

FORT VANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ORGANIZED FEBRUARY 1969



The Fort Vance Historical Society

A legacy of the early years of the organization, formed in February, 1969, for such purposes as “. . . to bring together those people interested in history . . . to provide for the preservation of historical material . . . to promote a better appreciation of our American heritage . . .”

Compiled by the Publicity Committee:

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Table of Contents

Map of Fort Vance Area	2
History of Fort Vance	4
History of Fort Vance Historical Society (February 8 - December 6, 1969)	5
Bylaws	8
Constitution	12
Officers	14
Committees	15
Charter Members	16
Programs and Meetings for the Year 1970	21

History of Fort Vance

In the year 1774, Joseph Vance, along with other white settlers, crossed the mountains from Winchester, Virginia, in search of a new home in the western wilderness. He settled in what is now Smith Township, between Burgettstown and Cross Creek. The area was first entered by settlers in the year 1769, with the immigration of the Poe Brothers.

After selecting his land, Joseph Vance built a fort at the head of a small stream which empties into Raccoon Creek. Its purpose was to protect the pioneer families from roving bands of Indians. The settlers who had filtered into the surrounding countryside were of Scotch-Irish descent, many direct from Scotland and Ireland. They were slowly hacking their way westward, through thick hardwood forests which for many years only the very brave dared to enter, and from which many never returned, spreading into the fertile hills and valleys, carving a new life out of the wilderness.

The fort consisted of several cabins and blockhouses, surrounded by a stockade. Hundreds of people found refuge within its walls from the tomahawk and scalping knife, during the ten years of its existence. A large spring gushed from the hillside, providing water for those within the fort. One of the strongest in the Western country, it ranked in size and importance with other widely known forts in the new world.

Day and night, on the frontier, someone must keep watch for Indians. Many and varied signals were used to warn settlers of the approach of the enemy. Sleigh-bells were sometimes kept on the horses. A quick jingle of the bells indicated that prowlers were near, and awakened the sleeping household.

Children were dressed quickly, the horses were harnessed, and the family cow haltered for leading. Through the deep forests, and in the darkness of night, families trudged their way to safety inside the walls of Fort Vance. The cow provided milk for the little ones.

It was not uncommon for the wife and children to remain at the Fort for several weeks, while the men tilled the land some distance away.

Life inside the Fort included the preaching of sermons, the teaching of children, and the birth of babies. Jonathan Tucker, whose father founded the Tucker Methodist Church, was born at Fort Vance, following the family's ten-mile flight through the darkness on horseback.

Dr. Robert McCready, one of the founders of the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church, taught school, and is listed as the first schoolmaster in the area.

The first sermon preached in the region was delivered at Fort Vance by Rev. James Powers. The minister stood beneath a giant oak tree just outside the gates of the Fort. Only the palisade walls in the background stood between the congregation and the red warriors in the forests beyond.

Fort Vance has long ago shared the fate of most of the other forts and blockhouses on the Western Frontier. Today, nearly two centuries after its construction, no sign of it remains. The site is marked by a plaque erected by the Burgettstown Area School District Junior Historians, on May 5, 1967.

History of Fort Vance Historical Society

(February 8 - December 6, 1969)

The Fort Vance Historical Society had its beginning on Saturday, February 8, 1969, when seventeen citizens of the community, concerned with the preservation of local history, gathered in the Hillcrest UP Church, Burgettstown, for a preliminary meeting.

Albert Miller and T. Bradley Stevenson were appointed as moderators, and Mr. Miller was named as acting chairman for the next meeting, scheduled for February 22. This date, however, proved inconvenient for many, and the meeting was later postponed to Saturday, March 1.

Informal discussion, under the leadership of A. D. White, showed a keen interest in local landmarks, many of which have been nearly obliterated by the passing of time, and the disinterest of the citizenry.

It was decided to include the areas of Burgettstown and West Middletown Boroughs, and the Townships of Mt. Pleasant, Smith, Hanover, Jefferson, Independence, Cross Creek and Hopewell.

The second meeting was held on March 1, also in the Hillcrest UP Church, with Albert Miller acting as chairman, and T. Bradley Stevenson as secretary. Rev. Alexander Wilson spoke of the Mill Creek Historical Society and the details of its formation.

Several names were suggested for the organization. It was voted to include the McDonald area in the society.

Eugene Painter, Mary Wilson and Robert Schulte were appointed to present nominees for a Board of Directors. Charles Lawson, Kathryn Slasor and Katherine Pyle were appointed for publicity, and Kris Riddile and Robert Schulte were asked to gather information concerning Fort Vance.

On March 7, those named to present nominees for a Board of Directors, Mary Wilson, Eugene Painter and Robert Schulte, along with acting chairman, Albert Miller, gathered in the office of the McFarland Insurance Agency, Burgettstown, and selected a group of eleven men and women to serve as a Committee of Organization. These were named at the third open meeting of the group, on Saturday, March 22, when twenty-three interested persons of the community were in attendance. The committee consisted of Eugene Painter, Albert Miller, A. D. White, Robert Schulte, Leonard Cooke, Mary Wilson, Lucille Welch, Ruth Moore, Charles Lawson, T. B. Stevenson and Richard Holt.

Also at this meeting, Robert Schulte reported and distributed pamphlets on Fort Vance. The decision was made to call the group, "The Fort Vance Historical Society."

Two meetings were held by the Committee of Organization, on March 26 and April 14, in the McFarland Insurance Office. The Constitution and By-laws were discussed and prepared for presentation at the fourth open meeting of the group, on Saturday, April 26. Membership types and fees were set at this meeting. All were accepted by the group.

The Nominating Committee was named, consisting of Richard Holt, Mary Wilson, Homer Ross, Ruth Moore and Edward Cauchie. It was also voted to change the meeting night from Saturday to Wednesday.

Charles F. Barr, former Union High School Principal, was the guest speaker for the May 28 meeting. He is presently a docent and lecturer at Carnegie Museum. He reviewed archaeological findings in Europe and Asia, and traced the migration of man to America.

Temporary officers were elected, to act in their respective capacities until October. They were: President, Albert Miller; Vice President, Eugene Painter; Secretary, T. B. Stevenson; Treasurer, Charles Lawson; Board of Directors, A. D. White, Thomas Moore and Mrs. Harry Jones.

On June 25, the Fort Vance Historical Society made its first "field trip," by visiting the site of the fort for which it was named. Sixty persons were in attendance. Seated in folding chairs or sprawled on the grass in the rural setting of the Charles Rommes farm, members and guests heard A. D. White relate an informative history of Fort Vance, its importance in military, religious, social and educational fields, and how these events affected the lives of the pioneers of the area.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rommes, owners of the Fort Vance site, were presented with honorary membership in the Society. Committees were named by President Albert

Miller to act in their respective capacities until the annual election of new officers.

Meadowcroft Village was the setting for the July 23 meeting. Members met for a tour of the grounds and the buildings, when Albert Miller gave a descriptive account of such places as the Miller School building, the Blacksmith Shop, the General Store, and others. The Society had grown to sixty in number. The Membership Committee announced plans to hold a booth at the annual meeting of the Tri-State Historical Steam Engine Association.

On August 27, the Society met at Lower Buffalo Presbyterian Church in Independence. Mrs. W. B. Gist was the program leader, and conducted the group on a tour of several historic homes in the area. Mrs. Gist's husband was a direct descendant of Christopher Gist, aide to General George Washington.

Richard Holt reported that the location of the Burgett burial ground had been found.

The Historical Society journeyed to neighboring Beaver County for the September 24 field trip. The business meeting was scheduled to be held in Service UP Church, near Aliquippa. Enroute to the historic church, members visited the mineral springs site at Frankfort Springs. The Springs had recently been landscaped by Youth Forestry Camp No. 1, and had been made accessible to the public.

Edwin Devitt, a former resident and historian of Frankfort Springs, addressed the group at Service Church, relating the history of the area, in an extremely interesting and informative manner. The Church and its adjacent graveyard were also toured.

On October 22, the meeting was held in Hillcrest UP Church, Burgettstown. The theme, "Days of the Burgettstown Fair," brought much enthusiastic response from those who remembered the "good old days" when the family hitched old Dobbin to the surrey at daybreak, and spent the day at the fair. Reminiscences were varied and extremely impressive, and those in attendance were reluctant to bring the meeting to a close.

Many keepsakes from the days of the fair were on display.

A special guest was Delvin Miller, of horse racing fame, who told of the beginnings of racing at the fair. His talk was impressive, and brought to mind many memories of days long gone by.

Officers were elected for the coming year, 1970, as follows: President, Albert Miller; Vice President, Eugene Painter; Secretary, Madelyn Seabright; Treasurer, Charles Lawson; Board of Directors, A. D. White, Thomas Moore and Mrs. Harry Jones.

It was decided not to hold a meeting in November, because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The meeting in Decem-

ber, too, would conflict with Christmas. It was left with the Program Committee to set a date for the next meeting.

On December 6, Saturday, eighty-four members and guests gathered for the final meeting of 1969, in the social room of the Florence Presbyterian Church, for a delightful holiday dinner. Guest speaker for the evening was Miss Elizabeth Day, retired school principal, from Washington.

Miss Day captivated her audience with her charming personality and eloquent manner of speech, as she spoke dramatically of, "Christmas Thoughts." Tables were graced with pine boughs and lighted candles, in keeping with the Christmas theme. The dinner was served by the ladies of the church.

Another guest of honor was Lawrence Bailey, who installed the officers for the coming year. Mr. Bailey is president of the Washington County Historical Society. Membership now totalled one hundred twenty.

In the span of less than eleven months, from its inception on February 8 to the closing of the charter at the end of the year 1969, the Fort Vance Historical Society had swelled to 185 charter members. Dedicated to the preservation of its local heritage, the organization clings to the principles on which it was founded.

RECOMMENDED

By-Laws

ARTICLE I

Membership and Dues

Section 1. Any person interested in the history of Northern Washington County who applies for membership in any classification of membership and who tends the necessary dues shall thereby become a member.

Section 2. Annual dues for individual active members shall be three dollars (\$3.00).

Section 3. Annual dues for contributing or sustaining member shall be not less than five dollars (\$5.00).

Section 4. There will be no dues for honorary members.

Section 5. Annual dues for students 18 years and under shall be one dollar (\$1.00).

Section 6. Life membership per person shall be three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

Section 7. Annual dues for family membership shall be five dollars (\$5.00) per family, consisting of husband, wife, and children under 18.

Section 8. Annual dues for institutional members shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00).

Section 9. Annual dues for charter members shall be the regular fee.

Section 10. Annual dues shall be payable in advance, and members in arrears more than six months after payment is due shall be dropped from membership.

ARTICLE II

Schedule and Quorum for Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings of the society shall be the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the president.

Section 3. The board of directors shall meet monthly, with four members required to be present. Special meetings of the board of directors may be called by the chairman of the board.

Section 4. Ten percent of the membership plus a majority of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

ARTICLE III

Duties of Officers and Directors

Section 1. The president shall have executive supervision over the activities of the society within the scope provided by these bylaws. He shall preside at all meetings. He shall report annually on the activities of the society. He shall appoint members of committees and delegates not otherwise provided for and have his program committee set up a general idea of the programs for the coming years.

Section 2. The vice president shall assist the president as assigned and assume the duties of the president in the event of absence, incapacity or resignation of the president.

Section 3. The secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the society. He shall notify all committees of their appointment, and shall have custody of the records and papers of the society not otherwise provided for. He shall keep a correct list of members, shall authenticate all acts and orders, and, in the absence of the presi-

dent and vice president shall call the meeting to order until a president pro tem is chosen. Further, he shall issue notices of meetings and conduct all general correspondence as directed by the society.

Section 4. The treasurer will be responsible for the safekeeping of society funds and for maintaining adequate financial records. He shall deposit all monies received by him in a bank chosen by him and accepted by the board of directors. He shall make an annual financial report.

Section 5. The president shall be chairman of the board of directors. The board of directors shall have the power to conduct all affairs of the society. It shall select candidates for office, pursuant to the constitution. The board of directors shall decide questions of policy that for any reason cannot be acted upon at a meeting of the society and perform such other functions as designated in the bylaws or otherwise assigned to it. At any meeting of the board of directors four members shall constitute a quorum. The board of directors, through the chairman, shall render an annual report at each annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV

Committees

Section 1. The society shall have the following standing committees:

1. Library Committee -- Responsible for collecting, cataloging, arrangement, and repair of books, the care of manuscripts, newspapers, and other historical source material.

2. Museum Committee -- Responsible for finding ways and means for publishing, collecting, cataloging, cleaning, repair, and storage of historic objects; for arranging museum exhibits, and the correct historic interpretation of the exhibits; for the care and upkeep of museum quarters.

3. Publications Committee -- Responsible for finding ways and means for publishing joint or individual research studies; news letter to members, a quarterly bulletin, or books; for publicity; for staging radio and television programs.

4. Historic Sites Committee -- Responsible for establishing the historic validity for sites proposed for marking; for marking historical sites; for arranging historical tours.

5. Program Committee -- Responsible for arranging suitable programs.

6. Membership Committee -- Responsible for membership drives and processing new candidates for mem-

bership; to designate a membership secretary for collecting of all dues, providing proper receipts, paying all monies to the treasurer, and maintaining an accurate membership role.

7. Nominations Committee -- Responsible for making nominations for officers and members of the board of directors.

8. Auditing Committee -- Responsible for auditing the books and vouchers of the association and presenting their report at the first regular meeting of the new calendar year.

Section 2. The president shall appoint members and chairmen of the standing committees.

Section 3. Other committees, standing or special, may be appointed by the president as directed by the board of directors.

ARTICLE V

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in Robert's "Rules of Order" shall govern the proceedings of the society except in such cases as are governed by the constitution or the bylaws.

ARTICLE VI

Amendment to the Bylaws

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at any regular or adjourned meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting, provided notice was given at the previous meeting. Or they may be amended at the special meeting called for that purpose with previous notice and a two-thirds vote. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing.

ARTICLE VII

Liquidation and Dissolution

Section 1. In the event of the voluntary or involuntary dissolution of the society and after payment of all debts and liquidations of all liabilities, any remaining assets of the society shall be transferred by authority of the board of directors to an incorporated organization or organizations which would guarantee the perpetuation of the same.

Constitution

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this society shall be the Fort Vance Historical Society.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose of this society shall be to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of Northern Washington County. Understanding the history of our community is basic to our democratic way of life, gives us a better understanding of our state and nation, and promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage.

The society's major function will be to discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area; its exploration, settlement, development and activities in peace and in war; its progress in population, wealth, education, arts, science, agriculture, manufactures, trade and transportation. It will collect printed material such as histories, genealogies, biographies, descriptions, gazettes, directories, newspapers, pamphlets, catalogs, circulars, handbills, programs and posters; manuscript material such as letters, diaries, journals, memoranda, reminiscences, rosters, service records, account books, charts, surveys, and field books; and museum material such as pictures, photographs, paintings, portraits, scenes, original relics, and material objects illustrative of life, conditions, events, and activities of the past and the present.

The society will provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who wish to examine or study it, to cooperate with officials in insuring the preservation and accessibility of the records and archives of the county and of its cities, towns, villages, and institutions, and to undertake the preservation of historic buildings, monuments, and markings.

The society will disseminate historical information and arouse interest in the past by publishing historical material in the newspapers or otherwise; by holding meetings with pageants, addresses, lectures, papers, and discussion; by marking historic buildings, sites and trails; and by using the media of radio and television to awaken public interest.

The society will cooperate with the state historical society to collect and preserve materials of state-wide significance so that these materials can be made available to students and scholars.

ARTICLE III Membership

Membership shall be of eight classes:

1. Individual active members. Any person interested in the purposes of the society shall be eligible.
2. Institutional members. Any organization, board, school, or library interested in the history of Northern Washington County shall be eligible.
3. Contribution and sustaining members. A person, group or firm offering special support to the objectives of the society shall be eligible.
4. Honorary members. Honorary membership may be conferred upon any person whose activities have contributed to the objectives of the society.
5. Student members.
6. Life members.
7. Family members.
8. Charter members. All who join the society in this calendar year (1969) will be considered as charter members.

ARTICLE IV Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the society shall be held in October.

ARTICLE V Officers and Board of Directors

Section 1. The officers shall be a president, a vice president, and secretary, who shall be elected for a term of one year; a treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of three years; and three directors, one of whom shall serve one year, one two years, and one three years.

Section 2. The officers and directors shall constitute the board of directors.

ARTICLE VI Election of Officers and Board of Directors

Section 1. All officers and directors shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast by secret ballot at the annual meeting.

Section 2. Not less than two months prior to the annual meeting, the secretary of the society shall send to each member of the board of directors a blank upon which such member may nominate one person for each office open to election. Nominations shall be returned not less than one month before the annual meeting. A committee on nominations, appointed by the chairman of the board of

directors, shall select the candidates from a list of all nominees.

Section 3. Nominations may also be made by any member of the society at any time prior to balloting at the annual meeting, provided such member has consented to serve if elected. Any nomination made after the deliberation of the committee on nominations shall be added to the slate of candidates upon affirmative vote of a majority of members present at the annual meeting. A candidate for election shall be an individual active member.

Section 4. A person who has been elected to the board of directors for two consecutive terms, or elected as president or vice president for three consecutive terms, shall not be nominated to the same office unless one year elapses between the end of his last term and the beginning of the term for which he is nominated.

Section 5. Officers and directors shall be installed at the close of the last scheduled meeting of the calendar year and shall serve until their successors have been duly elected and installed. In the event of resignation or incapacity of any officer except the president, or any other director, the vacancy may be filled by a vote of the board of directors for the unexpired term of the office.

ARTICLE VII Amendment

This constitution may be amended at any regular or adjourned meeting by a two-thirds voting, provided notice was given at the previous meeting. Or it may be amended at a special meeting called for that purpose, with previous notice and a two-thirds vote. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing.

Officers

Elected officers for the first full year of the Fort Vance Historical Society, are as follows:

President Albert Miller

Vice President Eugene Painter

*Secretary Madelyn Seabright

Treasurer Charles Lawson

Board of Directors A. D. White
Mrs. Harry C. Jones
Thomas Moore

* The only change in the first elected officers and those temporarily appointed or elected in the early days of the Historical Society was in the office of Secretary. T. B. Stevenson acted in his capacity prior to this time.



Officers and guest speakers at the first annual banquet, December 5, 1969.

Left to right, L. W. Bailey, guest, President of the Washington County Historical Society; Madelyn Seabright, Secretary; Charles Lawson, Treasurer; Miss Elizabeth Day, guest speaker; Albert Miller, President; Eugene Painter, Vice President.

Committees

PROGRAM

Katherine Pyle, Chm.
Ruth Moore
Florence Cunningham
Eugene Painter
Robert Schulte

HISTORICAL SITES

Ernest Acheson, Chm.
Richard Holt
Thomas Moore
Harry Jones
Lanis Liggett
Homer Ross
A. D. White

MEMBERSHIP

Elizabeth Harper, Chm.
Mary Wilson
Dorothy Smith
Homer Ross
Edward Cauchie

MUSEUM

Gale Taucher, Chm.
Edith Creps
Wilbert Welch
William Scott
Emma Johnson

PUBLICATIONS

Kathryn Slasor, Chm.
Edith Jones
Charles Lawson

NOMINATING AND AUDITING

Charles Cunningham, Chm.
Lucille Welch
Leonard Cooke

LIBRARY

Hilda Cauchie, Chm.

Luella Felch

Frances Lander

*Persons named to these committees assumed their duties for the year 1970, the first full year of existence of the Society.

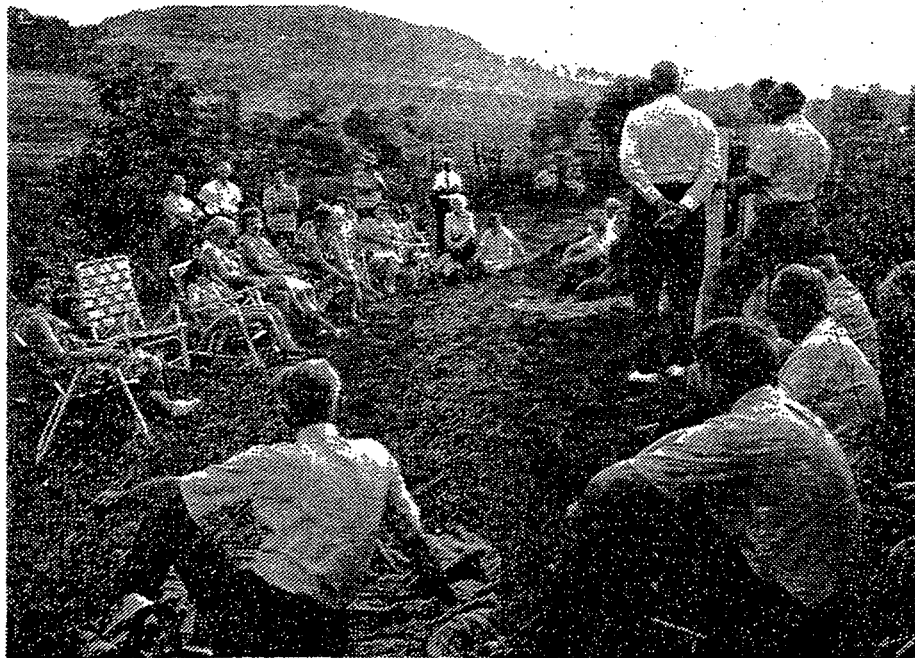
Temporary committees, during the early days of organization included the same above names, but in somewhat different capacity.

Charter Members

Mr. & Mrs. E. F. Acheson, R.D.1, Avella, Pa.	15312
Miss Lois Acheson, Box 185, Hickory, Pa.	15340
Mrs. G. L. Anderson, 14 Bradford Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.	15205
Mrs. Carrie Atherton, 427 S. Main St., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. Lawrence Bailey, 229 N. Wade Ave., Washington, Pa.	15301
Mr. and Mrs. John Balog, 217 Valley St., McDonald, Pa.	15057
Mrs. Elizabeth Bane, 192 W. Steuben St., Pittsburgh, Pa.	15205
Mr. Charles F. Barr, 817 Eisenhower Dr., Mt. Lebanon, Pa.	15228
Mrs. Stanley Bednarzik, Box 262, Bulger, Pa.	15019
Mrs. Nancy Bell, McDonald, Pa.	15057
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Bigger, R.D.1, Imperial, Pa.	15126
Mrs. Frank Blaine, 15 Hindman Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Nelle D. Blaine, 24 Duncan Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Frank D. Bowman, 3669 Main St., Weirton, W. Va.	26062
Mrs. Elizabeth Vance Brill, 713 Bank St., Bridgeville, Pa.	15017
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Brunner, 15 Frederick St., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Campbell, Box 57, R.D.4, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Grace Cassidy, Box 86, Florence, Pa.	15040
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cauchie, R.D.1, McDonald, Pa.	15057
Miss Edy René Cauchie, R.D.1, McDonald, Pa.	15057
Mr. Harold R. Cerezo, R.D.1, Bulger, Pa.	15019
Mr. George Chastulik, 112 Bell Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Garvin J. Cochran, Sr., 201 Fairview St., Midway, Pa.	15060
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard L. Cooke, R.D.2, Avella, Pa.	15312
Mrs. Minnie R. Cooke, Hickory, Pa.	15340
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Couch, Box 384, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Edith Creps, Eldersville Rd., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Miss Anna Crouse, 50 Laurel Ave., Washington, Pa.	15301
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne M. Culley, 49 Florence Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cunningham, 11 Hindman Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Miss Elizabeth Day, 80 LeMoyne Ave., Washington, Pa.	15301
Mr. Frank L. DeCook, Jr., R.D.2, Avella, Pa.	15312
Mrs. Juanita DeCook, R.D. 2, Avella Pa.	15312
Rev. and Mrs. Edward DeLair, 125 Station St., McDonald, Pa.	15057
Mr. J. L. Douds, Plumville, Pa.	16246
Miss Minnie M. Duffield, 124 Terrace St., McDonald, Pa.	15017
Mr. M. Roy Dunkle, West Middletown, Pa.	15379



President Albert Miller presents an honorary membership to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rommes, owners of the Fort Vance site. Vice President Eugene Painter looks on.



The scenic site of Fort Vance, on the Charles Rommes farm, near Cross Creek. A small part of the group is shown here, as A. D. White speaks.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Duran, Box 139, R.D.1, Bulger, Pa.	15019
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Farrer, West Middletown, Pa.	15379
Miss Luella Felch, 51 Center Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond J. Fioroni, Box 467, Avella, Pa.	15312
Mr. M. D. Fullerton, R.D.3, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Robert F. Galbreath, Sr., Beechwood Dr., New Wilmington, Pa.	16142
Mrs. Elizabeth Garcy, Fifth Ave., Langeloth, Pa.	15054
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gersna, Van Voorhis, Pa.	15366
Mr. Peter Gobleck, Marks Ave., Lancaster, Ohio	43130
Mrs. Hazel Grabsky, 14 Main St., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Carolyn M. Gray, 3 Kerr St., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Max Grossmann, Box 202, R.D. 4, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. R. Donald Hall, 8 Hindman Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.,	15021
Mrs. Elmer E. Harper, 31 Highland Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Harper, R.D.4, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Clara E. Hill, 117 Center Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Linda L. Hill, 214 Frederick St., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Holt, 56 Highland Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Allen M. Johnson, Hindman Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Johnston, R.D. 4, McDonald, Pa.	15057
Mr. & Mrs. Harry C. Jones, 222 Clark Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. James Jones, Box 392, Eldersville, Pa.	15036
Mr. and Mrs. James Lander, Joffre, Pa.	15053
Mr. Charles Lawson, R.D. 3, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Scott A. Lawson, Box 47, R.D.4, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Miss Phila Lawton, West Middletown, Pa.	15379
Mr. Charles R. Lee, 38 Short St., Worthington, Ohio	43085
Mr. H. Montford Lee, R.D. 2, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. Lanis Liggett, 207 Laura Lee Dr., Coraopolis, Pa.	15108
Mr. H. J. Loar, 815 Fayette St., Washington, Pa.	15301
Mrs. Edna M. Luttrell, 101 Center Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Miss Jean R. MacLaughlin, Box 6, West Middletown, Pa.	15379
Miss Esther Maggs, R.D. 2, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Miss Lucy McCov. Box 205, Washington, Pa.	15301
* Mr. C. W. McElhaney	
Mrs. C. W. McElhaney, Enlow and Clinton Rd., Imperial, Pa.	15026
Mr. Archie J. McFarland, R.D. 3, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Miss Anne C. McGregor, R.D. 2, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Miss Alice G. Melvin, 800 S. Fifteenth St., Sebring, Ohio	44672
Mr. Albert Miller, R.D. 2, Avella, Pa.	15312
Mr. & Mrs. Delvin Miller, Meadow Lands, Pa.	15347
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Moore, R.D. 1, Bulger, Pa.	15019
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Moore, Box 6, Florence, Pa.	15040
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Mazingo, R.D. 1, Colliers, W. Va.	26035
Mr. & Mrs. Nello Mungai, R.D. 1, Hickory, Pa.	15340
Mrs. Anthony Mungello, 40 Center Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Neeley, R.D. 4, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Helen Nelson, R.D. 2, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene G. Painter, R.D. 1, Avella, Pa.	15312
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Petricca, Box 15 B, R.D. 2, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Janet W. Phillips, R.D. 1, Scenery Hill, Pa.	15360
Mr. Michael Pollock, 5 Greenleaf Ave., Darien, Conn.	06820

Miss Katherine A. Pyle, 21 Church St., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. William A. Ralston, Apt. 839 H, Sleepy Hollow Rd., Castle Shannon, Pa.	15234
Mr. August E. Repole, 72 Main St., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Miss Ione Rodkey, R.D. 2, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Rommes, R.D. 3, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rommes, R.D. 2, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Miss Thelma Rommes, R.D. 1, Bulger, Pa.	15019
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ronyak, R.D. 2, Avella, Pa.	15312
Mr. & Mrs. Homer R. Ross, R.D. 2, Avella, Pa.	15312
Miss Mimi Ross, R.D. 2, Avella, Pa.	15312
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Sartori, 201 Prospect St., Midway, Pa.	15060
Mr. James W. Savage, R.D. 2, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. Robert L. Schulte, R.D. 1, Bulger, Pa.	15019
Mr. Robert W. Schulte, Sr., R.D. 1, Bulger, Pa.	15019
Miss Elizabeth Scott, 50 Hindman Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. William B. Scott, R.D. 4, McDonald, Pa.	15057
Miss Madelyn Seabright, Box 166, R.D. 4, McDonald, Pa.	15057
Mrs. Kathryn Slasor, R.D. 2, Avella, Pa.	15312
Miss Joanne Smiley, R.D. 1, Bulger, Pa.	15019
Mr. & Mrs. Paul M. Smiley, R.D. 1, Bulger, Pa.	15019
Mrs. Dorothy F. Smith, Box 16, Florence, Pa.	15040
Mr. Harris Smith, Box 395, Bulger, Pa.	15019
Dr. and Mrs. Angelo Spanogians, 52 Hindman Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Carrie Stephenson, R.D. 4, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. Thomas B. Stevenson, Archer Lane, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Richard D. Stewart, Box 136, R.D. 1, Hickory, Pa.	15340
Mr. Robert W. Stottlemeyer, Masonic Home, Elizabethtown, Pa.	17022
Mr. & Mrs. Austin D. Studa, 16 Shady Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. William Tarr, R.D. 1, Clinton, Pa.	15026
Mrs. Gale L. Taucher, 63 Locust Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Margaret M. Townsend, 1074 Pennsbury Blvd. N., Pittsburgh, Pa.	15205
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Ulrich, R.D. 1, Bulger, Pa.	15019
Mr. Larry Utt, Colliers, W. Va.	26035
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Valenti, Atlasburg, Pa.	15004
Miss Margaret M. Vance, 713 Bank St., Bridgeville, Pa.	15017
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Vance, 108 Greene St., Claysville, Pa.	15323
Miss Verne V. Vance, 713 Bank St., Bridgeville, Pa.	15017
Mr. & Mrs. George Vranjes, 29 Baird St., Slovan, Pa.	15078
Mr. Dale S. Wagner, 521 Highview Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa.	15234
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Wagner, 22 Church St., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Mary Core Watts, 52 Florence Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. J. Wilbert Welch, 71 Church St., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mr. & Mrs. A. D. White, Box 85, Hickory, Pa.	15340
Miss Ruth White, Box 126, Hickory, Pa.	15340
Mr. Clyde G. Williams, Box 15, West Middletown, Pa.	15379
Miss Mary Wilson, 42 Highland Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021

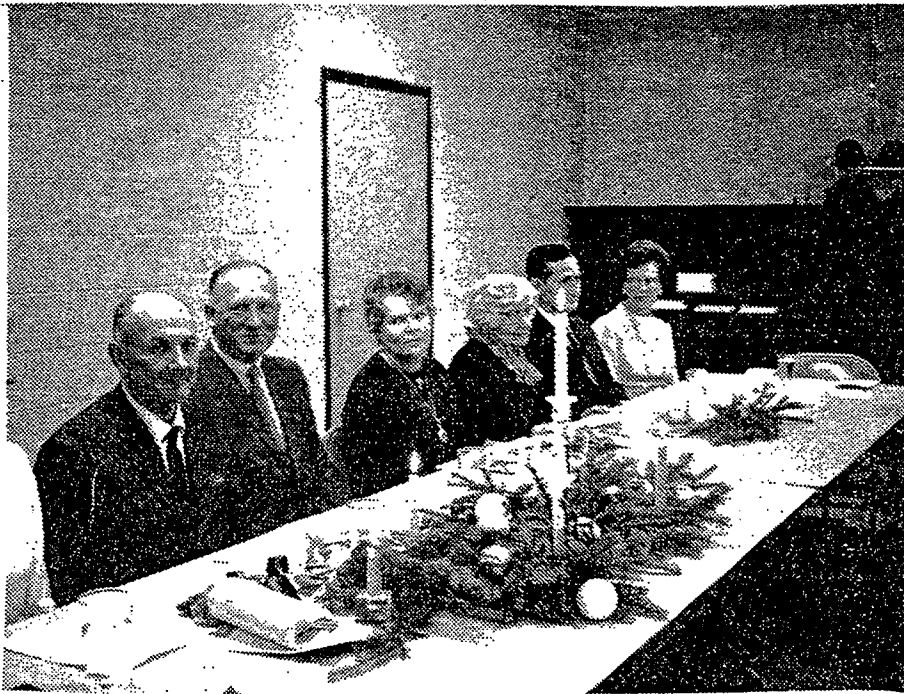
Honorary Members

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rommes
Life Member
Mr. A. D. White

*Deceased



Speaker's table at the annual banquet. Left to right, Thomas Moore, Mrs. Moore, L. W. Bailey, Miss Elizabeth Day, Albert Miller.



Speaker's table: left to right, Albert Miller, Eugene Painter, Mrs. Painter, Miss Madelyn Seabright, Rev. Edward DeLair, Mrs. DeLair.

Meetings and Programs for 1970

- JANUARY 28 - "Get Acquainted" - Hillcrest UP Church, Burgettstown. Each one attending invited to bring personal, historical items to be shown to the group.
- FEBRUARY 25 - "Eighteenth Century Life in Williamsburg," color-sound film. Westminster UP Church, Burgettstown. Story of the life of a cabinet maker. Handmade furniture items to be displayed.
- MARCH 25 - "Pennsylvania Guns" - Dr. James Herron, noted authority on guns, guest speaker. Hillcrest UP Church, Burgettstown.
- *APRIL 22 - "A Visit to Kidd's Mill" - An expedition into the past, a secluded spot where once the great mill wheel powered by a winding country stream, ground the farmer's grain into flour. Only remnants of foundations remain.
- MAY 27 - "A Tour of the LeMoyne House" - Washington, Penna. Built in 1812, at 49 East Maiden Street, it is considered one of the finest examples of colonial architecture in the state. Named for its builder, noted abolitionist, Dr. Francis Julius LeMoyne.
- JUNE 24 - "A Tour of West Middletown" - One of the oldest and most historic villages in Washington County. Homer Ross in charge of program.
- JULY 22 - "A Visit to Tucker Church" - This historic Methodist Church dates back to the days before the Revolutionary War. June Grossmann and Kathryn Slasor in charge of program.
- AUGUST 26 - "Basket Picnic" - Meadowcroft Village. (A visit from some friendly Indians may highlight this meeting.)
- SEPTEMBER 23 - "History of Burgettstown" - Including the life and the burial grounds of the Burgett family, founders of Burgettstown.
- OCTOBER 28 - "The Story of Glass" - Glenn Strawn, of Washington, guest speaker and demonstrator.
- NOVEMBER - No meeting.
- DECEMBER 5 - "Holiday Dinner" - Time and place for this gala event to be announced later.

* The April 22 meeting was rescheduled for April 29, due to the nature of the meeting. The fact that Daylight Savings Time would become effective by the latter date assured a longer evening for the planned excursion. Meeting place, IOOF Hall, Eldersville, 7 p.m.

SUPPLEMENT - 1971

The Fort Vance Historical Society

Officers

President	Kathryn Slasor
Vice President	Mary Wilson
Secretary	Madelyn Seabright
Treasurer	Charles Lawson
Board of Directors	
Three Years	Thomas Moore
Two Years	A. D. White
One Year	Edith Jones

Committees

PROGRAM

Mary Wilson
Katherine Pyle
Edith Jones
Eugene Painter
Marie Smiley
Elizabeth Brill
Mrs. Homer Ross
Clyde Williams
Edward Cauchie
Mrs. John Balog
Lanis Liggett

MEMBERSHIP

Gale Taucher
Carol Maltony
Lois Wagner

PUBLICATIONS

A. D. White
Charles Lawson
Katherine Pyle

LIBRARY

Luella Felch
Linda Hill
Thelma Rommes
Lucille Welch
Elizabeth Harper

HISTORICAL SITES

Homer Ross
Fred Moore
Elizabeth Bigger
Frances Lander
Rev. Dom Sgro
Montford Lee

MUSEUM

Mrs. Thomas Moore
Mrs. Harold Neely
Ernest Acheson
Mrs. Richard Creps

NOMINATING & AUDITING

Albert Miller
Charles Cunningham
Grace Cassidy
Thomas Moore
Leonard Cooke
Dorothy Smith

FOOD

Mrs. Juanita DeCook
Mr. & Mrs. Max Grossmann
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. James Couch
Mrs. Adelaide Singleton

New Members

Listed are those members who have joined the Fort Vance Historical Society since the closing of the Charter, December 31, 1969.

Mrs. Josephine Baker, RD 2, Avella, Pa.	15312
Mrs. Myrtle Bowman, Elm St., Bridgeville, Pa.	15017
Mrs. James W. Campbell, 507 W. Lincoln Ave., McDonald, Pa.	15057
Mrs. Edith Cassidy, 743 Converse Ave., Zanesville, Ohio	43701
Mrs. Robert L. Christman, 308 E. Wash. St., Washington, Pa.	15301
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. J. Fenwick, 214 5th St., McDonald, Pa.	15057
Mrs. Michael F. Gaitens, 201 North St., McDonald, Pa.	15057
Dr. & Mrs. James Herron, 117 S. Central Ave., Canonsburg, Pa.	15317
Mrs. Edna Marquis Howard, 3367 N.E. Holladay Street, Portland, Oregon	97232
Mr. & Mrs. Earl E. King, West Middletown, Pa.	15379
Mr. Ray E. & J. Paul Knestrick, 153 E. Catherine Ave., Washington, Pa.	15301
Mrs. Carole Maltony, RD 3, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Marthetta McCarrell, Box 96, Hickory, Pa.	15340
Irk A. McConnell, RD 3, McDonald, Pa.	15057
Boyd E. McCoy, Claysville, Pa.	15323
Grace Martin Miller, West Middletown, Pa.	15379
Mrs. Charles Osburn, 123 Third St., McDonald, Pa.	15057
Mr. Richard Patterson, Avella, Pa.	15312
Mr. & Mrs. V. M. Paul, Hickory, Pa.	15340
William A. Phillips, Box 209, Morgan, Pa.	15064
Mr. William L. Rose, Box 5, West Middletown, Pa.	15379
Margaret Scholfield, RD 1, Hickory, Pa.	15340
Rev. & Mrs. Domenic Sgro, Box 663, Clarksville, Pa.	15322
Frank Sgro, Box 663, Clarksville, Pa.	15322
Mrs. Adelaide Singleton, RD 3, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Tony Spataro, Avella, Pa.	15312
Mrs. Robert Stevenson, RD 3, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Dr. John K. Stratiff, RD 2, Avella, Pa.	15312
Mr. Roy Thompson, RD 1, Hebron, Ohio	43025
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Tidball, Maple Ave., Burgettstown, Pa.	15021
Mrs. Otis Wilgocki, RD 2, Burgettstown, Pa.	15021

HONORARY MEMBER - Mr. Roy Thompson

Deceased

Mr. C. W. McElhaney - March 18, 1970

Mrs. Robert Galbreath, Sr. - May 28, 1970

Thomas B. Stevenson - July 31, 1970

August E. Repole - August 30, 1970

A Forward Look

Proposed Meetings - 1971

JANUARY - "Bells" - Meet at Hillcrest UP Church, Burgettstown, 8 p.m. Members invited to bring any type bell for discussion. January 27.

FEBRUARY - "Oil Wells" - Meet at Trinity UP Church, McDonald at 8 p.m. Mr. Charles Hogan in charge. February 24.

MARCH - "Railroads" - Meet at Hillcrest UP Church, Burgettstown, 8 p.m. Mr. Harris Smith in charge. March 24.

APRIL - "A Visit To Fort Dillow and the Bigger Home" - Meet at the Frankfort Springs Grange parking lot for instructions for the tour, at 6:30 p.m. Katherine Pyle in charge. April 28.

MAY - "Burgettstown Founders - The Burgett Family" - Meet at old Burgett cemetery at 7 p.m. Meeting begins at 8 p.m. in Hillcrest UP Church. Committee to be selected. May 26.

JUNE - "Alexander Campbell Mansion and Bethany College" - Meet at the Mansion, near Bethany, 6:30 p.m. for guided tour. Chartered bus from Burgettstown a possibility. Rev. Dom Sgro in charge. June 23.

JULY - "Let's Have A Picnic" - Meet at St. John's Byzantine Church, near Avella, 6:30 p.m. for covered dish picnic in the Picnic Grove. Tour of Pattersons Mill and nearby sites to follow. Eugene Painter in charge. Food committee in charge of picnic arrangements. July 28.

AUGUST - "A Visit To McDonald" - Meet at Jane McDonald Home for tour of it and the Ed McDonald Home, 7 p.m. Edward Cauchie in charge. August 25.

SEPTEMBER - "A Visit To Hickory" - Meet at V. M. Paul home for view of his telephone collection. Also visit antique collection of Gailey Wilson. 7 p.m. September 22.

OCTOBER - "Quilts and Coverlets" - Meet at Hillcrest Church, 8 p.m. October 27.

NOVEMBER - No meeting.

DECEMBER - "An Old Fashioned Christmas" - Meet at 6:30 at Grove UP Church, West Middletown, for annual installation dinner. June Grossmann in charge of program. December 4.

Resume Of 1970

The Fort Vance Historical Society embarked upon its second year of activities with the same enthusiasm that was sparked at its inception. A "Get-Acquainted" session in Hillcrest UP Church, Burgettstown, on January 28 found members bringing personal, historical items for individual discussion, ranging from school photographs to early American coins to cut glassware. Much interest was generated by the discussions on the wide variety of objects.

On February 25, a color-sound movie on the life of a cabinetmaker and his family in colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, was shown in Westminster UP Church. During the business meeting, Edith Jones volunteered to send cards to ill or hospitalized members. A. D. White donated a copy of each of his two recent books concerning the history of Cross Creek Church and cemetery, to the Society.

The March 25 meeting featured Dr. J. T. Herron, noted authority on guns, books, antiques and related subjects. Dr. Herron spoke on "Pennsylvania Guns," and exhibited an interesting display from his large collection. About sixty members attended in Hillcrest UP Church.

On April 29, one week later than the scheduled meeting, nearly eighty men, women and children, garbed in slacks, old trousers, walking shoes and boots, descended the steep hillside leading from Bethel Ridge into the deep green valley below. There the ruins of Kidd's Mill, in Jefferson Township, lie buried forever, leaving only nostalgic memories. The secluded valley, untouched by human hands for half a century, featured, on this Spring day, such natural wonders as a carpet of ferns and wild flowers, tall straight trees in new leaf, and the gushing and splashing of Scott's Run, as it hurried on its way. Albert Miller and Harry Campbell revived reminiscences of days when their families lived and worked in this once flourishing community.

They recalled stories of the whirr of the mill wheel and the steam boiler which replaced it; the Indian legend of the Hiskus Jump; the hotel which bustled with activity when city girls appeared for vacations; the Bancroft Post Office - all of which have succumbed to the elements of time.

The group also treked past the site of Pine Grove Presbyterian Church, the remains of which have shared the same fate.

The ascent to the hilltop was followed by a business meeting, held in the Eldersville School. Bill and Bob Kidd, grandsons of the founder of Kidd's Mill, were introduced. Booklets of the Fort Vance Historical Society were distributed.

On May 27, members met at the historic LeMoyne House, in Washington. This fine example of colonial architecture is named for its noted abolitionist-builder, Dr. John Julius LeMoyne. Completed in the year 1812, it was the home of three generations of the LeMoyne family, no other family ever having lived within its massive stone walls. It is now the home of the Washington County Historical Society.

Mrs. Clara Wallace, well-known personality in Washington, and long-time member of the Washington County Historical Society, conducted the group on a tour of the beautiful structure, and eloquently related the story of its romance and adventure as history marched past its massive oak door on the Old National Pike. She told of the history of the many antiques contained therein, to add to the thoroughly enjoyable tour.

A trek on foot of the historic village of West Middletown was the highlight of the June 24 meeting. Gathering in Grove UP Church, the more than eighty enthusiastic historians received instructions from Mr. and Mrs. Homer Ross and daughter, Mimi, on the procedures to follow, resulting in an evening to be long remembered.

Mrs. Ross spoke of former prominent villagers and their trades, such as coffin makers, marble cutters and blacksmiths. Miss Mimi Ross then led the group on a tour of the old cemetery, giving brief glimpses into the lives of those who lie buried beneath the obliterated markers.

Roy M. Thompson, resident of West Middletown for seventy-five years, led the procession from the Church, to the far end of the village. The group paused at many homes and churches, and listened most attentively to Mr. Thompson's remarkable "travelogue" on the history and development of the area, much of which was recalled from his own extremely keen memory. Days of the "underground railroad" were reviewed, and the hiding places of slaves pointed out. The town pumps and the rain gullies also received their share of attention in Mr. Thompson's talk.

Slides depicting "before" and "after" scenes of West Middletown were shown following the welcome bus ride back to Grove.

On Wednesday, July 22, a visit was made to historic old Tucker Methodist Church on Route 22. Due to the critical illness of their father, June Grossmann and Kathryn Slasor were unable to present the planned program. However, Marion Butler and Lanis Liggett, direct descendants of the founders of the Tucker Church, very capably presented a historical sketch of the area. They related stories of the early settlers in the late 1700's, how they were forced many times to flee to Fort Vance, near Cross Creek, to escape the savage Indians. They told of events leading to the founding of the church, by John Tucker, who

died at the age of one hundred years. The remains of "Father Tucker" and his wife lie buried in the lot adjacent to the church building.

The church was completed in the year 1824, and was built from stone quarried near the site. Expert stone masons, the Minesinger brothers, are given credit for its erection. In recent years, changes have been made, adding to its appearance. These included the construction of a steeple and belfry; new windows; the excavation of a basement; and a renovated interior. In spite of these many modern improvements, the tiny stone structure still stands by the side of the road, a memento to the religious zeal generated by the pioneers of the past.

The second annual covered dish picnic was held at Meadowcroft Village on August 26. Over one hundred members and guests were in attendance. The speaker was James Randolph, Professor of Music at Waynesburg College. His subject was, "The Indian As A Geologist."

Mr. Randolph discussed periods of time from the years Before Christ, concerning various rocks and other artifacts peculiar to each era. He geared his talk to the Indians, how they secured and used rocks, flint, and other materials.

"Coal" was the subject of the September 23 meeting. The group delved into the operations of the Harmon Creek Coal Company, one of the greatest in the area. Members met at the Harmon Creek Lake and heard John Oliver, grandson of James Hillman, former owner of the land, explain the operations of the Company, and the conservation and reclamation work following the stripping of the coal. The private lake area was developed in 1946. The company owned 5,000 acres. James Hillman, well-known philanthropist in the Pittsburgh, Florence and Burgettstown areas, was President of the Company.

The group returned to Hillcrest Church for the business meeting, followed by slides showing the areas discussed by Mr. Oliver. Wade VanKirk and Walter Robertson were in charge of this phase of the program.

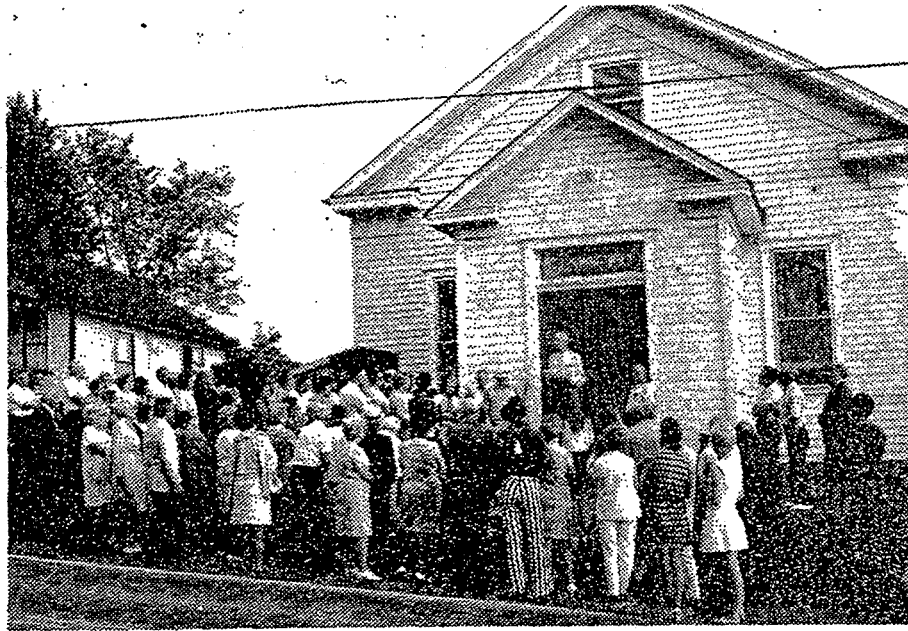
On October 28, Glenn Strawn, former glasscutter with Duncan Miller, demonstrated the art of glasscutting and engraving. An excellent exhibit of glassware of many descriptions was on display in the basement of Hillcrest Church. Many items brought by Mr. Strawn were placed on sale.

Mr. Strawn etched a glass plate as his demonstration, and later presented it to the Society. Officers were elected for the coming year.

A delightful highlight of the year came on Saturday, December 5, when one hundred eleven members and guests gathered in the Cross Creek UP Church for the



Lawrence Bailey and Charles Lawson viewing stone wheel from Old Grist Mill at Kidd's Mill.



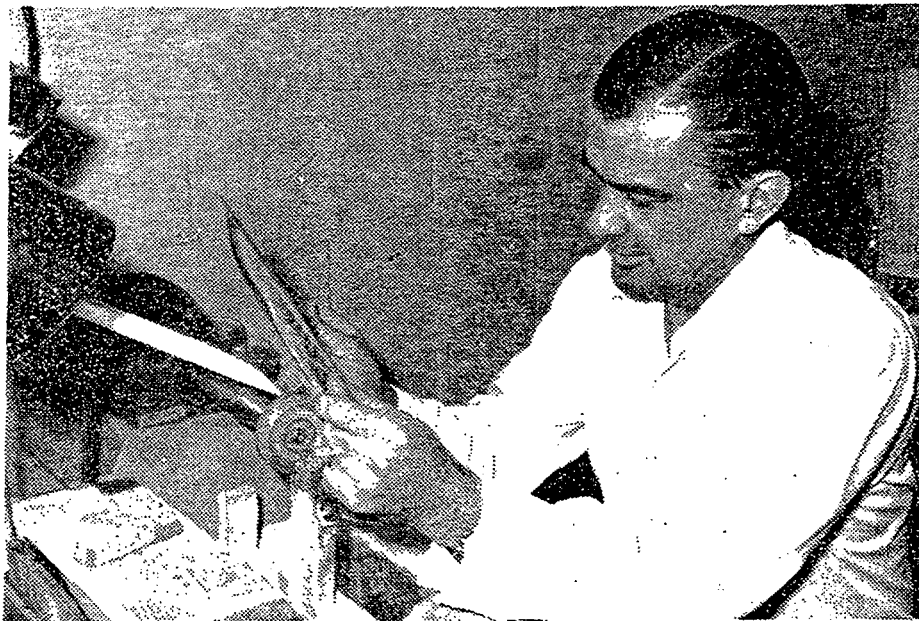
Roy Thompson talking to group in West Middletown.

annual Installation Banquet. The program for the evening was provided by members of the choir of Trinity UP Church, McDonald, under the direction of Mrs. Wayne M. Culley. An appropriate setting of tinsel and lights enhanced the sanctuary, where the program of traditional Christmas songs and hymns, as well as popular Christmas melodies, was beautifully presented in a "Round the Table Sing."

Albert Miller, retiring president, installed the new officers in a simple ceremony. Eugene Painter served as Toastmaster, with Rev. Dom Sgro offering the Invocation. The roast beef dinner was served by women of Cross Creek Church.



LeMoyne House, Washington, Pa. where we had a tour and meeting.



Glenn Strawn, glass cutter, demonstrating glass cutting.



Beginning of walk to Kidd's Mill.

SUPPLEMENT 1972

Officers

President	Kathryn Slasor
Vice President	A. D. White
Secretary	Madelyn Seabright
Treasurer	Charles Lawson
Board of Directors	
Three Years	Eugene Painter
Two Years	Thomas Moore
One Year	Edith Jones

Committees

PROGRAM

A. D. White
Dorothea Wilson
Homer Ross
John Hunter
Marie Smiley
Dr. John Stratiff
Mary McGaughy
Montford Lee
Edward Cauchie
Albert Miller

PUBLICITY

June Grossmann
Charles Lawson
Katherine Pyle
Juanita Shoup
Hazel Grabsky
Juanita Farrer

LIBRARY

Elizabeth Harper
Lucille Welch
Mary Bowman
Betty Johnson
Linda Hill

MUSEUM

Ruth Moore
Mary Wilson
Jim Mullooley
Edna Jean Couch
Helen Bednarzik

PICTURES

Leonard Cooke

HISTORICAL SITES

Richard Holt
Lois Wagner
V. M. Paul
William H. Lee
Eugene Painter
Lucy McCoy
Margaret M. Vance
Grace Cassidy

MEMBERSHIP

Gale Taucher
Carole Maltony
Dorothy Smith
Frances Lander

FOOD

Josephine Baker
Anne Banevich
Edith Creps
Natalie Reynolds
Minnie Cooke
Alice Bable
Mrs. George Kramer

NOMINATING & AUDITING

Thomas Moore
Elizabeth Bigger
Florence Fenwick

YOUTH

Mimi Ross
Mary Jean Povero
J. Marshall White

CARDS & REMEMBRANCES

Edith Jones

New Members

Listed here are members who joined the Fort Vance Historical Society during the year 1971.

Mrs. Alice Bable, 3 Walnut St., Burgettstown, Pa. 15021
Miss Anne L. Banevich, RD 3, Avella, Pa. 15312
Mrs. E. M. Cady, 83 Adm. Dewey Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15205
Byron B. Cain, 810 Country Club Rd., Borger, Texas, 79007
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Caldwell, RD 4, Box 248, Burgettstown, Pa. 15021
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Chilensky, RD 1, Box 328, Steubenville, Ohio 43952
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Hines, 938 W. Pittsburgh St., Burgettstown, Pa. 15021
John H. Hunter, RD 2, Avella, Pa. 15312
Mr. and Mrs. George Kramer, RD 3, Burgettstown, Pa. 15021
William H. Lee, RD 2, Burgettstown, Pa. 15021
D. L. Malone, 627 Main Street, Burgettstown, Pa. 15021
Mary McGaughy, RD 1, Avella, Pa. 15312
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Miller, 18 Montgomery Blvd., New Concord, Ohio 43762
James Mulooley, RD 2, Avella, Pa. 15312
Mary Jean Povero, 115 Maple Ave., Burgettstown, Pa. 15021
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Reynolds, RD 2, Box 132, Burgettstown, Pa. 15021
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Shoup, RD 3, Box 165A, Burgettstown, Pa. 15021
Mr. and Mrs. William Slak, RD 3, Burgettstown, Pa. 15021
Miss Margaret Smith, Box 296, Imperial, Pa. 15126
J. Marshall White, RD 1, Hickory, Pa. 15340
Mrs. Dorothea Wilson, 150 Parkway Dr., Wellsburg, W. Va. 26070

Deceased - 1971

Charles Cunningham
Wayne M. Culley

New Members to Date - 1972

Mrs. Albert Miller, RD 2, Avella, Pa. 15312
Robert Wells Thompson, 104 - 4th St. SE, Altoona, Iowa 50009
Mrs. Joyce Takah, RD 1, Box 175, Colliers, W. Va. 26035
Mary Frances Cataney, Midway, Pa. 15060
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Roberts, 213 Frederick St., Burgettstown, Pa. 15021

Resume of 1971

The year 1971 was ushered in at the January 27 meeting of the Fort Vance Historical Society, with the weatherman providing a crisp moonlit zero night. Due to the extreme cold temperatures, only twenty-five members attended. But what the weather lacked in warmth, the fellowship fulfilled, as a cozy atmosphere prevailed during and after the discussion on the appropriate subject of "Bells."

Mrs. Edith Jones very ably gave a history of bells, their forms and uses, since the time of their invention. She illustrated her talk with several bells from her own collection. Many other bells, brought by other members, were on display, with each owner giving a brief history of his particular bell.

"Oil Wells" was the topic at the February 24 meeting, held in Trinity UP Church, McDonald. Charles Hogan who had had many years experience in the oil industry, led the discussion before the sixty members and friends in attendance. He had on display, maps and pictures depicting events in the oil fields in Washington County, especially in and around the McDonald area.

Harris Smith presented an extremely informative talk on the subject of "Railroads," at the March 24 meeting, held at Hillcrest UP Church, Burgettstown. Mr. Smith has had a lifelong interest in railroads, and had prepared his talk from a study made by him over the past year as a special project. He has been a prominent farmer in Smith Township, and is a charter member of the Fort Vance Historical Society.

He centered his discussion around the building and early history of the Panhandle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

It was off to the Murdocksville area on April 28, with a visit to the Thomas Bigger home and the site of old Fort Dillow. Miss Katherine Pyle and a special committee arranged the field trip, the first of the 1971 year.

Two busloads of members and friends made the adventurous and sometimes precarious trip through the "Narrows," a road skirting the banks of Raccoon Creek, and crossing rustic bridges that persuaded passengers to disembark, allowing the buses to cross empty. Stops were made at Murdocksville, where such points of interest as the old schoolhouse, the blacksmith shop, town pump and others, were noted.

The stone home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bigger, erected in 1848, was visited, as was the old log house, once occupied as a dwelling. Overhanging Indian Rocks, an unusually large tree, and former mill sites, were other attractions on the most interesting tour. One hundred ten

persons took the tour, with A. D. White and Eugene Painter as narrators on the buses.

One of the highlights of the year occurred on May 19, one week earlier than the usual meeting date. "Burgett Day" was observed, honoring the founders of the Boro, with the presence of a dozen Burgett descendants, and over three hundred members, friends, citizens of the town, and interested persons attending. The meeting, under the direction of Richard Holt, climaxed several months of planning and work. Historical markers had been placed at the sites of the Burgett home, the mill and the old burial grounds overlooking the town.

A tour was made of these sites, with proper ceremonies presented at each. A boon to the evening's festivities was the help given to the Society by the Junior Historians of Burgettstown Area High School.

The business meeting was held following the tour in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, across the road from the Burgett home site. Slides of old Burgettstown were shown, narrated by Katherine Pyle and Edith Jones. Kathryn Slassor, president, read a lengthy original poem, describing the events leading up to the big day. Lunch was served by Juanita DeCook and her food committee, and the evening closed on a reminiscent tone.

On the evening of June 23, a busload of members and friends left the church yard at Cross Creek, bound for Bethany, West Virginia, and a tour of the mansion of Alexander Campbell. Others traveled by car, arriving at the Mansion at 6:30 p.m. After touring the section of the 27-room home that is open to the public, the group walked across the road and up the hill to "God's Acre," the Campbell burial ground, where most of the family is buried.

Although unable to attend, the tour was arranged by Rev. Dom Sgro. The group learned the history of the life of the great teacher, preacher, farmer and writer, whose wealth and interest in education eventually enabled him to be instrumental in the establishment of Bethany College. The octagonal study on the lawn of the Mansion attracted much interest as did the one-room schoolhouse adjacent to the home, where the Campbell children, numbering fourteen, as well as neighborhood children, received their first education.

The group then motored to Bethany College, about a mile distant, where the business meeting was held in a recreation room. An attendance of seventy-five was noted.

It was picnic time on July 28, when nearly one hundred gathered at the Picnic Grove at St. John's Byzantine Church, Avella, for an abundance of food served covered dish style. Following the business meeting in the Grove, Eugene Painter and A. D. White conducted a tour

of the Patterson's Mill area. Stops were made at the site of the mill, the old church and schoolhouse, all climaxed by a visit in the Fred Hofrichter home, one of the original brick homes in the area.

Mrs. Edith Wiegmann Cole and Mrs. Andrews told several historical events of former days in the Patterson's Mill area.

On August 25, the group paid a visit to the McDonald area, touring two of the historical homes of families who helped to shape the destiny of the neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Kim Darragh and Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Dolina graciously opened their homes, the former McDonald residences, to the large gathering of Fort Vance members who tried almost in vain to shake the mud and water from a series of downpours, before entering the doors.

The evening was arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cauchie. Stories were told of the McDonald families who had lived in the old homes years ago; of Primrose Hill Plantation with its sloping lawn and stately trees; and of the nearly fifty head of valuable race horses, owned by a member of the family, which were trained in the Meadow in front of the house.

The meeting was held in an appropriate setting - the rustic confines of the Dolina barn.

It was off to the Hickory vicinity on September 22, with the Gailey Wilson and the Vincent Paul homes as destinations. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and son is furnished with a large variety of antiques of all descriptions, while old and unusual telephones are the specialties of Mr. and Mrs. Paul.

The group divided, half going to each home, then reversing the procedure. A most enjoyable time was noted, with conversation on antiques and telephones being carried on into the evening. The business meeting was held in Mt. Prospect Church, with Mrs. Minnie Cooke in charge of refreshments which followed.

On October 27, the Society met in the Florence Presbyterian Church, with "Quilts" as the subject. A special attraction was watching the group of ladies of the church as they busily stitched a quilt. Thirty-four attractive quilts of all ages and descriptions were on display. Mrs. Allen Johnson spoke on the subject, giving an interesting history of quilts.

It was announced that two quilts, one a "Log Cabin," would be donated to the Society by a member of the Lyons family.

On Saturday, December 4, it was Christmas for one hundred four members and guests of the Fort Vance Historical Society, when they gathered at the Grove Presbyterian Church, West Middletown, for their annual Holiday Banquet. The ladies of the church had graciously decor-

ated the social room in Christmas holly and tinsel, candles and wreaths, accented by the flicker of olden day kerosene lamps, in keeping with the theme, "An Olde Fashioned Christmas."

Mrs. June Grossmann directed an appropriate program, with a group of more than twenty young people participating. The Christmas story was told in song and pantomime, followed by the singing of traditional Christmas songs and stories.

A brief history of Grove Church was given by Miss Mimi Ross. A highlight of the business meeting was the installation of officers by Albert Miller and Frank Bowman.

A most enjoyable "historical" year came to a delightful close, with a unanimous determination to make the new year a bigger and a better one.

A Forward Look

Proposed Programs for 1972

JANUARY 26 - Westminster UP Church, Burgettstown, 8 p.m. Film, "Silversmiths of Williamsburg." Committee for 1971 in charge.

FEBRUARY 23 - Meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

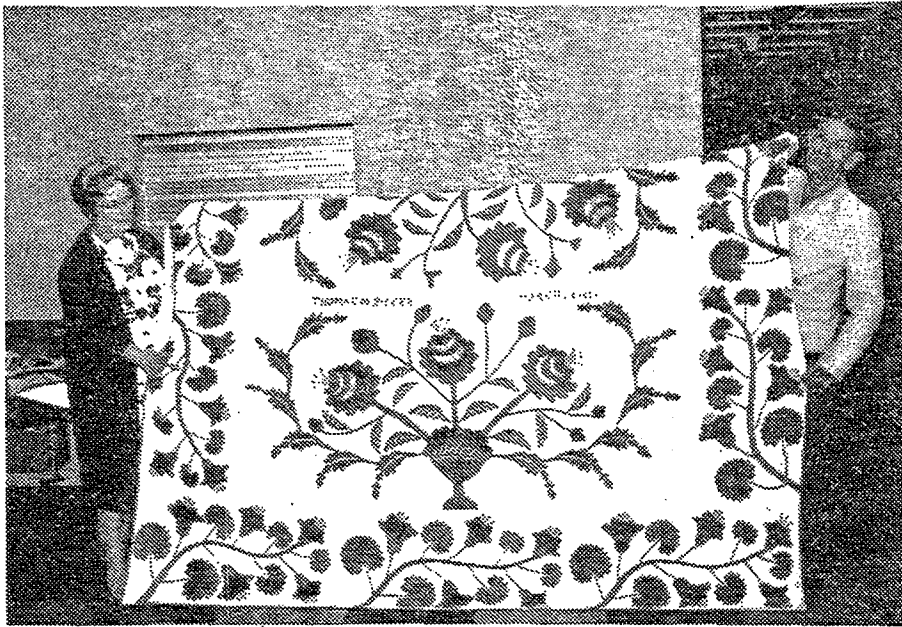
MARCH 22 - Hillcrest UP Church, Burgettstown, 7:30 p.m. Speaker, Raymond E. Knestrick. Topic, "Recollections of a Washington, Pa. Glassworker." Synopsis of cancelled February program to follow, with A. D. White leading the discussion. Overview of theme for the year, "Local History as Revealed in Old Graveyards and Cemeteries in the Fort Vance Area." Slides and pictures.

APRIL 26 - Meet at 7 p.m. at Hillcrest UP Church, Burgettstown, for tour of the Old United Presbyterian and Presbyterian Graveyards. Return to Hillcrest for meeting.

MAY 24 - Meet at 7 p.m. at Raccoon Presbyterian Church, Candor. Tour of old graveyard there and site of Fort Beeler. James Kerr, of Oakdale, will lead tour and speak on fort, church and graveyard. Meeting to follow in Raccoon Church.

JUNE 24 - (Saturday) Meeting place to be determined. Meet at noon for a Saturday afternoon bus trip to Old Economy, Ambridge.

JULY 23 - (Sunday) Meet at 2:30 p.m. at old Millers Run Presbyterian Church, Cecil Township, for a Sunday afternoon old-time church service. Tour of the old graveyard and possible tour of the old Covenanter Graveyard in same area. Meeting to follow in Millers Run Church.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bigger display family quilt, Oct. 27, 1971.

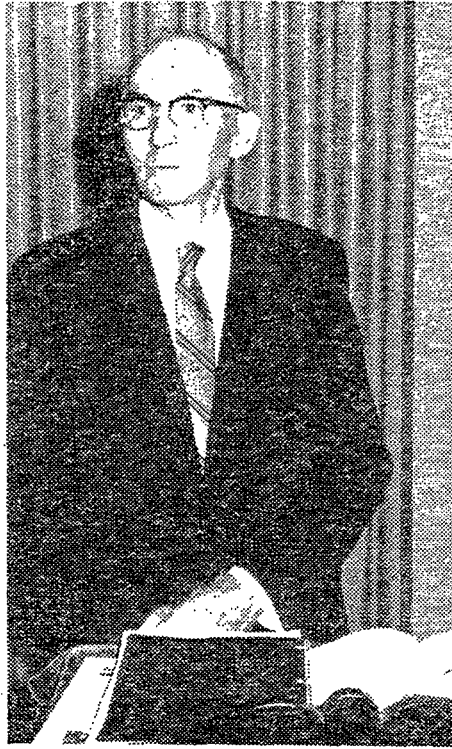
AUGUST 19 - (Saturday) A Saturday afternoon picnic at Cross Creek UP Church with a tour of the graveyard and some of the historic houses in the village. Picnic at 4 p.m. with tours and meeting to follow.

SEPTEMBER 27 - Tour by bus of historic points of interest in Hopewell Township, under direction of Homer Ross family. Meet at 7 p.m. at Hopewell Township Park, east of West Middletown, to begin tour. Return there for sack lunch and beverages, followed by business meeting. (This tour is a result of research of 1971 Historical Sites Committee.)

OCTOBER 25 - Meet at Lower Buffalo UP Church, Independence, at 7 p.m. for tour of graveyard, in conjunction with Brooke County Historical Society. Meeting to follow in Lower Buffalo Church.

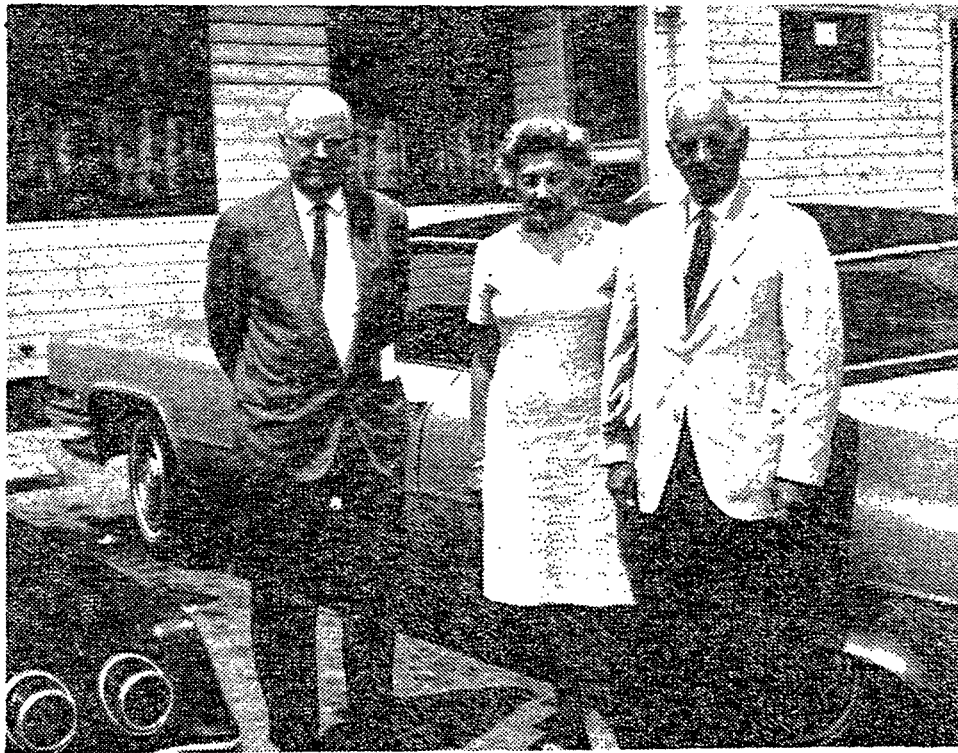
NOVEMBER 23 - (Thursday) An old-time Thanksgiving morning church service at Bethel United Methodist Church in Jefferson Township. Meet at 10 a.m. at Bethel, dressed in Pilgrim or old-fashioned dress. Short service, tour of graveyard, time and weather permitting. No meeting unless there is urgent business.

DECEMBER 9 - (Saturday) Annual Holiday Dinner meeting, 6:30 p.m. in the Eldersville Methodist Church. Christmas program and Installation of Officers to follow dinner.



Harris Smith, member of the Fort Vance Historical Society, gave an interesting and informative lecture on the subject of Railroads at the meeting of the group on March 24, 1971.

Mr. Smith had prepared a paper on this subject in response to a suggestion by the Society that members do research on topics of particular interest to them. Mr. Smith was the first to complete the project.



A. D. White poses with Mr. and Mrs. Philip Burgett, of Iowa. The picture was taken in May, 1970 by Richard Holt.

Mr. Burgett is a descendant of the founders of Burgettstown. Each year they pass through the town enroute to various destinations.

The Fort Vance Historical Society held a meeting during the month of May, 1971, with the Burgetts as special guests.



"One of those dummies looks real," remarked an observant little girl to her mother, on a visit to the schoolhouse at Meadowcroft Village during the Corn Husk Festival. Posing with the scarecrow by the corn shock is Max Grossman, whose nature it is to give folks something to laugh about.

(We'll let you guess which one is the REAL scarecrow!)