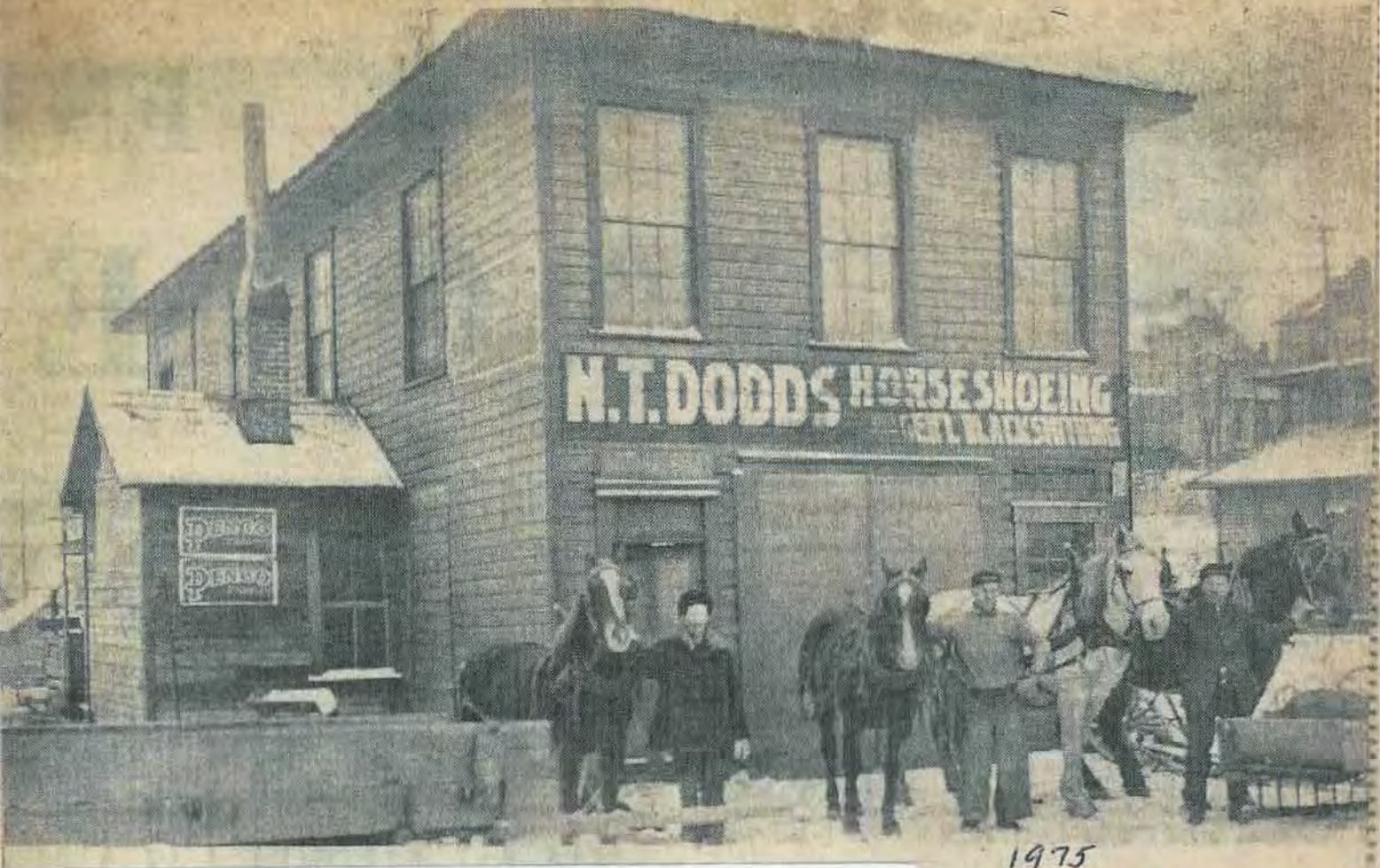


## THE OLD SMITHY OF 60 YEARS AGO



1975

It was over 60 years ago when this photograph was taken at a blacksmith shop in Burgettstown.

Perhaps you can recognize the building. Up to its final days, it was the residence of Albert Tony on Bridge Street.

But 'way back when, as you can tell by the sign, it was used for blacksmithing and horseshoeing.

The smith, pictured in the center, was N.T. Dodds, father of William Dodds, of Langeloth.

At the left is John Sylvan Brunner, who was a farmer in Jefferson Township. He is pictured with his sleigh and team of horses. Mr. Brunner was the grandfather of Rep. John L. Brunner, of Burgettstown.

The gentleman at the right is unidentified.

The Center Avenue railroad station is pictured at the right.

**Old Smithy of 60 years Ago**  
**N. T. Dodds-Horseshoeing and General Blacksmithing**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-1975**

## Some Old-Time Blacksmiths in the Fort Vance Historical Society Area

In Cross Creek Village, according to the map of that Village in the Caldwell Atlas of Washington County, Penna. (1876) there was the blacksmith shop of Thomas A. Hindman and beside it stood the wagon-maker's shop of Lewis Powelson. These two old artisans worked side by side in that Village for many years, and much of their work was done in co-operation with each other as Mr. Hindman did the iron work and Mr. Powelson the wood work on vehicles, farm implements, etc. for the farmers of the area surrounding the Village. This writer has in his possession an old double sleigh made by these two men working together. This sleigh was made by Hindman and Powelson probably in the 1870's and when my Father came into possession of it, he took it back to these men and had it made longer and re-painted. This work was done in about 1904, and now, seventy years later the old sleigh is still in pretty good condition.

Also in Cross Creek Village in 1876, further down the main street of the Village stood the black-smith shop of Mr. Frank Adams, who worked alone, doing both iron work and wood work on vehicles and implements which were brought to him for repairs. In addition, these black-smiths for many years, during their most active years, did horse-shoeing as well as this other general black-smithing work. The shops of Hindman, Powelson and Adams were burned down in fires which occurred in the Village early in this present century, so this put them out of business. The tools which Mr. Hindman used were salvaged, but the "temper" was taken out of most of them in the fire, but a few years ago, they were removed by Albert Miller to Meadowcroft Village where they were used to furnish the restored Hindman Blacksmith Shop at the Village.

A later shop in Cross Creek Village was that established by Samuel G. Scott, a native of Smith Township. Mr. Scott lived in a house which stood where Lester Lee now lives in the Village and his shop was located on the same lot, and it is now used by the Lees as a garage and storage building. Mr. Scott worked here until he had to retire because of advanced age, but he had had as an apprentice in his shop a Cross Creek boy by the name of Briceland Tuttle. After Mr. Scott retired, Mr. Tuttle took over the shop and worked there, as well as conducting a traveling shop on a pick-up truck bed as he traveled over the area and shod horses and did other work of a black-smithing nature. Mr. Scott died in 1932 and Mr. Tuttle in 195

At Eldersville, the old-time black-smith was Mr. Robert Boles who worked there for many years, both before and after the turn of the century. At Independence Village, another Boles, Mr. J K P Boles conducted a shop. Almost every small village and country town had a black-smith shop. At

Woodrow, on the line between Mt. Pleasant and Cross Creek Townships, there was always a black-smith shop in the older days. John Morgan had a shop there in the 1860's and early in the present century, Charles B. Sharp conducted a shop, and he was succeeded in the business by Edward Parkinson Miller. Mr. Sharp later had a shop in Hickory, while Mr. Miller went into other work, but he is still living at Woodrow.

Another old-time black-smith partner-ship at Hickory was the shop conducted there by the Morris Brothers: Joseph and John who were in business for many years. These men were colored but were highly respected citizens of the area and could be depended upon for very good work. Late in life, th took into partnership a nephew who worked with them, but after the older mens' retirement, the nephew, Ed. Morris sought other employment and didn't continue the black-smithing trade. Also, in Mt. Pleasant Township, in the north-eastern corner opposite the present site of Fort Cherry High School was the shop of Mr. Gamble Winters. This was located out in the "country" away from any town or village, but it was liberally patronized by the nearby farmers, and the shop was conducted there for many years.

Burgettstown had several black-smiths in earlier years. One of the shops was located near the Iron bridge and about where the Fire Department building is now. Men who worked in that shop included Messrs. Morrow and Stewart, and I believe that Carney and Carnahan were mentioned at the Fort Vance meeting as having been blacksmiths in Burgettstown. A Mr. McBride was black-smith at Bavington.

In Paris, Penna. an old-time black-smith was Mr. Elias Freshwater who plied his trade in that Village for many years. At the age of 90 years, Mr. and Mrs. Freshwater observed the 66th anniversary of their marriage and Mr. Freshwater was still active at his trade.

It was brought out at the meeting of the Fort Vance Society in January 1974, ~~it was brought out~~ that a man who shoes horses is really a farrier, but that term is applied only if that is his sole occupation. In the old blacksmith shops, the trades of farrier and blacksmith were combined in one person, since most blacksmiths shod horses in the country blacksmith shops of Washington County.

Submitted by A. D. White

March 14, 1974

**Memories of old Blacksmith Shops in Northern Washington County  
By Harris Smith**

**My first memory of being in a blacksmith shop was around the turn of the century. This shop was on East Pittsburgh Street in Burgettstown, PA and was operated by James Carnahan.**

**A few years later, I remember being in a blacksmith and wagon maker shop just off of North Main Street, Burgettstown. The blacksmith shop was operated by Shannon Lyons and the wagon maker shop by William Johnston.**

**In later years for a long period of time this shop was operated by Jack Carney and was closed about 1930.**

**Also, in the early 1900 there was a shop on Main Street in Burgettstown where the Borough Building now stands, it was operated by John Marrow and later by William Dodd sans still later by Warren Stewart. This shop was almost wiped out by the 1912 flood, but Mr. Stewart rebuilt it and operated for several more years and then turned it into an auto sales facility about 1925.**

**Another shop that dates back to the 1800 hundreds was the James McBride shop in Bavington. James McBride was born in Robinson Township and followed Blacksmithing at various places on the Steubenville Pike. In the mid 18 hundreds, his son John Mc Bride also took up Blacksmith trade and operated a shop in Bavington for a number of years. His wife was Susan Scott and their daughter married John F. Morgan, who was also a blacksmith.**

**John F. Morgan and his son Daniel Stewart Morgan operated a blacksmith a spring wagon maker's shop in Bavington. In the 1890's and early 1900's I have in my possession an iron wedge made in the Morgan shop by Zahn Adams, a relative of the McBride family, who went to the Klondike gold rush about 1896 and never returned. Leaving a wife and two small sons. They were raised by an uncle and aunt in Bavington.. The Adams boys were about by age and I knew them well.**

**There is a lot of history connected to the Lyons shop in Florence. Gayle Lyons operated this shop from 1895 until the late 1920's. This shop was opened by Mr. Lyons' grandfather about 1830 and in turn passed on to his son in the 1860's. Then in 1895 was taken over by him until the late 1920's, when it was finally closed. This adds up to almost 100 years in the same family.**

**One of the very last shops to operate in the area was Billy Cummins shop in Midway. Mr. Cummins opened this shop about 1912 and closed it about 1950. He was not only an expert horse shoer but did all kinds of repair work for the farmers in the vicinity, That was the days before electric and seta line welding and Billy seldom had an idle moment.**

*Harris Surls Smith, November 1, 1873-February 17, 1977.  
Bulger, PA*

*Article written in 1974.  
Ft. Vance Historical Society*

## "OLD TIMER" PAYS VISIT TO EARLY DAYS SCENES

Former Saddler and Harness Maker  
of South Burgettstown Visits  
Scenes of Early Days

In spite of the weight of 78 years which do not seem to bear heavily upon him, John W. Crider of the Ohio State Masonic Home, Springfield, paid social and fraternal calls to many friends in the Burgettstown district last week, having returned for the annual fair and a visit to relatives. He spent an hour in the Enterprise office on Friday afternoon and related many interesting items of the early history of Burgettstown. This was his first visit to the community in about 30 years.

Mr. Crider was born in 1856 in Brooke county, Virginia, now West Virginia, within a few miles of Wellsburg. He came to Burgettstown in the year 1870 and was engaged as an apprentice with the late William E. Yates who conducted a harness and saddle making shop in South Burgettstown. After three or four years Mr. Crider went to Steubenville, but a few years later returned to Burgettstown and worked as a saddler.

From here he went to various places about the country, eventually settling at Cincinnati where he was employed as a salesman for a large leather concern. He traveled extensively all over the United States and continued in active work until a few years ago when he went to Toledo to make his home with his daughter. From there, about five years ago, he entered the Masonic Home at Springfield. He states that life at the Home is ideal, and that he performs light tasks of bookkeeping and other small jobs to keep out of mischief. Except for an occasional twinge of rheumatism he enjoys splendid health of mind and body.

During his short visit to the scenes of his early days he visited with a niece, Mrs. H. H. Dold of Langalath. Mr. Dold brought him by automobile from Springfield and took him back in his car a few days ago. The journey takes about six hours and was reported as most enjoyable by the venerable saddler of the "old town."

**"Old timer" Pays Visit to Early Days Scenes**  
**John W. Crider**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-October 10, 1934 Edition**

# EXCHANGE LIVERY STABLES

MORGAN & EWING, Proprietors.

(Successors to W. A. Purdy)

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PRICES VERY REASONABLE.

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Near Exchange Hotel Corner, Burgettstown, Pa.

## TIME OF TRAINS

Leaving Burgettstown Station. Railroad  
time. Schedule in effect Nov. 24, 1901:

EASTBOUND.	WESTBOUND.
5:39 a. m.	7:04 a. m.
7:36 a. m.	9:41 a. m.
7:56 a. m.	1:01 p. m.
11:26 a. m.	3:49 p. m.
2:47 p. m.	5:29 p. m.
4:06 p. m.	7:08 p. m.
5:43 p. m.	11:41 p. m.
SUNDAY.	
7:33 a. m.	7:04 a. m.
2:47 p. m.	9:16 a. m.
4:06 p. m.	12:52 p. m.

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## DISTANCE CARD

From BURGETTSTOWN to

Eldersville.....	6	miles
Crosscreek.....	5	"
West Middletown.....	12	"
Independence.....	12	"
Hickory .....	8	"
Canonsburg.....	18	"
Washington .....	18	"
Florence.....	4	"
Frankfort Springs.....	10	"
Paris.....	9	"
Bavington.....	4	"
Murdocksville.....	9	"
Candor.....	5	"
Clinton.....	12	"
Imperial.....	12	"



Wilson Livery and Feed Stable



**Wilson's Livery & Feed Stable**  
*Main Street, Burgettstown, PA*  
*across from where*  
*Citizen's Bank now stands*



The old livery stable, adjacent to Shaffer's Drug Store on Main street, has seen its last days.

Co-owners William Sausser and Bill Yukevich, realizing the building in its dilapidated condition, is causing a safety hazard, hired Joe Loncaric of Langeloth to tear it down. Plans call for a new building to be erected on the spot by next summer for use of office space and apartments.

The building has a very unique history, although the Enterprise has been unable to find out exactly when it was built. We do know that the building was purchased around 1880 from Orr Lee by Mr. William Cole. It was then

used as a feed stable for the old Exchange Hotel, owned by Mr. Cole.

It was first used as a livery stable by S. S. Morgan and William Ewing at the turn of the century, and later was bought by George H. Wilson. Mr. Wilson formerly owned a livery stable on the property adjacent to Thomassy's store, and moved to the old livery stable after selling his former stable to George Thomassy.

It was Mr. Wilson who rented the horses that were in that terrible explosion May 10, 1910, resulting in the death of the driver and team of horses after a load of

nitro-glycerine exploded.

Mr. Wilson, who was Sausser's grandfather, and his sons operated the livery stable for quite a while. "Dud" Wilson told an Enterprise reporter that at that time, there were three livery stables in town. The Wilson stable was reputedly one of the largest around. "Why," said Dud, "when they had the annual Camp Meeting at Independence, which was a big thing in those days, you had to order your horses a month in advance or you were out of luck."

Ben Kobe bought the livery stable about 15 years ago and sold out to Yukevich a year later.

Enterprise Photo



*ffer* PHARMACY  
PRESCRIPTIONS  
*Ice Cream Bar*

WILLARD

SHAWLING'S REST  
Coca-Cola  
BEER LIQUOR

Coronet

NO  
PARKING  
HERE  
FOR  
CLEANER

Wilson Livery Stable- Currently Weidert's Sporting Goods Store, Main Street, Burgettstown



***Remember When?***

This was the approach to the foot bridge from Burgettstown's Main Street many years ago.