes...

Below are photos from my grandmother, Estella Funk—she and her twin sister are in the large group photo. A distant cousin also has these photos, her mother Nancy Sweitzer is in the photo, and she got the names I have listed from her relatives. My grandmother had written the names of the smaller group on the back and they match with the ones my cousin sent. A couple of years ago I found a newspaper account of the day in the Somerset Herald, August 23, 1899. I would love to know names of the others if anyone can help.

This was the 84th birthday celebration of Sarah King Sanner and the Hyatt / Sanner / King family reunion on August 20, 1899.



The smaller group is Sarah Sanner surrounded by her living children, less Ross R. Sanner. Standing (L to R): John Asby Sanner, William Henry "Harry" Sanner, Cyrus M. Sanner
Seated (L to R): Highley Jennie Sanner Grimes, Sarah Sanner, Catherine "Kate" Sanner Hyatt

CONFLUENCE CHAT

OBITUARY

ROBERT FUNK.

Robert Funk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Funk of Washington, D. C., died in the Endwood Sanitorium, Townson, Maryland, at 3 o'clock Sunday, December 3rd, after an illness of about a year, suffering from tuberculosis.

He was born at Markleton on October 15, 1906, and was aged 27 years, 1 month and 18 days. He spent his boyhood in the Markleton district, moving with his parents to Confluence about ten years ago and resided here until three years ago when the family moved to Washington, D. C., where Mr. Funk has been in the employ of the United States Government for some time.

Robert Funk was one of the popular members of the young set in and around Confluence, and was greatly missed when he removed from here three years ago. His early demise is of extreme sorrow to his many friends here. He was a member of the Confluence Baptist Church and a regular attendant at the Baptist Sunday School while living here.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by one sister, P. Ronald Clouse, of Zellenople, Pa., and two brothers, Frank and Josiah Funk, of Washington, D. C.

The body was brought from Townson to Confluence, and taken to the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Clouse on Sterner Street, where funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1:30 P. M., Rev. Kriebel, pastor of the Confluence Baptist Church, officiating. Interment in Addison Cemetery. The pallbearers were Floyd Bower, Charles W. Kurtz, Jr., George Kreger and Earl Sweitzer.



The entire group. Standing (L to R): 3rd Elsie Hyatt Glotfelty, 5th Alice Hyatt Frantz, 8th Laura Belle Sanner Kreger, (I think 6th holding baby is Fred Kreger, Jr. but not sure, he wasn't ID'd on photo), 11th Lydia Catherine Huston Sanner and husband 12th William H. Sanner, 13th Isabell Sterner Sanner and husband 14th John A. Sanner, 15th Highley Jennie Grimes, 18th Clarence J. Hyatt ((don't think that is correct, Clarence born in 1892, see below)), 19th William "Billy" Harrison Rush, 21st Albert Ross Hyatt.

Sitting, middle (L to R): 1st Estella Hyatt Funk, 2nd Josiah Hyatt and wife 3rd Kate Hyatt, 4th Sarah Sanner, 5th Cyrus M. Sanner and wife 6th Elizabeth A. Brown Sanner.

Sitting front, (L to R): 8th Rosa Sanner Critchfield, 9th Nancy Kathryn Hyatt Sweitzer, 11th Marion Alice Sanner Snyder. ((I actually think that 14th is Josiah Cyrus Bills and 15th is possibly Clarence Hyatt))

Hope you might find this of interest. I would also love to learn the location of the Hyatt farm, I think I found it on an old map and I believe the name of the road now is Dull Hill Road, but that's just from google earth, etc. and best guess.

I found an article on Josiah Bills death in the Meyersdale Republic paper dated July 25, 1912. Clarence Hyatt was the son of Josiah & Kate Hyatt, born Jan. 31, 1892 and Josiah Bills was their grandson, born May 20, 1892 to their daughter Sarah E. Hyatt Bills and her husband Robert. Sarah died very young and Kate & Josiah took both of her children to live with them (1900 & 1910 census) so the two probably grew up as brothers. The photo of them is undated but identifies Cyrus Bills on the left and Clarence Hyatt on the right.

Josiah was a brakeman on the B & O and Clarence was a telegraph operator. In 1912 Josiah was killed on the tracks. The article hints at some criminal motive and states that a detective was investigating. I tried to look online to see if there was any follow-up, but never found anything. Probably they never determined why he was on the tracks. Maybe some Bills descendent knows more.

Happy Family Reunion.

Sunday last was the occasion of a very happy gathering at the residence of Josiah Hyatt, in Lower Turkeyfoot Township, where the eighty-fourth birthday anniversary of Mrs. Sarah Sanner was celebrated by some sixty of her descendants, consisting of all her children, (except Capt. R. R. Sanner), grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives, residents of Somerset and Fayette counties. The dinner was served in a beautiful sugar grove near by the Hyatt residence, which, notwithstanding the excessive heat, was delightful, and the bountiful supply of edibles was all that could be desired.

After dinner Mr. Fred Kreger, Jr., who is the husband of a granddaughter of Mrs. Sanner's, got into his carriage and drove at the speed almost of an express train to Confluence, where he corraled a photographer, and, returning to the grove, had a picture taken of the entire company, as well as of several small groups, one of which was of the old lady surrounded by her children present.

Mother Sanner is, notwithstanding her great age, in excellent health, all of her senses being apparently unimpaired; her memory is as good as at any time during her life, and she is able to read small print without the aid of glasses. She was as happy as a young girl. X.

Clarence Hyatt at Rest.

Clarence Hyatt died at the family home at Confluence at 11 o'clock, Thursday night, June 4. He was aged 33 years, 4 months and 5 days. He had been in delicate health for a long time, his sickness extending over several years.

Clarence Hyatt was born in Lower Turkeyfoot Township, January 31, 1892. He was a son of Josiah and Catherine Sanner White. The former preceded him to the grave; the latter survives. He had been living at Confluence over 20 years, and followed the occupation of railroad telegrapher, having been employed by the Western Maryland Railroad until his health broke down.

He was a young man of good habits and a universal favorite. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal bible class. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Catherine Hyatt, of Confluence, with whom he always lived, and one brother, Louis Hyatt, Star Junction; and four sisters, Mrs. Alice Frantz, Estella Funk and Mrs. Elsie Glodfelty, Confluence; and Mrs. Esther Switzer, Ursina.

The funeral took place at the Jersey church at 1:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon, Rev. L. H. Powell officiating; interment in the Jersey cemetery. The pallbearers were Hubert Shipley, Robert Funk, Frank Funk and Claude Donaldson.



H.C. “Joe” Harned Scholarships Record of Awardees

Two Awards: \$1,250 per year for 4 years – Total \$5,000
(Awards from 2006-2011 were for \$2,500 per year for total of \$10,000)

2006

**Amanda Hanft
Holly Groff**

2016

**Haley Rugg
Phoenix Stratemeier**

2007

**Cory Colflesh
Philip G. Wass**

2017

**Alex Barkley
Laura Dively**

2008

None Given

2018

**Caleb Butler
(Only one applied)**

2009

**Neil Bender
Emily Nace**

2019

**Zoey Betker
Kaileigh Holliday**

2010

**Ashley Kalasky
(Only one given)**

2020

**Autumn Miller
Katelyn Pepe**

2011

**Constance Hilliard
Brittney Garletts**

2021

**Abbigail Hair
Sadie Lewis**

2012

**Kiah Lewis
Riley Papson**

2022

**Jesse Culp
Morgan Griffith**

2013

**Maddie Bender
Keith Russell**

2014

**William Conn
Samantha Phillippi**

2015

**Shelby Conn
Emilie Wheatly**

Scholarships



SEE YOU AT THE CENTER!

Join us at the Confluence Creative Arts Center for these fun summer activities!
 Help us spread the word: forward to a friend / follow us on Instagram and Facebook
 Help make Confluence a trail town with HeART. □ Teach a class. Volunteer. Participate.

Wednesdays: June 14, 21, July 12, 19, Aug 2: **Power Yoga with Brynn**

Yoga for strength and flexibility. Adaptations for all levels.
 6 to 7:15 pm
 Bring a friend! Suggested donation \$10.

Thursday, June 15: **Folk song and acoustic music circle**

Come sing! Bring an instrument if you play
 next sessions: July 17 and August 17
 by donation 6:30 pm. - 8 pm

Saturday, June 17: **Big Fat Yard Sale on the Arts Center lawn**

Come BUY or set up a table and SELL your own stuff
 (If you want to sell, we're grateful for a modest donation that will help with summer lawn maintenance)
 9:00 am - 3 pm

Mondays: **Silent Meditation**

Judd Evans will guide a quiet Shambhala session for calm and peaceful thinking.
 by donation 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Tuesdays, June 20 - Aug 1: **Story Time**

Stories, Crafts, and Games for kids aged 3 to 8. Free books and lots of fun!
 by donation 10 am - 11:30 am

June 26 - 30 / July 3, 5, 6, 7: **Eco-Art Camp**

Predator & Prey, Paint & Clay / Scales & Snakes, Things to Make
 Creative outdoor fun, messy art projects and visits from LIVE wild animals!
 Registration required. \$50/family/week (!□!) 10 am - 3 pm

Last Thursday of each Month (June 29/July 27/Aug 24): **Come Create**

Work on individual sewing, knitting, and crochet projects
 PLUS: Periodic opportunities for learning new skills or projects
 On June 29, work on individual project OR **learn slow stitching embroidery**
 Drop in...but preregistration is required for the slow stitch embroidery activity
 by donation 6:30 pm - 8 pm

July 23 : **Overbooked Discussion Group**

This month's book: *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* by D. Adams
 Read or listen to the book and enjoy a lively, informal discussion
 by donation / no preregistration required 4 pm

August 5: **Art in the Park & Big George W. Lantern Parade**

Celebrate Confluence's 150th anniversary with a day of hands-on art activities for all ages and abilities. Lots of family-friendly art stations, music, and more. Everyone is invited to follow a Giant George Washington parade puppet on a lantern parade at dusk to view the fireworks over Turkeyfoot Point.
 by donation 11 am - 3 pm: art stations open / dusk to dark: lantern parade & fireworks



In Loving Memory



In sympathy to the following family members:

Dale Richard Nolf, 85, Confluence, passed away Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at The Patriot in Somerset. He was born November 3, 1937 in Confluence, a son of Charles and Leona (Tressler) Nolf. His parents, brother Roger, sister Lois Augustine and granddaughter, Kathleen Nolf preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Barbara (Fike), who he married on June 2, 1956; sons, Glenn and wife, Staci, Durham, NC and Mark and wife, Robyn, Confluence; grandchildren, Caroline and Calvin Nolf; brother William and wife, Janet and sister, Berdine Smith, all of Confluence. Dale was a graduate of Turkeyfoot Valley High School Class of 1956, a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Addison, Confluence Lions Club and Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society. In 1957 he began working on an automobile assembly line in Cleveland, Ohio and then as a welder in the Baltimore ship yards and at Bethlehem Steel in Johnstown. He bought his first truck in 1960 and over the next 47 years, he leased his trucks to several trucking companies before retiring from National Van Lines in 2007. Dale loved golfing with Smitty, hunting with Leroy, driving coast to coast in his Kenworth's and spending winters on the Gulf Coast. 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 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Addison with Rev. Glenn Foster officiating. Interment will follow in Addison Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the American Heart Association.

If you have any obituaries you would like published, of our faithful members, please email them to tfvhs@tfvhs.com for publishing in our newsletters.



TOWN CELEBRATION | AUG. 5, 2023



We've been invited to participate in the George Washington lantern parade. Any members who might want to help make a giant parade puppet, help kids make lanterns out of clear plastic bottles and tissue paper, and / or walk along on the short parade from the park to the river, please email

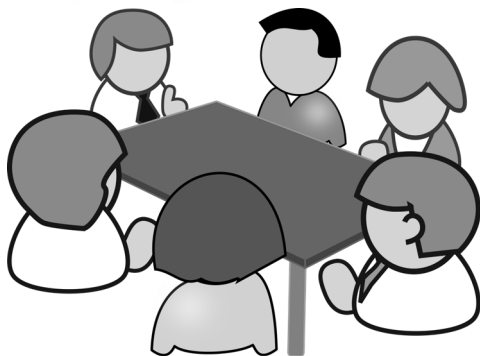
Jody at info@confluencecreativearts.org

The parade puppet construction starts in early July and making lanterns with the kids at Art-in-the-Park on August 5.



We have a Facebook page!! Search for "Turkeyfoot Historical Society" on Facebook to check out our postings. In order that more people can see our page we would appreciate your following the page and sharing our postings with your friends.

Meeting



Monthly Meetings...

July 17

August 21

September 18

October 16

November 20

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

Membership News

THANK
YOU

Please support the following businesses who are currently supporting the Historical Society with their corporate memberships

Bronze Corporate:

Beggs Printing

Hanna House Bed/Breakfast

Sechler Sugar Shack

Somerset Trust

Tissue Farm (New Member)

TMI Group LLC

Trustmont Group

Turkeyfoot Lending Library



Silver Corporate:

Confluence Lions (Silver)

Confluence Tourism (Silver)

Welcome New Members!

John & Christine Walsh

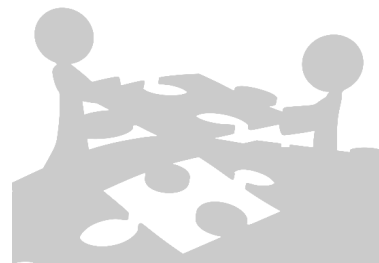
Volunteers!



Volunteers Needed

If you would be willing to come and sit for an hour or two, this would help keep our building open for visitors. Please check with Pastor Ron Schaeffer if you can help out. Home phone: 814-395-5168 or cell 814-233-0117 and leave a message.

Renew your Membership



We rely on you for support! Please use the form below to renew your membership today. Our new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2023 and runs through June 30, 2024.

Thank you for all your support!

Included is our membership form below. Our new fiscal year begins on July 1st. We encourage you to send your membership dues to PO Box 44, Confluence, PA 15424, along with your completed membership form. Any additional contribution at this time will be greatly appreciated.

Renew today!

Thank You!

TURKEYFOOT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – 7/1/23 to 6/30/24

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 with this form 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.

