

**Turkeyfoot  
Valley  
Historical  
Society**

**PASS IT ON**  
Share our history

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2023

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

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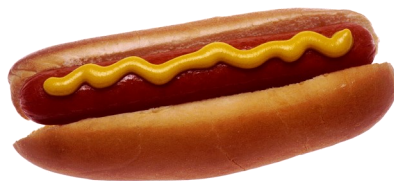
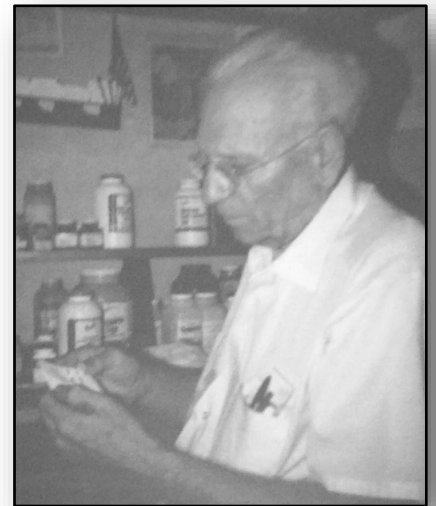
# January Open House

Jan 20, 2024  
1pm—3pm

Join us at the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Building for some January fun. Get out in January and enjoy some food, music and the company of friends.

Irene "Toby" Koontz has prepared some recorded music by Dr. Edwin Price for our listening pleasure. She will also have her books available for sale and maybe another surprise.

Our famous hot dogs and sauerkraut will be ready to eat by 1pm. Please stop by and enjoy. All are welcome!



**We don't have regular  
meetings in January,  
February and March .  
See you in April!**



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.



## TOWN CELEBRATION | AUG. 5, 2023



The Confluence 150th Celebration began with an opening ceremony in the town park and the ceremonial burial of a town time capsule.

Throughout the day food and craft vendors, a car show, corn-hole tournament, horse-drawn wagon rides, a Casselman Valley Dairy milk wagon, steam tractors and concerts were held in and around the park. Birth records from Price Hospital were available for viewing along with a historical timeline of Confluence's history at Tissue Farm.

Kurt Miller from the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society conducted walking history tours. Jeff Clevenger set up his (150th pages 4-6)









reenactment tent in the park to speak about Washington's trip through the Confluence area, "Two Days in the Life of Washington: Passing Through the Turkeyfoot May 19-20, 1754."

At dusk a lantern parade led by a very large George Washington puppet made by the Confluence Creative Arts Center lead all to the fireworks at the confluence of the Laurel Hill Creek and Youghiogheny and Casselman rivers.





## Preface

In a dream; It is in the manner in which you walk and in the way you look at the sky or gaze at the sunset, or dream, the way you hold your head or laugh, the sound of your voice, a jester, your stance, the way you move your arms, the way you bring up your children, your belief in God – They do surface. A necklace – light blue with tiny red flowers is tucked away in a painted black box with strange designs – somewhere – forgotten – like the memories of our ancestors. In time, the habits, the ways of our own blood surface like an oozing river, someday...somewhere. Likewise the little blue necklace will surface where no one suspects or looks for it. It doesn't matter how precious and rare the memories – or the necklace – in the far depths of time they will surface each in their own way, and this is their story.

Available in January 2024  
\$22 Paperback



Histories of families are unique.

I wanted to tell my history as well as dabble in the excitement of fiction.

The story tells of what really was and could have been or was it really? Who knows?

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 814-395-5078

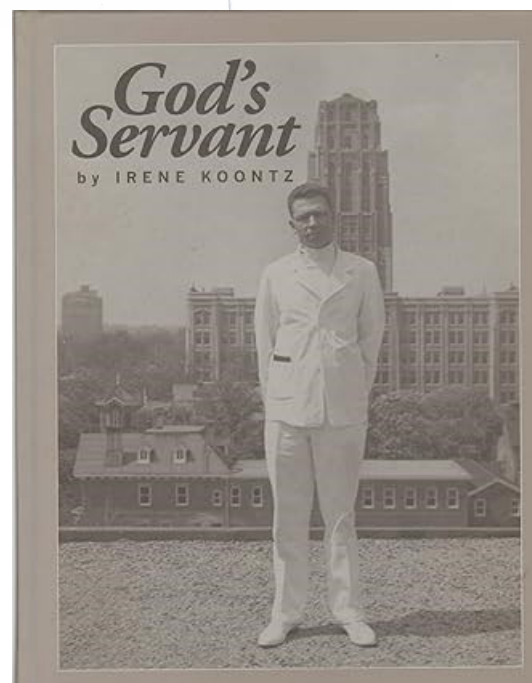
...And this, too, was.

BY IRENE KOONTZ



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

132 page book – 2017 Release – Contact 814-395-5078



Irene “Toby” Koontz will have these 3 books available for purchase on January 20th during our open house. She will also be doing a book signing.





# Laurel Highlands ANTIQUE Bottle Club



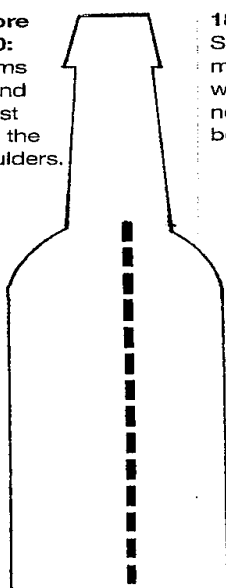
At our October meeting Bill Rump and Marshall Dickey did a very fascinating presentation on antique glass bottles of the area. They brought along some of their collection.

## Mold Seams (Figure 1)

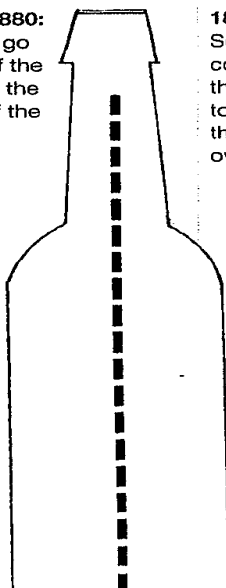
Prior to 1900, bottles were manufactured using either a blowpipe (free-blown) until 1860 or with a mold until 1900. In this process, the mouth or lip of the bottle was formed last

**FIGURE 1—Identifying Bottle Age By Mold Seams**

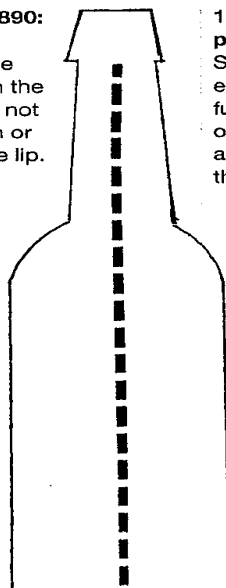
**Before 1860:**  
Seams extend to just over the shoulders.



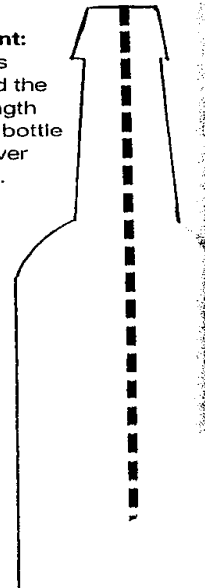
**1860-1880:**  
Seams go most of the way up the neck of the bottle.



**1880-1890:**  
Seams continue through the top but not through or over the lip.



**1900-present:**  
Seams extend the full length of the bottle and over the lip.

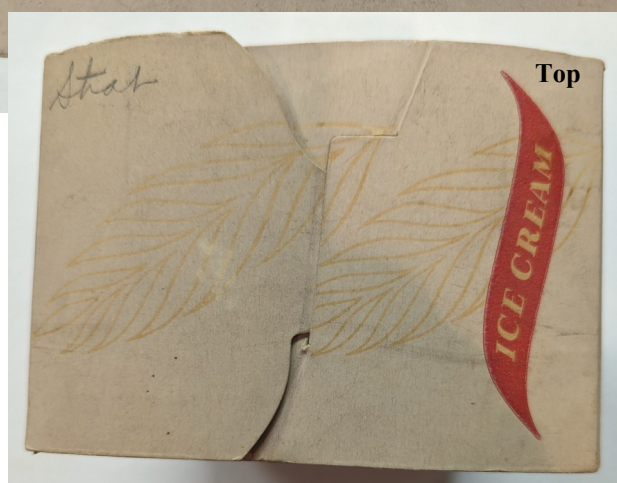
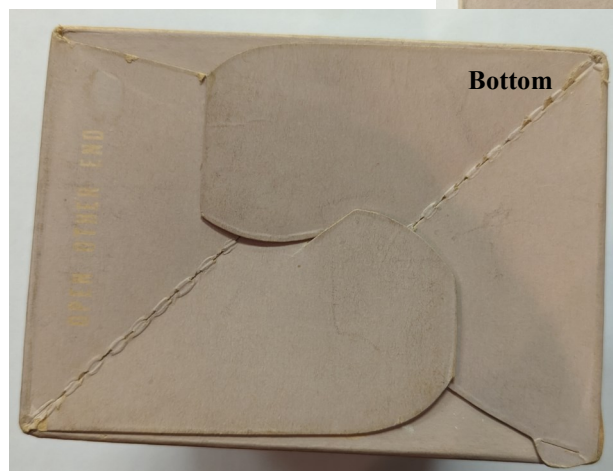
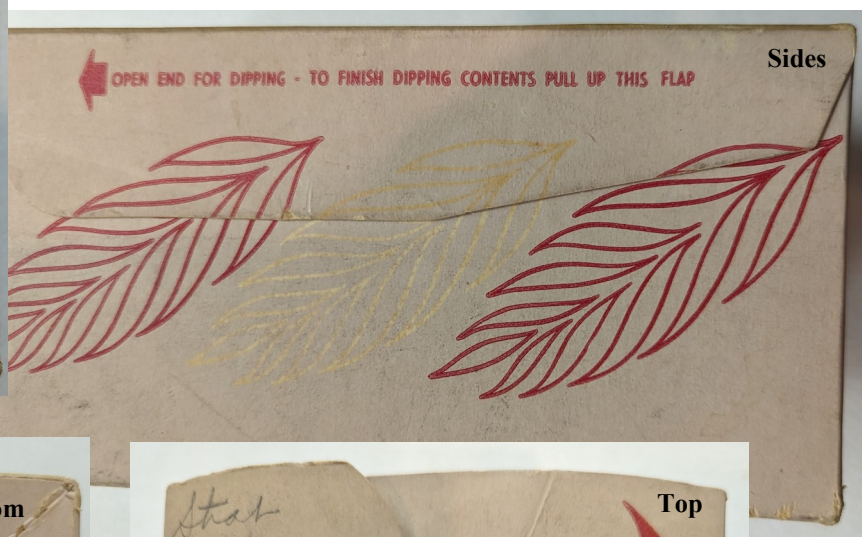
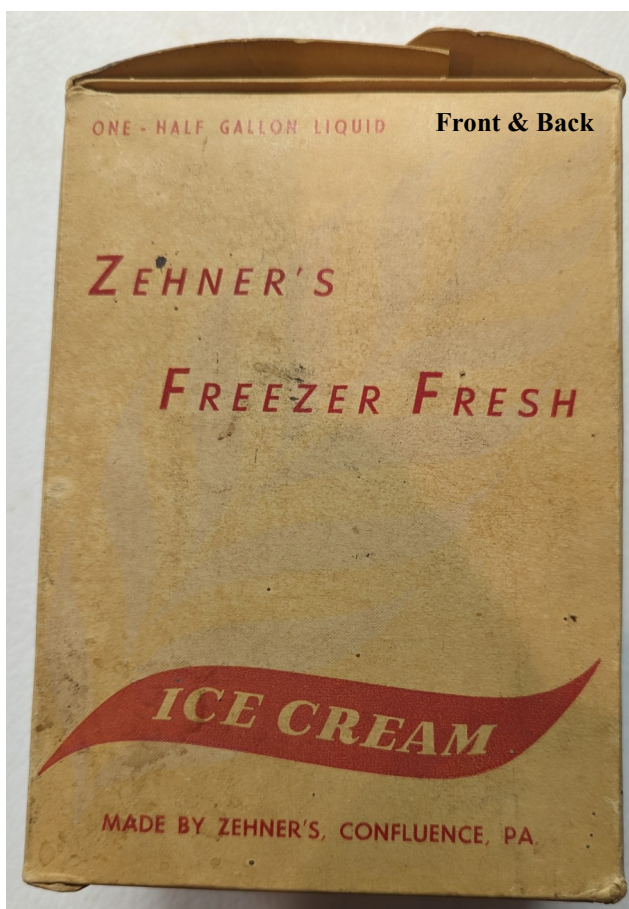


(At Right)... Just before the meeting started Dusti Betker dropped off a bottle that Randy Conn wanted to donate. He had found it in the woods while hunting. We had Bill and Marshall take a look at it. The bottle was a Hutchinson Bottle with a blob top, late 1800s with a lightning stopper (metal with rubber piece at end). It was used for soda.



# ZEHNER'S ICE CREAM

Another very interesting item that was shared at our October meeting was an artifact none of us present had ever seen. Ken and Tanya Zehner brought this empty ice cream container from Zehner's in Confluence, PA. If anyone has information on this container, please contact the historical society at [tfvhs@tfvh.com](mailto:tfvhs@tfvh.com). We would love to know more!

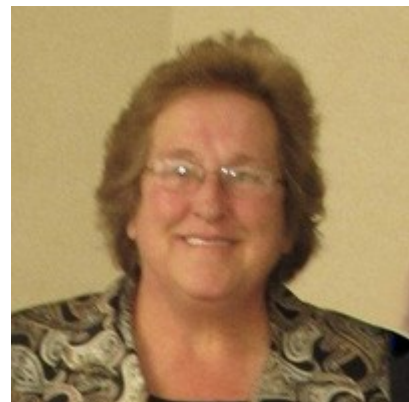




# In Loving Memory

## In sympathy to the following family members:

Lewis, New Castle, Matthew Lewis (Amy), Bedford, Daniel Lewis (Heidi) and Timothy Findling (Kelley), both of Confluence; a daughter, Diana Naa Naa (Matt), Baltimore, MD; 14 grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren and her life partner, Allan Nicklow, with whom she made her home. Friends will be received from 11 AM-12 PM Saturday, December 9, 2023 at the Humbert Funeral Home in Confluence where a memorial service will follow the visitation at 12 PM with Rev. Ronald Schaeffer officiating.



**Margaret M. "Peggy" Findling**, 69, Confluence, passed away Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at her home. She was born December 16, 1953 in Pittsburgh, a daughter of John and Mary (Healy) Kovalesski. Her parents and husband, Robert preceded her in death. She is survived by sons, John



**Richard A. Beggs**, age 92, died Wednesday September 13, 2023, at his home in Maxatawny Township, PA. He was born in Confluence on September 21, 1930 to Emily (Knight) and Charles D. Beggs. He is survived by Patricia (Humbert), his wife of 64 years, daughter Tracey and son-in-law Gregg Kelly, as well as many nieces and nephews. His son, Peter, preceded him in death in 1976. The youngest of 6 children, he was predeceased by his parents, brother Walter and sisters Elayne Kemp, Dorothy Beggs, Helen Rainey, and Martha Holt. Dick was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the Air Force weather service in the South Pacific. He was a proud Penn State graduate, earning his degree in Music Education in 1959. He went on to earn a Master's degree from Lehigh University. His first elementary music teaching job was in Bellville, PA. In 1961 he began teaching in the Kutztown School district, where he remained until he retired in 1993. He loved teaching and never considered it a job. Dick felt that not only was he teaching music, he was teaching his students lessons that would

serve them the rest of their lives. He was instrumental in starting the Kutztown Area Teachers Association, serving as President for several years. He also served on the Maxatawny Township zoning hearing board, including several years as Chairman. He and Patty were fortunate to have many years to enjoy their retirement. Their travel in the US and Europe gave them the opportunity to see places they had read about, to make new friends and spend time with family. Highlights were seeing the beaches of Normandy and golfing at St. Andrews. Dick was an avid golfer, playing well into his 80s, scoring his first hole-in-one in his early-80s. Their home was always filled with music, and they attended many concerts of different styles of music. He and Patty purchased a home in their hometown, Confluence, where he enjoyed spending time with family. Dick was an avid reader of history and was involved in starting the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society. He was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ in Kutztown, where a funeral and celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 12 PM. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society, 600 Logan Place, Confluence, PA 15424.

**Donald P. Hyatt**, 93, of Confluence, passed away Sunday, November 19, 2023 at Meadow View Nursing Center, Berlin. He was born December 10, 1929 in Lower Turkeyfoot Township, a son of Paul E. and Sadie L. (Burnworth) Hyatt. His parents, wife, Dixie L. (Conn) Hyatt and sister, Betty Conn preceded him in death. He is survived by daughter, Cindy Smith

*If you have any obituaries you would like published, of our faithful members, please email them to [tfvhs@tfvhs.com](mailto:tfvhs@tfvhs.com) for publishing in our newsletters.*







and husband Ken; son, Terry Hyatt and wife Ruth Ann, all of Confluence; granddaughters, Stefanie Adams and husband Robert II, Diana Hinzy and husband Bill, and Leslie Humbert; great-granddaughters, Kassidy and Kayleigh Adams; and great-grandsons, William and Max Hinzy. Don was a veteran of the US Navy and retired from the B&O Railroad. He was also an avid hunter and fisherman. In honoring Don's wishes, all services will be private. Interment in Jersey Cemetery.

**Jack E. Mosholder**, 85, Somerset, formerly of New Centerville, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at his home, surrounded by his family. He was born February 25, 1938 in New Centerville, a son of Elwood and Marie (Marker) Mosholder. His parents, daughter, Danielle, sister, Joann Layman and brother-in-law, Frank Layman preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Judith (Mezack), daughter and son-in-law, Alisa and Eric Murphy, son, Chad and fiancé, Heather Henry; granddaughter and husband, Brittany and Cody Echtler and their sons, Eriksen and Elwood; grandsons, Matthew and Michael Mosholder; nephew, Gregg Layman and niece, Barbara Hire. Jack was a general partner in Mosholder Insurance Agency of Somerset and Confluence and a 22 year veteran of Company C, US Army National Guard, Somerset, where his name was added to the roster of a distinguished group who received the Noble Patron of Armor Award on May 6, 2009. He was a member of the Confluence Lions Club and a recipient of a Melvin Jones Fellow Award. He was also a life member of the Confluence Vol. Fire Dept. In 2022, he received an Outstanding and Civil Service Award from the Somerset County Commissioners. He also served on the executive committee of the Somerset American Legion and was a charter member of the Frosty Sons of Thunder. Friends will be received from 12:30 – 1:30 PM on Sunday, November 12, 2023 in the Messiah Lutheran Church, New Centerville, where a funeral service will follow the visitation at 1:30 PM with Pastor Ruth Jensen officiating. Interment will follow in Union Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to Messiah Lutheran Church, PO Box 126, Rockwood, PA 15557 or The Humane Society of Somerset County, PO Box 182, Somerset, PA 15501. Arrangements by Humbert Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Confluence. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.humbertfuneralhome.com](http://www.humbertfuneralhome.com).



**Emily Jane Hickson**, 99, Confluence, died December 16, 2022 after a brief stay at High Pointe Hospice Center in Haverhill, MA. She was born June 9, 1923, the daughter of John C. and Mary Jane (Rees) of Salisbury. She is preceded in death by her parents, brothers G. Rees and John C. Lichliter Jr., sister Winifred Newman, and favorite nephew "Buck" Newman. Emily Jane is survived by daughters Nancy and husband Chuck White of Atkinson, NH and Debra and husband Ron Spencer of Smithburg, WV; granddaughters Laura White, Blaine (Jason) Thomason, and Jennie (Mike) Wright; nieces Elizabeth Lichliter and Sarah Newman; a grand-niece Shannon (Matt) Crist and daughters Maggie, Camryn, and Harper; beloved great-grandchildren Tesla, Spencer, and Clay Thomason, Regan, Caleb, and Emily (her namesake) Wright; and a devoted friend Loretta Rugg and her caring family. Emily graduated from Salisbury High School and earned her BA degree from Indiana Teacher's College, now IUP. She traveled extensively as a military officer's spouse and upon returning from Labrador, moved to Confluence to be close to her best friend and loving sister, Winnie Newman and her husband, Ward. She resumed her teaching career in 1965. Emily was active in the Confluence United Methodist

Church, United Methodist Women, DAR, Delta Kappa Gamma Teacher's Sorority, Women's Civic Club, served on the town council and volunteered with the local library and food pantry. Throughout her 90s, Emily divided her time between her daughters' homes in NH and WV and visits to her home in Confluence, where she reconnected with friends, former students, and church family. Friends will be received from 11 AM-1 PM, Friday, December 23 at the Humbert Funeral Home in Confluence, where a funeral service will be held at 1 PM with Pastor Valerie Stark officiating. Interment to follow in Salisbury Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials in Emily's name be given to the Confluence Food Pantry.

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# Hexie - Legends and Lore



Thanks to the Meyersdale Library, Hexie has its own Legends and Lore signage. The sign was dedicated on October 25, 2023 with about 25 people in attendance.

The legend is as follows from the Meyersdale Library website... For many years, there was a belief that witches were casting spells in the area. Many of the legends named Prissy Rugg as a reputed witch. Apparently Prissy was a nonconformist as far as women at the turn of the 19th century, dashing about on a white horse when most women would have been home doing housework. People believed that she was casting hexes as she rode. There were a number of factors that set Prissy apart from her neighbors as an "outsider," and therefore a target of suspicion. The legend says that after her death, mysterious horse hooves were heard when no horse was visible.

Please read the full "Hexie and the Library Ladies" article at... <https://www.meyersdalelibrary.org/blog>

Watch the video of the dedication at... <https://www.youtube.com/@meyersdalelibrary>





# 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 Co  
Tissue Farm (New Member)  
TMI Group LLC  
Trustmont Group  
Turkeyfoot Lending Library



## Welcome New Members!

Gavin Culp  
Peggy Miltanberger

## Silver Corporate:

Confluence Lions (Silver)  
Confluence Tourism (Silver)

# 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.

Merry Christmas

We thank you for all you have contributed this year. May the celebrations of Christmas fill your hearts with love, joy and peace. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year ahead.

*Happy Holidays!*