HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF NORTHERN WASHINGTON COUNTY

BY

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PREFACE

During 1967-68 Alvin D. White, educator and historian of Hickory, Pa., prepared a series of articles for the Burgettstown Enterprise pertaining to Burgettstown and its neighboring towns in northern Washington County. This series was followed by sketches on the educational, religious and social life of the people in the area during the latter part of the nineteenth and early part of the twentieth centuries. Other articles relative to life in this period of our history followed. Some were printed in the Washington Observer.

Since that time a demand has been building up for a compilation of his work in order that the articles be preserved in a more permanent form. The Fort Vance Historical Society has taken the initiative in undertaking this project.

Much of the material appearing in the foregoing sketches has come from personal recollections of the writer; however books listed in the bibliography were frequently consulted.

An effort has been made to update the articles since their publication in the Enterprise so that place names are in accordance with locations in 1978. A committee of the Fort Vance Historical Society has been responsible for editing the original material.

Alvin Dinsmore White

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PIONEER FORTS OF THE BURGETTSTOWN AREA

One of the most necessary of the institutions of pioneer days in this western country was the frontier forts or block-houses, for without these places of refuge and safety for the early settlers and their families many more of them would have met horrible deaths at the hands of the red men. While many of the early whites here were killed by the Indians in those perilous times, yet the most of them were able to live through the incursions of the Indians by seeking shelter and safety in the community fort. Since several of these places of refuge were in the Burgettstown area, it is our purpose to speak briefly of those located near here.

Beginning in Hanover Township, to the north: One of the first settlers in this township was Michael Dillow who came here about 1780 and almost immediately built a fort on his land on Dillo Run. The tract on which Mr. Dillow located was entered as Dillow's Fort on March 21, 1780, on a Virginia certificate, but he did not live long enough to secure the patent for the land which was granted on March 24, 1798, to Abraham Kirkpatrick. Since this tract lay on the path of many Indian raids into this region, the fort was vitally necessary, but it did not save Michael Dillow's life.

One day in 1782 following the defeat of Crawford's army, a small party of Indians appeared on Raccoon Creek and they came upon Mr. Dillow and his son, John, at work clearing a tract of timber on their farm. They did not suspect the presence of the red men, who fired upon them, killing the older man, whom they scalped and taking the younger man prisoner. Before leaving the place, the savages concealed the body of Michael Dillow beside a log, which operation the son, John, carefully observed. The son was taken away by the Indians and was kept prisoner for several years, but he was later released and came back to his home community. Upon being questioned by his friends as to what happened to his father, he directed them to the log where the older man was buried. His bones were found there and were taken and buried near the site of the fort.

Not much is known about the fort itself, but when a one-room school was located in this part of Hanover Township, it was known

as Fort Dillo or sometimes as the Dillo School. This school was closed about 1950 and the building was sold by the School Board of Hanover Township, so nothing remains in the vicinity to continue the Dillow name except the stream, Dillo Run, which flows into Raccoon Creek.

A little to the south and on or near Raccoon Creek was Allen's Fort and over in Robinson Township at Candor was Beelor's Fort, located on almost the same site as the present Raccoon Presbyterian Church. One of the earliest roads in this section was a trail cut from Dillo's Fort to Beelor's for communication and easy travel between these two places of safety. But little is now known of these ancient forts which disappeared long ago after their period of usefulness had ceased.

Soon after locating his settlement in the Old Town section of Burgettstown, Sebastian Burgett found it necessary to erect a fort for the protection of his family and neighbors. This appears to have been very near Mr. Burgett's home and about where Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church and School now stand. This fort was probably only a block-house which leads me to explain briefly the difference. Many of the early forts were block-houses, or strongly built log houses, of two-story size and built of heavy logs to withstand the attacks of the Indians. Usually the upper story had a projection or over-hang of several inches to prevent the savages from scaling the walls and also to permit the residents to shoot down on the attackers if they got close enough to the structure. On the other hand the stockaded forts consisted of one or more block-houses with an adjoining area fenced in by a high stockade consisting of long posts set closely together around the entire area. One or two additional families could be accommodated in a block-house, but if a greater number of families required protection, a stockaded fort became necessary.

After it had outlived its usefulness as a fort, Mr. Burgett's fort was moved across the road and the building was used as a stable for quite a long time. Old timers used to say that arrow and tomahawk marks could be seen on the outside walls of the old building. It was later struck by lightning and entirely destroyed.

The best known and most famous of the local forts was no doubt Vance's Fort. Built in 1773 or 1774 by Col. Joseph Vance soon after he settled on his tract, "Rich Flats", about three miles southwest of Burgettstown, this stockaded fort became the chief place of refuge from Indian attacks for families from over a wide

area. The stockade was erected on a knoll just a few yards from a never-failing spring on the old Vance farm and very near to the present farm buildings on this farm, now occupied by the family of Charles Rommes, the present owners of the farm. On May 21, 1967, the Junior Historians of Burgettstown High School under the direction of their adviser, Miss O'Hern, placed a marker at the site of Vance's Fort.

The usefulness of these places of refuge depended upon the alertness of the white settlers to ascertain when Indian attacks were imminent. Since all realized the dangers involved, everyone was alert to his own peril and upon receiving a warning of Indians being in the vicinity, all would proceed quickly to the Fort at the same time warning all their neighbors to take the same steps to safety. Once in the fort, if the red men remained in the neighborhood for some time, the families would settle down to the routine of daily living within the enclosure. While the women and children were thus made safe, the men would leave the fort in small bands for hunting in the forest, or for scouting for Indians, and even they would venture back to their cabins to care for their livestock and to tend their crops.

John Marquis who lived about two miles southwest of present Cross Creek Village, having taken his family to Vance's Fort, ventured back to his cabin on such an errand. He got safely inside his home and a little later hearing a commotion among his animals, he looked out the cabin door and saw a band of Indians butchering his hogs. The Indians espied him at the same moment, and knowing what they would do to him if he tarried, he started post haste back to the fort. Mr. Marquis was a fleet runner and was able to out-distance his pursuers, but he had a narrow excape and was glad to be back safe within the walls of the Fort.

Samuel Robison was not so fortunate. He had gone with his son, Samuel, Jr., to his farm a mile east of present Eldersville to plant his potatoes. Indians came upon them while at work there and started to attack them. The white men attempted to escape on horse-back, but the older man missed getting on the horse behind his son, so he was killed on the spot and scalped while the boy got back to the fort in safety. On the same day, William Parks was killed by the savages while hunting some distance away from the gate of Vance's Fort.

In addition to the protection provided, life in Vance's Fort had

considerable social value as well, for there neighbors would be thrown together, sometimes for weeks at a time, and they would certainly have good opportunities to get acquainted with each other in that situation. No doubt many romances were "sparked" in this strange community life. On September 14, 1778, just outside the gates of Vance's Fort was preached the first gospel sermon heard in the Cross Creek country. A number of persons were there converted and children of the believers were baptized on the same occasion. From this primitive beginning the Cross Creek Church was established. It was organized and the first preacher was called on June 20th of the following year.

Within the walls of Vance's Fort was organized the expedition taken by the whites of this region against the Moravian Indians at Gnadenhutten in Ohio. Following an attack by the red men on the cabin of Robert Wallace in present Hanover Township, Mr. Wallace came to this fort and appealed for help in running down and punishing the Indians who had made this attack in which Mr. Wallace's wife and family had been carried away. The so-called Williamson expedition was organized and proceeded against the Moravian settlements on the Tuscarawas River in Ohio with the result that these Indians, really innocent of the Wallace attack, were put to death in retaliation for it anyway.

Other forts in the Cross Creek country were: Reynold's block-house, erected by William Reynolds on his farm two miles south of Cross Creek Village, on the farm now owned by the Casciola family. This strong house was attacked by Indians during Mr. Reynold's absence from home and his wife and child were carried off. The savages were pursued by neighbors including the fleet-footed John Marquis, mentioned previously, but the Indians escaped after murdering Mrs. Reynolds and her child. Wells' Fort was erected by Alexander Wells at his settlement near the present town of Avella.

Farther south in Independence Township were Teeter's Fort and Doddridge's and on Buffalo Creek, Lamb's Fort, all probably block-houses in the strict sense of the word. Over in Donegal Township were Rice's Fort and Miller's Block-house both of which suffered attack by Indians in the year 1782, Miller's on Easter Sunday and Rice's during the month of September of that year.

A word should be said about the type of men who garrisoned these frontier forts. All were men trained by life in the forest and

on the frontier to protect themselves from the hazards of their rough life, since their lives literally depended upon their ability to cope with these rugged conditions. Their most treasured and trusty possessions were their rifles which necessity demanded they keep within reach at all times. Needless to say, they could load and fire these weapons under all conditions. There were no West Point men among them but they did have their colonels and majors and captains, all of which titles had been earned as they commanded their fellow pioneer men in the defense of their homes and loved ones.

Although these frontier forts were occasionally attacked as notably in the cases of Rice's and Miller's above mentioned and of Fort Henry at Wheeling, also in 1782, yet the Indians had a wholesome fear of these fortifications, knowing how sturdily they were built and the type of men who so courageously defended them. There appears no record of Vance's Fort ever having been attacked, but it was noted for the protection which it provided for so many families over a wide area and for the social, religious, and military benefits which life within its walls provided.

Cherry's Fort over in Mt. Pleasant Township also had a notable history closely rivaling that of Vance's Fort, since it was erected by the famous Cherry Family of that region and was a place of refuge for many families in the area where it was located.

BURGETTSTOWN

Much good history has been written about Burgettstown, and it is not the intention of the writer to either repeat much of what others have written in recent years, or even to add much to what has already been compiled about the town. What I would like to do is possibly to mention a few things which have been missed in earlier accounts as well as to record some impressions of the town which I have received during my years of periodic visits to Burgettstown.

Since our family, during my boyhood in the early years of this century, lived on the former Mark Stpehenson farm a mile south of Atlasburg in Smith Township, it was our custom to make frequent trips to Burgettstown to take our "marketing" and to purchase most of the things needed about the farm and home. My sisters and I attended school at the old Cooke School just over the hill from our farm; we as a family attended church at Cross Creek Village, but most of our trading was done at Burgettstown. Around sixty years ago at least weekly visits were made to this town.

By that time the Burgett family had all disappeared from their "town" and I never saw anyone who bears this name. Boston G. Burgett, the last of the name here, died on July 28, 1894, just about four months before I was born. He was aged 70 years and left surviving him two daughters, Mrs. Rachel Tuman of Pittsburgh and Mrs. Frank McCune of Numick Station. The family haa pretty well disappeared from our knowledge, but just as I write this, a letter from a friend in Florida reports meeting a Mr. Burgett who claims to be a descendant of the Burgettstown Burgetts. We must contact this man soon and find out more about the present family. Dr. Edward Burgett Welsh, noted church historian of Wooster, Ohio, claims descent from this family as well as from the Rowland Rogers family once prominent here.

It is well known that this town was named for the German immigrant, Sebastian, or Boston, Burgett who was the original settler here. His settlement was in the southern end of the present town, the "Old Town" of those days when this appellation was used to distinguish it from the newer portion of the town, down near

the station. When the railroad was built through here in the 1860's, a town at first called Abilene, but later Cardville, was built at the local stop on the new railroad line. The name, Cardville, for the post office at least, existed until October 1, 1883, when that office became "Burgettstown" and the former Burgettstown Post Office in the "Old Town" became "South Burgettstown". Now, with mail delivery being made to all parts of the borough, the designations for the two ends of town are gradually falling into disuse, and Burgettstown applies to the entire town.

As we used to visit the "Old Town", coming into it from the south, in the business district of that part of town, we recall the stores then operated there: W. M. McMurray and son, Bill, operated a grocery store on the northeast corner of Main and Pittsburgh streets; opposite was the clothing store of Fleming and Close; next to it, Lou Leopold and his good wife, Annie (Raab), had their bakery; next was the South Burgettstown Post Office with John Pry as postmaster; then came the meat shop operated by John A. Russell and son, Frank. Down to the west on Pittsburgh street at the Creek was the Mill, then operated by James P. Leech. This was on the same site where the old Burgett Mill is thought to have been located.

In driving on downtown toward the station, we passed the First U. P. Church on the right and then, on the hill, the First Presbyterian Church. Just before passing the new public school building was the drugstore of H. B. McMurray, standing alone with no other businesses near. The school building had (and has) the inscription: A. D. PUBLIC SCHOOL 1895. I used to wonder about the initials A. D. as we passed here. The Old Auditorium Hall stood on the later site of Mary Ann Theater opposite Petrucci's Market. That Hall was, I think, the old Presbyterian Church from up on the hill, moved down here after that congregation had moved into town. Next stood the new Westminster Presbyterian Church and opposite the also new Second U. P. Church.

At the "Station", business houses were more numerous. If our visit to town was a short one, our horse or team was tied up at the hitching rack to the rear of Pat Vance's hardware store or Math Scott's furniture store. At that time a long platform or board walk extended from the passenger station down along the railroad track to these two stores.

Going over onto "short" Main Street, we passed on the

corner the banking room of the Burgettstown National Bank, organized in 1872 as a Savings Bank and becoming a National Bank in 1879. This building, according to the stone, was built in 1890. In the store room in this building C. Bloom and Bro. (Louis) had their clothing store and next above it was Will McCurdy's drugstore. Next Door, Fin Scott had his grocery. On the property just below the passenger station was the livery stable then conducted by George Wilson. If we were in town for the day or when going to Pittsburgh on the train, our team would always be left in care of Mr. Wilson at his stable. Beside the livery was the barber shop in which Charley Miller and Ed McFarland presided as tonsorial artists for the town.

On the corner opposite the bank stood the Smith Hotel in charge then of the genial "mine host" Jim Smith of the Jefferson Township family of Smiths. Next above the hotel, I believe, John McCabe had a grocery store and nearby was the shoe store of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Bingham. Up around the corner, Joe Jeffries had his fruit store, providing also on occasion, so it was rumored, a bit of contraband "wet goods". As a rival to Joe, about 1911, John Panconi came to Burgettstown and opened a fruit store and an ice cream parlor, specializing in home-made ice cream of many flavors. Across the railroad tracks, Clark Cooke had his meat shop and back around the corner was the feed store conducted by John C. Fulton and Company. Many a load of grain did we deliver there from the old farm and many a load of bran and middlings did we haul away for feed for our livestock. Directly opposite the passenger station stood the freight house with, I think, W. S. Fulton then in charge. Across the road from this building where the Coll Tire Shop stood until recently was Charley Hindman's harness shop and Clem Elder's clothing store. My first suit of clothes came from Mr. Elder's store. When this suit appeared to my father to be a bit too large, Mr. Elder advised him to feed the boy plenty of strawberry short-cake and soon he would find the suit a perfect fit. This advice was followed and the desired result was quickly attained.

Other stores and places of business recalled: J. A. McKenzie had a music store about where Kobe's Dairy Store is now located; a short distance away stood George Conrad's Tin-shop to the rear of which his old German parents had their green-house, always a favorite place for a boy to stop since Mrs. Conrad usually had a stick of candy or a cookie to hand out. Somewhere along Main Street, Miss Emma McNary had her millinery store and the

Enterprise was then located in its present quarters. The second story of this building was occupied by the dental office of Dr. W. S. Clark. Standing near was the Purdy Livery Stable, later to be taken over by George Wilson and Sons. Opposite was the new building of the Washington National Bank, organized in 1904 as a rival of the old Burgettstown Bank. In the lot where the Falcon Service Station now stands B. F. McClure and Bro. (Alex) conducted a hardware store and down on the corner where the post office is now was Dr. W. E. Dickson's residence with his dental office in his home.

There were no shopping centers as we now know them, no real department store in Burgettstown, but all of the genial businessmen heretofore mentioned stood ready to supply all our needs, so only occasionally did we find it necessary to take a trip to the City (Pittsburgh) but when we did we had a choice of nine daily schedules of trains stopping at Burgettstown. The Panhandle Railroad was really an accommodating line in those days.

So things have changed in Burgettstown since the good old days of the early 1900's. Then, all roads led "to" Burgettstown and the businessmen of the town were busy serving their many customers from over a wide area. Today it would seem that all roads lead "through" the town and only a fraction of the daily traffic flow ever stops here. Yet Burgettstown is still a good place to shop. We invite you to stop off and see if that is not still true.

MCDONALD

Named for the pioneer family of the McDonalds, early settlers, this town experienced a rather modest growth in its earlier years. John McDonald came into the area in 1773 when he was about 22 years of age. He took up a tract of land of 1,000 acres, known as Mt. Pleasant, and to this, in the years ahead, the McDonald family added other large tracts.

The first building was the McDonald cabin, and, a bit later Mr. McDonald added a fort or block-house for the protection of himself and the few neighbors in the area from the incursions of the Indians. Since he served as a justice of the peace and an Indian trader, other buildings were added to provide space for these activities. John McDonald lived as a bachelor for about six years before he was married on April 28, 1778, to Martha Noble, whose family lived in a small settlement a few miles down Robinson Run from the McDonald cabin. This couple became the parents of six sons and five daughters, and these children with their families became prominent in the home area and in other areas where they chose to live.

On the home farm which he inherited from his father, Edward McDonald lived and he was succeeded by his son, John N. McDonald who erected the beautiful home which still stands on the farm and which is now the home of the Kim Darragh family.

The town of McDonald was laid out on a part of the McDonald farm and on the Johnston tract which lay to the east. There being no industrial or commercial activities in the area, there was little incentive for a town to grow. But when the Pittsburgh and Steubenville Railroad was built up the Robinson Run valley in the 1860s, it ran through the Mt. Pleasant tract. A post office known as Havelock was opened and it kept that name until about 1869 or 1870 when it was changed to McDonald to agree with the name of the station which had been established on the railroad.

The coming of the railroad promoted the importance of the place by providing an access to markets for the people of the surrounding countryside. Farmers began shipping milk and other

farm products began coming in and places of business were established for their handling and sale. So, as a result, the lots which had been laid out began to find buyers, as people bought them and settled here.

But still, the town was not large, or very important until 1890 when exploring for oil revealed the presence of substantial quantities of this valuable fuel under the grounds of the area. Two fairly good wells had been brought in on the McDonald farm, and as other wells were drilled with satisfactory results, an oil boom soon developed, and drilling began on a large scale. All available land was put under lease and many people flocked to McDonald to work in the oil field and to provide services for these workers, so its development as a place of residence and a place of business was well established. The town became incorporated as a borough on November 11, 1889.

Following the excitement of the oil boom, the opening of the coal fields gave another boost to the importance of the town. Several mines were located nearby, and large quantities of the "black diamonds" were shipped over the Panhandle Railroad from this point. All of this development has, of course, been of great economic advantage to McDonald, and its present population is composed of fairly well-to-do people. These people have been progressive and have always sought the best of cultural advantages for themselves and their families. Good schools have always been maintained, and the borough schools are now a part of the Fort Cherry School System, with an elementary school being held at McDonald and secondary students being transported to the Fort Cherry High School.

Attention has always been given to the religious needs of the people, too. The McDonalds and their early Scotch-Irish neighbors attended the Presbyterian Church at Candor, but as people of other persuasions settled in McDonald, all of the major denominations have established churches.

Notable among immigrants from European countries who have come to McDonald are a number of families of French and Belgian nationality who have made their homes here and have established themselves as substantial citizens of the McDonald Community. Most ethnic groups of the present day are well represented.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Candor and Bulger

The old Biblical statement that "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid" obviously might apply, also, to a small country town such as the Village of Candor in Robinson Township. As one approaches this small place of a dozen or so houses, the first thing which comes into view is the spire of the stately old Raccoon Presbyterian Church, standing on the highest point in the village, and then one by one the houses about it come into view.

The first houses here were clustered about the site of old Fort Beelor of which very little is known at the present time. The probable reason for building homes here was that this was the location of the Raccoon Church. Few houses existed here before 1817 when the Rev. Moses Allen came as the second pastor and by him this town was started. But the place had no name until Mr. Allen's son, Watson Allen, opened the first store. He went to Philadelphia to purchase his stock of goods, and when asked the address to which to ship them he replied, "Oh, just send them to Candor, Washington County". The name stuck and by it the hamlet is still known.

As one reads the inscription on the stone set high on the outside front wall of the Church, he gets the following information: "Raccoon Church Built 1781 Rebuilt 1786 1830 1872" These dates reveal the succession of church buildings here from the original rough log structure to a more commodious hewed log building which stood until the erection of the first brick church in 1830. The present large, commodious, two-story building was erected in 1872. It is typical of the churches of the county such as Buffalo and Cross Creek which were erected at about the same time.

To the right and left of the pulpit platform in this church one can read the bronze plaques, one placed in memory of the Rev. Joseph Patterson, first pastor, and the other memoralizing

the fifty year pastorate of the Rev. Greer McIllvaine Kerr who ministered here from 1871 to 1921. In the historic graveyard, hard by the church, one finds another memorial to the Rev. Mr. Patterson and his family. Although he is not buried here, his first wife, Jane Moak Patterson, does lie here and the stone marks her grave. On the hill above the older graveyard can be found the graves of the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Greer M. Kerr. The second pastor, the Rev. Mr. Allen, after leaving Raccoon, went to the Crabapple Church in Ohio and he is buried there.

Candor is connected with Midway by a concrete road, and a blacktop road joins the town with Bulger a couple of miles away. Along these modern highways are found substantial farms with dairying the principal occupation. To the north of the village, coal stripping has to some extent despoiled what was formerly fine farming country.

Because of its being a part of the same community with Candor, we include Bulger in this article. This place did not attain the status of a town until the completion of the Panhandle Railroad in 1865, when it became an important station on this line. A store was opened here by Mr. A. J. Russell who also became the station agent. Mr. Russell also served the community as post master and he was for some years a justice of the peace as well as serving as an elder in the U. P. Church. So well known was Mr. Russell in these various capacities by people of the surrounding area and by the railroad men whose trains stopped here that it was said when shipments were made to him, all that was necessary was to mark them "A. J. Bulger" and they always came to the right place. Mr. Russell was the father of Dr. Andrew Lyle Russell who is mentioned in our article on Midway.

An early business venture which must be mentioned here was that of the Butter and Cheese Association which began business on July 1, 1881 with Thomas H. Ackleson as president, George Hoffman as secretary, and, of course, A. J. Russell as treasurer. During its first four months of operation this firm produced over one thousand cheeses of an average weight of 33 pounds. This reflects the early importance of dairying in this section, where a large volume of milk was also shipped to the Pittsburgh market.

The town continued its commercial importance as a shipping point for coal produced by the mines which were established here.

The first of these was the Whitestone Coal Works located between Bulger and Burgettstown. In 1903 the Bulger Block Coal Company mine and the Verner mine of Carnegie Coal Company were opened and these continued through the period of World War I but both are now gone. Bulger isn't even a "whistle stop" on the railroad any more; no more do the Burgettstown Accommodation or the midnight Bummer from the City stop here, and the long freights of the Pennsy roar through Bulger as if it were nothing more than a cow pasture. But although A. J.'s station house is gone, Bulger still has its post office for the local residents as well as for a rural route which goes out from this office.

Being now deprived of employment by the closing of the mines here, the people of Bulger find employment elsewhere, and the homes of the village reflect the industry and thrift of its people. St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church ministers to the people of this faith, while those of other denominations attend at Raccoon, or Midway, or Burgettstown. Being in Smith Township, one of that school district's schools was located here and the students from the town and surrounding country-side now attend the schools of the Burgettstown School District.

Midway

The early history of the present town of Midway is closely connected with the building of the Panhandle Railroad. Although the work of building the Pittsburgh to Steubenville Railroad was contracted for as early as 1852, it was not until October 1865 that the road was completed and the first train run over its entire length. Even upon the completion of the line, the financial troubles which plagued the road in its days of building were not over until May 1868 when a consolidation of short lines formed the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad--then 193 miles long and running from Pittsburgh to Columbus, O. Following the assurance of a real railroad through the community, in November 1865 the town was plotted by Thomas Mitchell and Company when 53 lots and 4 "out-lots" were included in the plan. The new town contained land in both Smith and Robinson Townships.

But this locality had an earlier history when the semblance of a town which existed here was called Egypt--but why? No one knows. The few buildings which were here were so scattered

that they could hardly be called a town: William Smith, an auctioneer, opened a store here as early as 1844; a thousand feet away was the Egypt flouring mill, which burned to the ground in 1858 when some boys were playing cards in the structure and left a lamp burning and cobwebs caught fire and the mill burned down. It was not replaced. Across the stream was the saw-mill of Samuel E. Bell. This was an old up-and-down mill, which the boys said "went up in the forenoon and came down in the afternoon"; it moved so slowly. In addition to the saw-mill, Mr. Bell had here a carding mill and he was also an expert butcher, killing an occasional beef for local trade and being called on to help the surrounding farmers with their fall butchering each year. "Sammy" Bell's wife, "Granny" Bell was renowned as a doctoress among the people of the community; she was familiar with the use of herbs for treatment of illnesses and it was said that she was called into the homes of people of the neighborhood almost as often as was a nearby physician.

Upon the plotting of the town, "Sammy" Bell purchased the first lot. In 1869, George W. Campbell of the Cross Creek Township family of that name came here and opened the first hotel in the new town. This he operated until his death in 1885. The hotel was located near the railroad station and it became a convenient stopping place for the traveling public who visited Midway. Upon completion of the railroad a station was established here and for a time it bore the name "Silverside", but when it was realized that this point was midway between Pittsburgh and Steubenville, being just 22 miles from each city, the name Midway was decided upon and this name the town still carries. But development of other types of traffic have reduced the need for a railroad station here, so it has disappeared and the long trains of the "Pennsy" which pass through Midway no longer stop here.

Midway became an incorporated borough in February 1903. The town fathers began almost immediately to improve the streets and to provide other services to make the town a fine place in which to live. The two school buildings standing within the new borough's limits and belonging to the adjacent townships of Smith and Robinson were purchased and were utilized until the new high school building was erected in 1934. The borough school district became a component part of the Fort Cherry School System and the Midway School is now an elementary school in that unit.

Being surrounded by rich coal lands, Midway early became an important mining center. In early times coal was produced in

the country "coal banks" and with the coming of the railroad more extensive mining began. Early operators close to the town were the Midway Coal Company and the Sharon Coal Company. Since the beds of coal were not far under the surface, later mining in the area has been by the "strip-mining" method. The largest and most important industry within the borough limits has been the grain elevator and mill developed in the 1880's as the Bamford Milling Company. The Midway National Bank, established in 1903, has been discontinued.

Many prominent and capable physicians have ministered to the health needs of the people of Midway and the surrounding countryside. Perhaps the best known of these was Dr. Andrew Lyle Russell, who, in addition to his extensive general practice, also served as surgeon for a number of the coal-producing firms of the area. Dr. Russell also was a voluminous writer on local history and was the author of "The Freighter", a story of the days of the Whiskey Insurrection.

Churches in Midway are four, established in comfortable new buildings: the United Presbyterian, Baptist, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Midway Methodist Church which has renovated and enlarged its building in recent years. As one drives over the streets of the Midway of today, he finds a blend of the older type homes, still sturdy and comfortable, with the many modern homes which overflow into the adjacent townships in all directions. Midway has the appearance and reputation of being a good place to live.

Cherry Valley and Raccoon

When we speak of Cherry Valley we mean a town, not a vale, and the place is named for a family, not a fruit or a tree--all of which may sound very confusing,--but we shall try to explain.

Actually there is a Cherry Valley; at least Cherry Run, which rises near the Ft. Cherry High School in Mt. Pleasant Township, flows through a beautiful valley, long known by the name, and this stream joins Raccoon Creek about a mile above the town of which we are writing. On the headwaters of this stream, back in 1774, Thomas Cherry, an English immigrant, made a settlement, built a log cabin, and later the same year erected the fort which

bore his name. So the prominence of this family here in early times gave the name, Cherry Run, to this stream, and eventually to the valley, and finally to the town.

The town itself was a product of the development of the coal industry here. But even before the present town was founded, there was a post office bearing the name, Cherry Valley, which was kept at Smith's Store, a mile up the valley and almost on the line between Mt. Pleasant and Smith Townships. This store, kept by Elenezer Smith, was an important trading point for many years before the turn of the century.

The oldest house in the town of Cherry Valley is a stone house to which a frame addition was made in the early 1900's. This house, the home of Mr. and Mrs. James DeSantis, is believed to be nearly 190 years old, having been built probably in the 1780's by James Leech on his tract, Leitchfield, soon after he came into this country. Near his home, on the creek, Mr. Leech erected a mill. Hoagland's Fort must have been nearby supposedly on land later belonging to Joseph Keys.

Another ancient house nearby is the old brick house on the Farrar farm, which may have been built when the White Family, ancestors of the Farrars, owned the property. They had a White Mill where the creek flowed through their property. Judge John Farrar married Phoebe White of this family and in time the farm passed to their family and it was owned and occupied by members of the Farrar Family until recent years.

Cherry Valley, the mining town as we know it, came into being around the turn of the century when three mines of the Pittsburgh and Eastern Coal Company were opened on the former Keys and Scott farms. The coal from these mines was shipped to market on a branch railroad extending along Raccoon Creek from the main line at Burgettstown. These mines operated with a large production until 1927 since which time they have been closed and the tipples removed. Although former mining towns in this part of Washington County are numerous, yet Cherry Valley did not become a "ghost town" as so many other such towns did. The two dozen or so large double block houses built here many years ago by the coal company for leasing to the miners are nearly all now privately owned and they have been made into attractive two-family homes. In addition to these, quite a number of other fine modern homes have been built in and near the original village, so the town presents a

pleasing appearance.

There is no post office here now, the residents being served by Rural Route No. 3 out of Burgettstown Post Office. The Cherry Valley School is no more, all students now attending the Burgettstown Area Schools. The Raccoon Elementary School in this system is located about two miles down Raccoon Creek from Cherry Valley. Only the Catholic Church, a mission of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Burgettstown, remains of the community's public institutions.

Far down the valley near the junction of Raccoon Creek with its West Branch lies the town of Raccoon, which because of its location on the main line of the Panhandle Railroad, had a good start as a village before the coal industry developed. The location of the old Whitestone Coal Works on the Simpson farm a short distance east of Raccoon Station helped the economy of the community and this was advanced further when the Raccoon mine of the Sanford Coal Company was located here. These mines have disappeared, too, and the dairy industry which used to ship so much milk from Raccoon Station now uses other transportation for its product. So, the residents of another town have had to seek employment elsewhere, but the town of Raccoon still lives on. Although the post office here carried the name Raccoon in earlier years, it has been known in recent years as Joffre.

An incident, or accident, in this community many years ago is still recalled by the oldest residents. This was the one which resulted in the death of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll A. McBride at the old Raccoon Railroad Crossing. Having recently been married, on November 16, 1898, Carroll A. McBride and his wife, Elsie Bell Stephenson McBride, had just gone to housekeeping on his father's farm in Robinson Township. On Sabbath morning, December 11th, they had left their farm home to attend church at Burgettstown and were driving there in a one-horse sleigh.

The fast mail train west was running late that morning, and as the young couple were well bundled up on account of the extreme cold, they did not hear the train approaching. This was a dangerous crossing with very poor visibility to the east, and as the young couple reached the tracks the train struck their sleigh right where they were sitting. Their bodies were carried one hundred feet or more down the tracks by the fearful impact and,

needless to say, both were instantly killed. Strange to relate, the horse was not injured the slightest. A double funeral service was held for the unfortunate young couple and just four weeks from the day of their wedding, they were laid side by side in a single grave in the cemetery at the old Robinson U. P. Church.

As a result of this accident and several more very narrow escapes, this grade crossing was eliminated and an "arch" was substituted at this crossing at Raccoon.

Hanlin

When the Panhandle Railroad was built down the Harmon Creek Valley in the 1860's its route lay through the lands of the Hanlin Family who came to this area about 1800. Although the railroad company resisted having too many stations on its line, yet it was often a part of the contract for the right-of-way that a station be established, especially if the land owner was prominent and held a large tract of land. This was the case with the Hanlin Family, so Hanlin Station was located on their land near where the road from Eldersville to Paris crosses the stream of Harmon Creek. The hamlet dates from about 1865.

Prosperity came to this community about 1878 when the Keystone Coal Company opened a mine near Hanlin Station on the Squire James Stewart farm. The Pittsburgh vein of coal crops out in the hillsides at this point and mining by direct entry was easy. Arrangements were made with the railroad company for shipping much of the coal produced to a tipple which had been erected on the east bank of the Ohio River opposite Steubenville, Ohio. A company store was opened at Hanlin Station and by 1882 this company was employing sixty men in their mine here. Operations continued at a good rate until tragedy befell the company when their tipple at the river was wrecked by a string of run away coal cars and it was never rebuilt. This soon caused a "slowdown" in production and led soon to the closing of the mine. However, this effort at mining did demonstrate the feasibility of large scale mining in this area.

When dairying came in as an important phase of farming, Hanlin Station soon developed as a large shipping point for milk from the nearby farms of Jefferson and Hanover Townships. Hanlin Station had a post office for many years with rural routes going out

to serve the adjacent areas north and south of the Station. This post office with Mrs. Mazie Fulton as the last postmaster was closed on August 14, 1964 and the rural delivery routes were transferred to the Burgettstown Post Office.

Now Hanlin Station is a small cluster of houses nestling quietly on the hillside, and the station itself is no more, the long trains of the Pennsy go roaring up and down the Valley and paying no heed to what at one time was an important stop on this line.

Bertha

At the head of the Harmon Creek Valley about three miles east of Hanlin Station and just over the line in Smith Township lay another farm, whose owner, John Dinsmore, also demanded and got a station of the railroad on his farm. Mr. Dinsmore was a prominent farmer and stockraiser specializing in the production of fine wool. In his honor, the station located at the western end of a tunnel built through the dividing ridge was named Dinsmore and the tunnel ever bore the same name. Although the settlement made here was always small (at one time 75 persons lived here), yet in addition to the depot, there was also a telegraph office, a store and a post office with John Pry serving as the first postmaster. This post office was discontinued when rural mail delivery was established around the turn of the century.

The coal mines opened at this point early in the century by the Jones interests of Pittsburgh caused quite a change in the community. Two mines of the Bertha Coal Company opened here by Mr. John H. Jones and named Jean and Bertha in honor of two of Mr. Jones' daughters were operated together until 1928 when the Jean Mine was closed. In the years immediately following, the Bertha Mine continued operations but difficulties encountered by adverse conditions in the mine caused a gradual abandonment of the mine and its being finally sealed. The mining camp located here came to be known as Bertha and the name Dinsmore was given up. Bertha had a company store, a post office and a large number of houses for the miners' homes. The Jefferson Township School District maintained a school here until 1936 when it was closed and the remaining pupils were transferred to the Eldersville School. While other former mining towns in the Burgettstown Area have managed to continue a respectable existence following the closing of

the mines, Bertha rapidly became a real "ghost town" and is now almost non-existent.

Francis Mine

This mine was located on the former McNary Brothers' farm on the Pennsylvania Railroad about a mile west of Burgettstown. Begun about 1903 by the Jones Family under the name of the Pittsburgh-Buffalo Company, the mine eventually came under the control of the Greensburg-Connellsville Coal and Coke Company which conducted it until it was finally closed just a few years ago. In its early years of operation, advanced methods of mining and screening the coal were used in the mine, where as many as 300 miners were once employed. During the last years of their operation much of the coal was produced by "strip" mining which has come into vogue in recent years.

The houses built for the families of miners employed here are stretched along the public road which parallels the railroad at this point from the Patterson Crossing at the western edge of Burgettstown almost to the eastern end of the old Dinsmore Tunnel. These houses are now maintained largely by private owners. A company store was kept here and a public school of the Smith Township system was in existence until its closing in 1949. The school building is now used for Sunday school and worship services by the Francis Mine Community Church of which the Rev. Texas Strothers is the pastor.

Erie Mine

The Erie Mine was another "slope" mine located at the southern end of Burgettstown and operated for a number of years during the coal boom by the Pittsburgh and Erie Coal Company. The High School Football Field occupies about the site of the tipple of this mine which has now been closed for many years. The remaining houses of the "camp" developed by this company are located out of the borough limits in Smith Township and adjacent to the Fairview Cemetery.

Slovan

How quickly a quiet farming community can be changed into a rapidly growing industrial town was demonstrated in 1913-1914. Prior to these years the Easton, Welch Brothers and Dunbar farms were typical of most that one would find in similar localities in Smith Township. In their midst stood the old "Yellow" School, No. 9, a one-room rural school of the Smith Township School system which was attended by children from the surrounding farms. When rumors of the coming plant of the American Zinc and Chemical Co. began circulating in the Burgettstown Area, and even before these rumors had been confirmed, great real estate activity began in this valley.

Mr. John S. Easton, who owned a part of the historic Major William Vance tract, the "Oatfield", started this activity when he laid off sections of lots on his farm, parts of which lay on both sides of the valley road here. To honor Mr. Easton, the mushrooming town which sprang up on his farm became known for a time as Eastonville. Men who envisioned good jobs in the proposed plant were attracted to come here and purchase lots on which to build homes, and come they did in ever increasing numbers. Not far behind Mr. Easton in plotting their farms for sale as lots were Messrs. John M. and J. Vincent Welch, and Mr. Samuel S. Dunbar. Soon houses of all shapes, sizes and kinds were being built along the highway and on the adjacent hill sides.

Concurrent with this home-building activity also was the construction work in progress at the new plant. The early structures to house the workers who were building this new plant were a hotel, or rooming house, operated by the Pavic Brothers, where workers could room and also get their meals, and two huge barracks erected by the Company near the railroad tracks, these furnishing additional living quarters as well as a commissary or company store. A post office established here was called Langeloth and it continued at this location until the Langeloth Townsite was developed about 1916 and this post office was moved there.

With the influx of so many people, commercial establishments were necessary and they, too, appeared as if by magic, when enterprising men like Adolph Horowitz came and opened a grocery

and dry goods store; Mike Nokovich opened a meat shop; Harry Barbush started a slaughtering plant and Nick Capozzoli opened a working men's store. These were soon followed by the opening of barber shops, pool halls, bowling alleys, and motion picture shows for entertainment, a lumber yard, lunch rooms and restaurants, a hardware store, tailor shops, dry cleaning establishments, a garage, shoe-maker and watch repair shops, in fact all those services required by so many people were quickly located here and the town was on its way.

The birth and early growth of such a town always attracts a considerable number of so-called "floaters" and they came here, made or lost their fortunes, and then moved on to try their luck somewhere else. Those who stayed were the folks who had established homes here: many of them got work at the new plant, and the others provided the services required by their fellow-residents.

Because so many of the new-comers were of the Slavic or Slovenian nationalities, when serious consideration was given to the selection of a permanent name for the new town, one which would reflect this racial predominance was decided upon and the name "Slovan" was chosen, acceptable to the community and to the Post Office Department as well. The original name of Eastonville was ruled out as being too similar to that of the city of Easton in eastern Pennsylvania.

Like all pioneer towns, Slovan had its "growing pains", evident at times in over-building and over-expansion of services. Our friend, Andy Medved, told us that at one time at least seven barbershops were located in Slovan. Of these, four became permanent establishments. Slovan, too, has had its disastrous fires, the Big Fire of 1922 destroying many of the early places of business in the south end of town. During the depression years also, fires and business failures took a heavy toll among Slovan's businessmen. The fire of 1922 caused a shift in the business district to a point centering in the Dunbar plan of lots, further down the road, and as a result the Filipponi Grocery Store, the Horowitz Department Store, the Patsy Raggi lunch room and others came into being in this part of town.

The complete list of businessmen in Slovan is too long for this short article. Others prominent in the development of the town included Squire Henry Tennyson and his constable brother, Andy. There was need for law enforcement here and the town

had a jail, but with the aid of their friends, the jail door was often pried open and the prisoners permitted to escape. Andy Tennyson also operated a 5 and 10 cent store. Frank Rostan and John Gradison were restauranteurs. Nick Yaksic furnished early taxi and bus services. George Sciamanna had a fruit and delicatessen store, and a host of others contributed greatly to the development of the town.

Nationality groups represented here by substantial numbers of people built a Polish Hall and Church, a Russian Orthodox Church, a Croatian Lodge Home and an Italian Lodge Home. An aggressive community spirit resulted in the organization of the Slovan Volunteer Fire Department which has been consistently very active over the years. The town now supports a new V. F. W. Home.

In 1916, Smith Township School District erected a four-room brick school building on the site of the old Yellow School. This soon proved inadequate for the ever increasing numbers of children and additional rooms of the portable type were later built on the Welch Farm and as the need for still more space became apparent, every available vacant store-room was pressed into service. At the peak of the towns population, at least 500 children were in school here.

The valley road through Slovan was a mud street in the early days. This condition was alleviated by the building of a macadam road from Burgettstown to the Easton farm gate, and in 1921 Route 18 through the town was paved and the main part of town at least was taken out of the mud.

Perhaps Slovan was a bit like Topsy in that the town just "growed" but the people who live here now consider it as the Old Home Town and most of them plan to stay around for a while.

Langeloth

Prior to 1900, the Burgettstown Area was predominantly rural with farming and livestock raising the principal vocations and with the stores and shops of the town contributing their share by services rendered. A few country coal "banks" opened into the shallow seams of coal in the hills near the town furnished all the

coal needed for domestic use by the townsfolk and by the farmers in the surrounding countryside. Early coal mines were opened prior to 1900 on lands abutting on the line of the "Panhandle" Railroad so that the product could easily be shipped to market. During the first decade of the present century, with the industrial demands for coal increasing very rapidly, other mines were opened and railroad "branch" lines were built to the tipples at such places as Cherry Valley, already mentioned in a previous article.

But until 1912, coal mining remained the principal new industry of the area. In that year rumors began circulating that another industrial plant was soon to be located nearby, and many stories were told of the prospective importance of this innovation. Although much excitement was caused by these rumors, many people did not give too much attention to the reports until agents of the American Zinc and Chemical Company began visiting landowners just south of Burgettstown and making serious offers for the purchase of land for the erection of the new chemical plant. By mid-1913 these deals had been completed and the former McNary Heirs farm then owned by Matthew and Mary B. Acheson and the Hervey Farm which adjoined the Burgettstown Fair grounds had been secured for the location of the new plant. Later the same year the Donaldson Farm of 247 acres had been deeded to the company and this land was to be used for the location of the new town to be called Langeloth.

As soon as title had been secured to the land in question, construction work began and by 1914 the new plant was in partial operation. For many years thereafter the great roasting ovens with their immense brick "stacks", turning out the principal product, the metal zinc, and the auxiliary facilities which produced great quantities of sulfuric acid, gave employment to the residents of Langeloth and of its un-official twin sister Slovan, as well as to many men from the surrounding countryside. But as important as this plant was to the economy of the entire area during its years of operation this company was frequently beset by labor troubles which resulted in the decline of the industry and the eventual closing of the plant. The last production was in 1947 and from that time until 1950 the plant was in the process of liquidation and in June 1950 Mr. J. Lee Foster closed the doors of the office of the Langeloth plant of American Zinc and Chemical Company for the last time.

But over the years a new plant came into this same area when the officials of Climax Molybdenum Company decided to locate their plant here. This facility was established in 1924 on a part of the same land on which the Zinc and Chemical plant was located. In fact, during its earliest period of operation, this company used some of the roasting facilities of the older plant and it is said that the first payroll of this new plant here contained the names of less than a dozen men. In 1929 this company was struck by a disastrous fire which resulted in the erection of larger and better buildings in which to carry on the operations of the company. The eventual payroll of this new company never reached the numbers on the payroll of the older company but it did add greatly to the economy of the Burgettstown Area. And while the older company has vanished from the scene, Climax still operates its Langeloth plant.

The town of Langeloth, located directly west of the plants here, was heralded by the company as the "model company town" of the 20th century. The plans called for regular streets of a good width to be provided, single family houses were to be erected each with a good sized yard, and good facilities of water, light and power, and drainage were promised. In addition to housing for the employees of the chemical plant, houses were built on so-called Miners' Hill for families of men employed in the mine of Langeloth Coal Company. The branch railroad line which had already been built to Atlasburg was extended to the new and commodious modern station house at Langeloth. It was rumored that the route of the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad would be shifted to the south so that all trains on that important line would run through Langeloth, with all crack passenger and express trains to stop here, thus providing fast service to Pittsburgh and New York City. While this promised service never developed due to the resistance of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, yet Langeloth was then and still is a fine place in which to live.

After the American Zinc and Chemical Company closed their plant here, the Langeloth Townsite Company which managed its residential properties has been taken over by Mr. Gus Barbush, who is presently in charge of such properties of the town which have not been purchased by private individuals. But like other former industrial towns of this general area, many of the residents here have had to find employment elsewhere.

Langeloth has one of the elementary schools of the Burgettstown School System, also a Community (United Presbyterian) Church and the Church of Christ, and the Langeloth Community Center as its permanent community institutions.

There is a tradition that the land on which the town of Langeloth is located was once owned by the famed Indian fighters, Andrew and Adam Poe. The Smith Township map in Caldwell's 1876 Atlas of Washington County shows this tract as The Old Adam Poe Farm. And Crumrine's History of Washington County mentions this land as having belonged to Andrew and Adam Poe. However official records show that this land was patented in 1785 to Arthur Campbell, an Irish immigrant who came into this area and who spent the rest of his life here. This Arthur Campbell was the ancestor of Mr. Arthur E. Campbell who lived for many years on the road between Burgettstown and Bertha, just west of Francis Mine. This was his home until his death on August 3, 1966. It is possible that the Poe Brothers may once have lived on this land, but if so, it must have been as "squatters" since no records conform their ownership of the land. Both Poe Brothers took up land in Hanover Township as shown by records in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of Washington County.

Atlasburg

Having frequently, during the early years of the present century, driven the valley road south of Burgettstown from where that road is intersected by the road coming down from Cross Creek Village, the writer recalls that the large farm located at this intersection was then known as the Buchanan Farm and was then occupied by Mr. Joseph B. Henderson. He was a native of Chartiers Township and was a noted breeder and importer from England of Dorset Horn sheep and from Holland of Holstein cattle. On this farm, Mr. Henderson concentrated most of his attention on the breeding and raising of his fine flocks of Dorset sheep.

At the time spoken of the only evidence of a town at or near the present site of Atlasburg was a small group of houses, not over five or six in number, which were on this farm about where the Williams Garage is now located. These unpainted houses were the homes of families whose men were employed at the oil wells operated near here by the noted oil man, Mr. R. G. Gillespie. In

tribute to this man, this small hamlet was called "Gillespie City". Mr. Gillespie held leases on twenty or more farms comprising around three thousand acres of land centering at about this point. On these leases during the oil excitement of 1904-1906, he had drilled about 190 wells most of which were producing oil wells, from which also considerable quantities of natural gas flowed, most of this being used on the lease for the operation of gas engines or for heating the homes of his employees.

One of the well-known drilling contractors on these leases was Mr. Henry McKinney, for many years a familiar figure around Burgettstown. Most of the "rigs" or derricks used for drilling these wells were put up by the firm of Bailey and Trimmer. Among Mr. Gillespie's field superintendents in charge of his extensive operations were Messrs. Cline Woodling, William Bell, and Ralph Farley, all of whom also were well-known then in Burgettstown. Some of the families who resided at Gillespie City are remembered as Harper McCune and Frank Bonner. Mr. Charles W. Tope worked for a time as gauger in the oil field, was then manager of the Valvoline Pipe Lines Company at Burgettstown, and later entered the oil business for himself by investing in producing oil and gas wells.

In the year 1911, the Buchanan Farm and the adjoining Studa Farm then owned by Mr. J. B. Henderson, were purchased by the Brownsville Coal Company, and that firm immediately began preparations for sinking two shafts here and opening a coal mining plant. Although the Pittsburgh vain of coal at this point lay 225 feet below the surface, yet it was believed that these shafts could be sunk and coal could be mined economically despite this depth. By the end of January 1912, barracks had been constructed on the Studa Farm for housing the workmen at the shafts and some machinery had been started and on March 14th, it is recorded that one of the workmen was killed while working in one of the shafts.

As this summer wore on the shafts were sunk deeper and deeper, the difficulties of excavation ever increasing with the depth, since all excavated rock had to be raised from the shafts in huge buckets operated on the end of a cable. After about a year of difficult boring, the shafts were completed and the giant elevators to be used in each one were installed. Between the mouths of the two shafts the power house and mine shops were located in two brick buildings.

Since the Buchanan Farm was to be used for the town site for the new mine, Mr. Henderson discontinued his farm operations here. On August 6, 1912, he had a sale of his personal property and two weeks later he and his family moved to Hickory, where he continued, for a time, to care for his flocks of fine sheep. Later the Hendersons purchased the D. C. Miller Farm about three miles south of Atlasburg and there the son, Mr. J. Raymond Henderson continues the breeding of sheep as well as serving as an officer in the Continental Dorset Club, a nationwide organization of Dorset Horn sheep breeders.

By 1914, the coal company here, then known as the Atlas Coal Company, was ready for operations at their new mine. On the upper side of the valley road, opposite the mine, the company erected a large two-story brick building to be used for the company store and the mine offices. For the first several years of its operation, Mr. W. A. McBride of Houston was superintendent of this mine, and Mr. Samuel J. McCalmont of Burgettstown was for many years mine clerk here.

Houses for the miners who were to work here were being erected while the mine was being readied for operations and a large number of families soon appeared to occupy the houses and to furnish the man-power for the mine. The houses built here were single residences of various types of architecture and a fair sized "yard" was furnished for each house. Some time later, as more houses were required, the "new blocks" were built on the adjoining Russell Farm just south of the main town site.

With the mine in full operation, coal production was stepped up and during the years of World War I, large quantities of the "black diamonds" were produced here and shipped to market over the branch line of the Pennsylvania Railroad which had been constructed up the valley from Burgettstown when the mine was first opened.

The north shaft of the mine here had a slow elevator and the cage was used for transporting the miners into the pit and for lowering supplies. In the south shaft, used exclusively for hoisting coal to the surface, there were two platforms balanced on opposite ends of the huge cable, so that as one platform was raised with a full car of coal, the other was lowered with an empty car. These elevators were operated at a high speed, too fast for human riders, although once or twice one of the mine officials was known to have ridden one of these elevators. At first this hoist was operated by

steam and the whistling of the steam engines in operation was a very common sound around Atlasburg. At that time, the electric power used was produced in the local power house. When the commercial electric lines were built to this place, the hoisting was changed to this power and the whistling of the steam engines was no longer heard.

With the influx of the families here, many children, of course, appeared on the scene. For the school term 1913-14, these children attended the one-room Cooke School, a mile south along the valley road, and the teacher, Mr. John P. McNelly, told the writer that he had as many as ninety pupils during that term with room for only about one third that number. A few children also attended the "Yellow" School at Slovan, but it, too, was becoming over-crowded. In 1915, the brick school was built at Atlasburg. This was enlarged in 1957 and is now one of the six elementary buildings of the Burgettstown Area School System.

The Atlas mine was eventually purchased by the Carnegie Coal Company which operated it for a few years longer, but increased cost of mining coal here and other financial difficulties of this company compelled the closing of the mine and the sealing of the shafts. In recent years, the power house and other buildings here have been occupied by Alex E. Paris Contracting Company, the Atlasburg Machine Company, and the Atlas Alloys Company plant. More recently, other businesses locating on the properties of the former Coal Company include the Vibro-Flotation Co., the Z & L Lumber Co., the Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation yards, and the May Pipe and Supply Co.

Most of the houses at Atlasburg are now privately owned and they have been remodeled to make comfortable homes for the families of the men who must go elsewhere to find work. In addition to the Public School, the Atlasburg Church of the Nazarene continues here as one of the Community's fine institutions.

Cross Creek Village

It is well known, I believe, that this quiet little village set on a hill about five miles southwest of Burgettstown takes its name from the stream, the Creek which drains almost the entire area of the township of Cross Creek. For where this stream enters the Ohio

River in West Virginia just a few miles above Wellsburg, directly across from its mouth, on the Ohio side of the river, another Creek also enters the larger stream; thus, two creeks and the river here form a Cross, the river forming the "upright" and the two creeks the "arms" of the Cross. Hence both of these smaller streams are called "Cross Creek".

This village on the hill is nearly as old as the Presbyterian Church which was founded here in 1779, and as the old graveyard near the church which received its first interment in the same year. While religious services had been held in Vance's Fort and in homes of the community, possibly as early as 1774 and certainly by 1778, yet no formal organization for a church was effected until June 20, 1779. On that date, the Rev. Joseph Smith was called to be the first pastor of the congregations of Upper Buffalo and Cross Creek. The first church building was erected the same year and the church at Cross Creek Village has been an active organization since that time.

The town itself was plotted sometime during the life of Henry Graham who donated the land for the church, and from whose farm came the land on which many of the lots of the village were laid out. David Wilkin to whom Mr. Graham sold three acres of land is given credit for laying out the plot for the village and erecting the earliest houses there. Among the homes which he erected was the large brick house, built in the early 1800's and purchased for his home in 1829 by the Rev. John Stockton. This large house, still in an excellent state of repair, is at present the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Carroll and their family.

After becoming a sizable country town of homes (in 1870 it was said to have 58 dwelling houses) it became also a center for trade for a wide area of the surrounding country-side. In the middle years of the 19th century and for some years later Cross Creek had a post office, three stores, a harness-maker's shop, boot and shoe shops, two blacksmith shops, a wagon-maker's shop, a tailor shop, a cabinet maker and chair-manufacturer's shop, a physician and surgeon, a surveyor, a milliner, as well as a hotel as a place of entertainment for the traveling public.

In the educational field, the town soon became recognized for it had two public schools, and in 1828, under the direction of the Rev. John Stockton, Cross Creek Academy came into being. This latter school served as a preparatory school for a goodly

number of young people who were getting ready for college, or for the profession of teaching. More than fifty ministers of the gospel, as well as numerous doctors, lawyers, and teachers received their secondary training in this historic school.

The growth of other towns and the ease of traveling to other points for shopping have, over the years, contributed to the decline of the commercial importance of Cross Creek and many other country towns which are similarly located. But this "village on the hill" still stands, a "city which cannot be hid". Its commercial establishments have disappeared, but it still remains the home town of more than fifty families consisting of retired people, teachers, and artisans, the kind of people who are the "salt of the earth" and without whom America and its many small communities would be barren and useless.

Cedar Grove

Cedar Grove is another village in the local area which must now be classified as a former mining town. Located on the west branch of the North Fork of Cross Creek in Cross Creek Township, a town has been located here since the opening of the mine in 1906.

The mine and village were located on a part of the former Robert Perrine Farm. A fine picture of the old brick house, still standing, and of the barn on this farm can be seen on page 169 of Caldwell's 1876 Atlas of Washington County. This has always been one of the fine homes of the area. Now owned and occupied by Mr. Frank Marosi and family, at the turn of the century this farm was the home of Mr. John R. Studa who sold it in 1902 and moved to Burgettstown. His home here was the buff brick-veneer house which stands just a few doors south of the present Westminster (or old First) United Presbyterian Church in the "Old Town".

The Washington County Coal Company was organized in 1905 and opened the Cedar Grove mine the following year. Eighty-five acres of the old Perrine Farm, lying west of the public road was purchased by the company for their mine and camp. The remaining part of the farm of 58 acres was owned for many years by Mr. J. W. Gillespie, farmer and stock dealer and this is the property now owned by the Marosi family.

When the town was started following the opening of the mine, the post office was given the name, Studa, in honor of Mr. J. R. Studa. But the popular name of the town has always been Cedar Grove, so-called, no doubt, because of a few straggly evergreen trees, possibly cedars, which grow out of the steep banks of the creek in this locality. The writer has a personal recollection about these evergreens: This is my Christmas Story!

When I was teaching at the Slovan School during the term 1922-23, as Christmas time approached, we began thinking that we wanted a tree for the school-room. Commercial trees were not plentiful then, so most Yule-time trees were cut in the "wilds" if any could be found there. So I conceived the idea of sending a boy on the train from Slovan to Cedar Grove to get us a tree. So, one morning the boy was given a hatchet and one-way train fare to Cedar Grove. He was to get a tree (if he could), carry it to the end of the improved road at the foot of the hill west of Cross Creek Village where I was to meet him in my Model T car during the noon hour and bring him and the tree back to the school. When I arrived at the designated place, the boy had just arrived, dragging a good-sized tree. Where he had gotten the tree I will never know, but he told me that he found a nice tree and had started in to cut it down when a lady came out of her house and told him he couldn't cut a tree in her yard. The boy then moved on; but anyway he got the tree, we took it to the school, and I think we all had a Merry Christmas. The boy in this story was Mike Boller. I hope that he reads this story and recalls the incident!

The mine opened at Cedar Grove was a "drift" mine, sloping toward the west. Part of the coal owned by the company lay in Cross Creek Township but most of it was over the township line in Jefferson. In order to get the coal to market, a railroad line, financed largely by local capitalists and known as the Pittsburgh and Cross Creek Railroad, was built from Avella to the tipple at Cedar Grove. Since the valley is very narrow along much of this route, it was necessary to construct expensive bridges and cross the creek at several points. Also, the meandering of the stream whose course had to be followed resulted in a very crooked line of railroad. However this line was used until September 1912, when the very destructive flood over the Labor Day week-end swept the various valleys of Cross Creek and completely washed out this railroad line. It was never re-built. The steel beams on the railroad bridges on this line lay there until the time of World War I when they were removed and sold for scrap, but several of the old

concrete abutments can still be seen, mute reminders of this old railroad.

Following this disaster, which caused the Cedar Grove mine to suspend operations, the Pennsylvania Railroad was prevailed upon to extend its branch line from Langeloth to Cedar Grove and when this was completed, production of coal at the mine was resumed.

The first operating company here ran into financial embarrassment when the bank with which they did business closed about 1909. This resulted in this mine's being taken over by the Verner Coal Company which operated it until the organization of the Carnegie Coal Company by Mr. John A. Bell and this company then purchased the Cedar Grove mine and operated it until it was closed in the 1940's. The tipple burned on October 8, 1939.

Like most mining towns, upon the closing of the mine, local re-habilitation became necessary also at Cedar Grove. Some families left there without employment moved to other mining camps, but many of these people literally had "no place to go", so they bravely stayed on, many bought the former company houses and made them into comfortable homes, and then went out to seek work wherever they could find it.

The Cross Creek Township School District always maintained an elementary school at Cedar Grove until the formation of the jointure which resulted in the present Avella School District, whose schools the children of present-day Cedar Grove now attend. In its hey-day, the coal company established a fine community building at Cedar Grove, but since the company has been inoperative, the community center also has ceased to exist.

Avella

The evolution of the community where the town of Avella is now located has been from a "howling wilderness" to a frontier mill and trading post to a quiet farming community to the modern valley town of today, sitting astride the stream of Cross Creek with half of the town in Cross Creek Township and the other half in Independence Township.

It was to this howling wilderness that Alexander Wells came,

probably prior to the year 1772, and here he located a large area of land, situated within the boundaries of the present townships of Cross Creek, Independence and Jefferson. His total holdings of land are said to have been at least 2,000 acres, some of which he had patented in his own name and other tracts in the names of members of his family. On Cross Creek stream, at the lower end of the present town, Mr. Wells established a grist- and saw-mill; on the hill to the north he erected Wells Fort, and about halfway between he erected a massive stone house which stood on the spot until just a few years ago. On a knoll between the stone house and the Fort was the family graveyard, which, although presently in a sad condition of neglect, is the only remaining visible part of Alexander Wells "settlement."

The mill established here by Mr. Wells was used by him and his neighbors for miles around. Old news-clippings in the possession of the writer tell of boat-loads of flour, ground here, having been floated down Cross Creek on flat-boats to the Ohio River on which the cargoes were then transported probably as far away as to New Orleans. The mill here became an important store and trading post for the area. But a mill was also established a mile or so up the North Fork of Cross Creek in 1793 by Gen. Thomas Patterson, son of William Patterson, who had come to this area in 1778.

Alexander Wells, while an illiterate man, was shrewd in running the boundary lines of his property and so managed to pre-empt most of the favorable mill sites on the streams of the area. But the Pattersons could play the same game, so their mill was located at a favorable site where water from two streams could be impounded to run their mill. In time the Patterson Mill and the small village which grew up around it superseded the Wells Mill, and by the middle of the nineteenth century all that was left at Wells Mill was the saw-mill which continued to operate until near the close of the century.

By 1900 two farms belonging to Mr. S. S. Campbell and Mr. W. J. Brown covered the site of the present Avella. When the Wabash Railroad was built through here in 1902-1904, Mr. Campbell laid out most of his farm in lots which he quickly sold. Mr. Brown followed suit, laying out the section of the village which is known as Browntown, down by the site of the old Wells Mill. The first passenger train passed through Avella on July 2, 1904, and after that event, this town was definitely "on the map". The coming of the railroad provided an outlet for the coal from the vast shallow-lying coal fields in the area, and mines were quickly opened on all sides of the thriving town. That activity has now diminished until the only coal produced

is from one or two small mines and from a few so-called "strip" operations.

Avella's first school was the old Buckeye Valley one-roomed school situated at the point where the North Fork flows into the main stream of Cross Creek. Later, a two-room building was erected a short distance away. Pupils from both townships attended this school, those from Independence Township crossing the creek on a foot-log. Before traffic bridges were built here the roads forded the Creek. The town is now the center of the Avella School District, composed of Cross Creek, Independence and Hopewell Townships and West Middletown Borough. There are elementary buildings on Highland Avenue and Avella Heights, while the Junior-Senior High School is located on Route 50 two and one-half miles east of the village.

Being a former mining town, Avella has among its residents many retired miners living in and near the village. Those who are still actively employed find work in industry in the surrounding towns but continue to live in Avella.

Churches in the area include the Avella Presbyterian, St. Michael's Roman Catholic, St. John's Byzantine, Pentecost Lutheran and the Free Methodist.

With good roads radiating in all directions, Avella is a place of easy access so it is likely to retain its present importance as a good place to trade and a good place to live.

And finally, what of the name "Avella"? Its origin seems to be in doubt and the present writer does not know who gave the town its name. A post office by this name existed in Independence Township as early as 1892 which predates the origin of the present town. The name is Latin for "apple" and it seems to be derived from Abella, now Avella or Avellino in Campania a province in Italy. Can anyone tell us more?

Independence

On the writer's 1861 wall map of Washington County, which he finds a reliable source of information on local history, one finds two towns in Washington County bearing the name Independence. One Independence is located on the banks of the Monongahela River in

Allen Township, while the other is very near the West Virginia state line in Independence Township. With the passing of the years the former town has evolved into the Allenport of the present day, leaving the Independence Township town free to use the name upon which it really had a prior claim since a post office was established here in 1836.

The place where this village was laid out was formerly known as the "Forks", so called because of the junction here of the road coming in from Cross Creek with the Washington to Wellsburg Pike. Here, as in West Middletown, the "Pike" forms the main street of the village.

In 1798 William McCormick purchased three acres of land upon which by 1803 he had plotted the town which soon became known as Williamsburg from the first name of its founder. This name it bore until the establishment of the post office in 1836 as above noted. Although it would seem that the name "Independence" should have some connection with the Declaration of Independence, yet no such connotation appears to exist. The Township was set off from Hopewell Township in 1856, and of course, it received its name from the already established village.

As it grew into an important country town, Independence probably competed to a considerable extent with nearby West Middletown for trade from the traffic along the Pike. William Gilchrist opened the first store here and also kept a tavern for the entertainment of travelers. In addition there were the usual facilities for providing for the overnight pens needed for the droves of livestock driven over the Pike in great numbers for shipping down the Ohio River and into the mid-west.

The best local history of this town in recent times was compiled just a few years ago by the writer's first school teacher, Mr. William P. Wilson, a native of this town. Mr. Wilson's father, James Wilson, was the village harness-maker for many years and also served the community as postmaster for a long period of time. The Wilson home and shop, a well-built structure, still stands on the southside of the Pike near the previously mentioned "Forks". In his articles on the village, Mr. William P. Wilson calls attention to the fact that the shopping centers of the present day are really nothing new, since they had a prototype in an earlier day when people would come from over a wide area of the country-side to such a village as Independence to do all of their shopping. Here all their shopping needs could be

met, not in a compact group of buildings, it is true, but by going from shop to shop and from store to store, the country customer could buy all he needed. In addition, in such a situation he could meet all his neighbors, could glean all the news of the day, and could go home in the evening fully satisfied with his day's outing.

Mr. Wilson points out further that parking was seldom a problem in those early days since the shopper could tie Old Dobbin to a hitching post in front of one of the stores and could then go about his chores. Also, there was provided an "Upping Block" usually of stone for the convenience of the lady shoppers who might come to town on horse-back, riding on the old-side saddle with a carpet bag hung over the horn, or saddle-bags tied securely to the rear of the saddle.

At one time so thriving was Independence Town that it had three first class physicians, three or more general stores, three expert blacksmiths, four shoe-maker shops, two wagon makers, two harness makers, a tannery, a merchant tailor who could make you a suit of clothes to order, a millinery for ladies' hats and a hattery for men's headgear, a cooper's shop, and all the rest were to be found in this village where one-stop shopping could be indulged in six days a week.

A combined store and service station is all that is left of the commercial establishments once so numerous here. But although the importance as a place for trade has diminished with the passing of the years, Independence has held its own population-wise. The village has its share of retired people, but most of its inhabitants of the present day are active working people who find employment out of the immediate community: at Weirton, Follansbee and Wellsburg in West Virginia as well as in Little Washington in Pennsylvania. The Lower Buffalo Presbyterian Church and the Independence Methodist Church, old established institutions, serve the spiritual needs of the community and the Avella Area Schools serve the educational needs of the people here.

West Middletown

Within the area of Hopewell Township in Washington County lie the two historic towns of West Middletown and Buffalo, both being located on the Washington-Wellsburg Pike. In the days when overland traffic was heavy between the banks of the Ohio River and the county

seat of Washington County, and when large droves of cattle, sheep and hogs were driven over this highway, West Middletown provided the services required by this sort of traffic. Until recent times West Middletown always had a hotel and along with this, the stables and animal pens necessary for overnight stopping.

The earliest settler of old "Middletown" is said to have been Galbraith Stewart who built a house and opened a blacksmith shop. Next came David Craig who built a house and opened a store. And then the flood of settlers with the usual assortment of trades came in and the town became a thriving settlement. A post office was opened here as early as 1805. Although "in" Hopewell Township, yet West Middletown, strictly speaking, is not "of" the township, for in 1823 the place received a charter as a borough and it has so remained to the present day. Although it has sometimes been difficult to find persons to fill all the necessary offices of the municipality, yet the citizens try and they always come up with a mayor, a high constable and all the others which are required.

Always noted for having a goodly number of people who took the right side on important issues, this community early became known for its involvement in the Abolition movement in the years preceding the Civil War. West Middletown was one of the most important stations on the Underground Railroad and many a fugitive slave was shielded from the fury of the bloodhound and of an irate master by being received into the secret cell in the basement of the old McKeever House in the village.

When the Civil War came on, the loyalty of the citizenry of West Middletown and of Hopewell Township was perhaps unmatched in any community over a wide area. Many young men answered the call to the colors and did their share in quelling the Rebellion. To commemorate the deeds of the valiant men of all wars of our Nation, a fine granite monument has been erected in a small Memorial Park in the borough. On this marker are engraved the names of all men of the community who answered the call of their country. And West Middletown always celebrates Memorial Day in an appropriate manner, with decoration of soldiers' graves, and a suitable patriotic program.

West Middletown's most ambitious and historic venture in the educational field was the establishment in the 1840's of Pleasant Hill Seminary, founded as a school for girls by Jane Campbell McKeever and later conducted by her son, Campbell McKeever until his death.

It was located outside of the village a mile or two to the northwest, where one of the original buildings of the school is still standing, now converted into a private home.

Industrially, West Middletown is best known for the manufacture of the horse-powered threshing machines patented in 1842 by Andrew Ralston and produced in a factory built in this town by Robert McClure in 1853. This machine was used during the mid 1800's over a wide area including the huge grain belts of the mid-West. Perhaps the only one complete machine of this type yet remaining is that in the Henry Ford Museum at Dearborn, Michigan. Mr. Ford personally came to Washington County many years ago and purchased this piece for his museum.

West Middletown is important in the field of religion with its three churches of the United Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ and A.M.E. denominations ministering to the spiritual needs of the people of this town and the neighboring areas. The first church of the Disciples, or Christian Church, was located near Brush Run in southern Hopewell Township just a few miles from West Middletown.

The fine old homes, many of brick construction and set right out on the sidewalks in most cases make West Middletown a picturesque town, a fit subject for the roving artist and shutter-bug, and, in the opinion of some, a candidate for the title "Williamsburg of the North". It always pays one handsomely to drive leisurely through this historic town and drink in some of its beauty and try to absorb some of the lore for which the town and community are famous.

Buffalo Village

"O give me a home
Where the buffalo roam----"

No more does the buffalo roam in Washington County, but in the "Buffalo Country" some ten miles northwest of the County Seat, there is abundant evidence of the roamings of the buffalo, or bison, in earlier times. For there is a Buffalo Creek, Buffalo Township and Buffalo Village as well as four churches in the area which bear the Buffalo name. But Buffalo Village is located in Hopewell Township, not Buffalo, which makes it a bit confusing when one tries to locate this hamlet on a map.

Always a small country village composed largely of families who located here to be "near to church", Buffalo was established soon after the Upper Buffalo Presbyterian Church was located here in 1779. The first road into the community was cut from Washington to the village by ax-men when the Rev. Joseph Smith, first pastor, was moved here from York County late in 1780. The first church, the usual rough log structure, was built in the corner of the old graveyard, and it was replaced by a more commodious hewed log building in 1797. The present large brick church was built here in the early 1870's.

Following the Rev. Joseph Smith, known to the irreverent as "Hellfire" Smith on account of his fiery sermons and his lurid descriptions of the lower regions, the Upper Buffalo Church was served in order by the Rev. Thomas Marquis, known as "Silver-tongued" because of his musical voice; next was the Rev. John Anderson, called "Old Screw-auger" because of his soul-penetrating sermons; then the Rev. John Eagleson, who didn't think that his people needed a new church building in the 1870's but when it was nearly completed, the first service held in it was Mr. Eagleson's own funeral; and in 1874 came the Rev. James D. Walkinshaw who served until 1892. It is a remarkable fact that all of these old ministers with the exception of Mr. Marquis are buried in the old graveyard near the church which they all served as pastor. At the Upper Buffalo Church in November 1802 was held perhaps the greatest Campmeeting of all time, when 10,000 people gathered on the church grounds to take part in this great religious gathering. It was here that the Rev. Elisha McCurdy of the Cross Roads Church of Florence preached his great War Sermon.

In the old graveyard here reposes the dust of pioneers: the Smileys, Hamiltons, Taggarts, Dinsmores, Cooks, Studas, McGugins, Andersons, Caldwells, Maxwells, and many others. Perhaps the most historic grave is that of William Smiley, the old elder, who was in charge of the boat-load of flour which was floated down the Ohio River to New Orleans, where it was sold to secure money to pay the salary of the Rev. Joseph Smith, then two years in arrears.

Since Upper Buffalo's early ministers were educated men, they were concerned for the education of the young men in their congregation. Joseph Smith took over his wife's new log kitchen to use as the "kitchen academy" for training young ministers, and this school is considered to have been one of the fore-runners of

Washington and Jefferson College. Later schools at the village were old Union Grove Academy, established in 1828; Franklin High School, better known as the "Horse-mill Academy" on account of its location; the Upper Buffalo Academy which had an erratic existence from 1853 into the 1890's. These privately conducted schools were succeeded by the Hopewell Township High School which continued until 1927. The commodious brick building erected at the northern edge of the village for the high school until recently housed the Buffalo Elementary School of the Avella School District.

A farm near the village, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Leroy Taggart once belonged to Robert Fulton, inventor of the steam-boat and a nephew of the Rev. Joseph Smith. Here lived for a time Fulton's mother and sisters who had moved here from Lancaster County.

Loyalty to the Union marked the attitude of most of Hopewell Township's citizens during the Civil War. Company C of the famed Ringgold Battalion recruited here by Major George T. Work, a local resident, had on its roster a number of Hopewell boys. Before leaving for the front, their beloved pastor, the Rev. John Eagleson, preached them a farewell sermon. These were his "boys". He had baptized most of them in childhood; he had instructed them in things of the faith, and for some he had performed their marriage ceremony, and on this historic occasion he sent them forth to battle with his blessing.

Buffalo Village's most venerable citizen was Mr. August Wienecke, who was born in Heisenbeck, Germany, on October 24, 1863. He lived to the age of 105 years and died on January 31, 1968. He led an active life and was to be found daily in his garden until the last few years of his life. He had been a member of Upper Buffalo Church for 69 years.

Noted for its quiet surroundings and its healthful atmosphere, this small village is growing slowly as new families move into the community and establish homes here.

Eldersville

Until 1853, Eldersville vied with its neighbor, Cross Creek Village, for the honor of being the chief town in Cross Creek

Township. But when the Township of Jefferson was set up in that year, Eldersville came into its own as the "capital" of the new township. It is perhaps more than a co-incidence that this township was named for the great founder of the Democratic Party for its political complexion has been of that cast ever since its founding and so remains today. It is the studied opinion of the writer that political differences probably were the cause of the division of Jefferson from the parent township, in those days before the Civil War, when these differences were sharply defined and when those who held definite opinions demanded some sort of action.

Eldersville was originally known as Wardsville, having received that name from Thomas Ward an early settler whose land patent for 400 acres was known as Ward's Ward. He plotted the village in 1814 when fifty-three lots were laid out. Soon a store was opened with John Miller as the proprietor. Next, a tavern was opened by Thomas Elder who purchased two acres of land and whose tavern license extended from 1809 until 1818. The importance of his place of business apparently overshadowed that of Mr. Ward and by 1815 people were calling the place Eldersville, a name which has endured until the present day.

It was during the administration of another great Democratic President, Andrew Jackson, that the first post office was established here and that office still continues with Andy Shepler as the present postmaster. At one time, three stores were kept here, a hotel was open for entertainment of travelers, two blacksmith shops were in operation, and the usual run of small businesses flourished. Today, one store, one service station and one garage cater to the commercial needs of the residents of the town. During World War I, Eldersville assumed importance as a mining town when the Superior Mining Company opened a mine at the northern edge of the town and established a mining camp for its employees at Shinntown near the mine, and with a number of its houses also erected within the village of Eldersville itself. This led to an increase of at least 50% in the population of this country village, and for a few years the staid old town of Eldersville experienced a real industrial boom. The coal mined here was loaded at a tipple near the mine and was shipped to market over the main line of the so-called "Panhandle" Railroad, the spur entering the main line at a point just a short distance west of Hanlin Station.

In the fall of 1929, the tipple at this mine burned down. That event, coupled with the general financial situation in the country

at that time, made it impossible for this company to continue operating the mine at Eldersville and it was never reopened. From that time to the present, the Eldersville community has quietly receded into the easier way of life of a typical country town, although now several "strip" mines are operated nearby.

As the Jefferson Township residents differed politically with many of their former neighbors in the Cross Creek Township area, so their religious convictions were also somewhat different: Cross Creek Township in the early days was predominantly Presbyterian, while many of the early settlers of present Jefferson Township were adherents of the Methodist Church. This led, about 1829, to the founding of two Methodist Churches in Jefferson Township, and these two, at Bethel and Eldersville, have endured and flourished to the present day. An attempt was made, about 1849, to establish a Presbyterian Church in this area and for a number of years services were held at Pine Grove near Kidd's Mill in the Scott's Run Valley, but the congregation there formed was never strong and by the late 1880's it had ceased to exist.

Eldersville has ever been important as a center of education for this area. Since early days, an elementary school has been maintained here, and upon consolidation of the township's schools, a central graded school came into existence at Eldersville, and now it is a fully graded school of the Burgettstown School District. Around the turn of the century and for a number of years thereafter, a noted Summer Normal School for Teachers was taught each year in the public school building at Eldersville. This school was instrumental in the preparation of many teachers for service in the public schools of northwestern Washington County.

Since 1872, Cynosure Lodge of the I O O F Order has met in the Centennial Hall here, and in 1874, Jefferson Grange, one of the oldest chapters of the Patrons of Husbandry in the county, began meeting in the same hall. Both these organizations still are in an active existence and command the attention and interest of many of the people of Eldersville and the surrounding country-side.

Florence

Seldom does one rural township have within its borders two towns with such high-sounding names as does Hanover Township with

its Florence and Paris. But this Florence is in no sense of the word a great art center, nor is Paris a fashion center as is its great namesake, the capital of France. But these two towns are "old" as smaller towns of the Burgettstown area go, so they will be considered next and in order in this series.

Florence was first known as Mount Bethel when a small village of that name was plotted in 1814 by James Proudfoot (Proudfit) on his tract of land, a part of the patent known as "Guadeloupe". This tract was taken up by Samuel Johnston, probably the earliest landholder in this immediate neighborhood. On a very near adjoining tract James Briceland, in 1813, had opened a tavern at the "Cross Roads" at the intersection of the Pittsburgh-Steubenville Pike with the Washington-Georgetown Road, at the location which is the present intersection of Routes 18 and 22. Mr. Briceland, too, plotted a "town" and the two villages, Mt. Bethel and Briceland's Cross Roads, gradually merged to become known by late 1823 as the village of Florence.

Because of its location at this busy intersection, the town grew and prospered, and like most country towns of that day, Florence assumed considerable commercial importance. The first store was opened by a Mr. Anderson, a tannery was operated by James Allison; Benjamin McKindrich had, of all things, a silver-plating establishment, and several physicians were, in turn, located here ministering to the health needs of a considerable territory.

The first post office at the "Cross Roads" was a box nailed to a white oak tree where mail carriers on the two traffic routes through the town could leave mail for exchange, and where the residents could leave and pick up such mail as came into the early community. But by 1818 a regular post office was established and Moses Bradford was the first postmaster. This office was continued until very recent years when the town became a part of one of the rural routes out of the Burgettstown Post Office. The residence and tavern-stand of James Briceland was still standing until recent years, having been used for a long time as a store building, but it has now been torn down.

Florence had a newspaper, the Enterprise, for a few years beginning in 1845, but this publication lasted but a short time. Beginning in 1858, a fair was held for a number of years on a fair ground, shown on an 1861 map just a little southeast of the village. This appears to have been started as a competitor of the Burgetts-

town fair which began holding exhibitions in 1856, but after holding only a few sessions, the Florence Fair began to languish and soon was discontinued.

The first Presbyterian Church in this area was located at "King's Creek" about four miles northwest of Florence, but in 1798 it was moved to the cross roads and was known for many years as the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, until assuming the name Florence in recent years. The first building of the congregation at this point was of logs, but three later buildings, of brick, have been erected here. The first of these was destroyed by fire in 1845 and was rebuilt the same year; the second also destroyed by fire, in 1963, was replaced in 1965 by the present ornate and modernistic building which was dedicated on June 27, 1965. A Methodist Episcopal Church was located here for many years, but this congregation merged long ago with the Tucker's M. E. congregation located west of the village.

Adjoining the old grounds of the Presbyterian Church here is the historic Florence graveyard, where many of the "rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep" including the early preacher, the Rev. Elisha McCurdy and his wife, his "praying elder" Philip Jackson and members of many of the pioneer families of this section of country.

Florence has always had one of the public school buildings of Hanover Township until the consolidation of the township's schools and the erection of the new Hanover Township School building halfway between Florence and Paris. At one time the Florence Academy and a rural female seminary ministered to the higher educational needs of this area.

The commercial importance of Florence was maintained at a high level until the building of the Panhandle Railroad between Pittsburgh and Steubenville in the 1860's diverted most of the traffic from the "Pike" to the steel rails. With this development, the town of Florence receded to the status of a small, quiet country village. But it was due to come back as a place of importance with the building of modern roads, and today the cross roads at Florence sees more traffic in one hour than it once saw in several days, as busy Routes 18 and 22 carry an increasing number of cars, buses, and trucks through the once quiet town.

The development of the coal resources of Hanover Township by the process of so-called strip mining has made this town and the surrounding area a busy place in recent years. But the coal industry also has begun to recede somewhat and when the coal has all been mined out, other industries will have to be sought to maintain the importance of the place.

Paris

High on the ridge between the deep valleys of Harmon Creek on the south and King's Creek on the north, and almost on the Pennsylvania-West Virginia state line sits the town of Paris, Pennsylvania. Like its sister town of Florence, this town's early importance depended upon its location on the Pittsburgh-Steubenville Pike. The first house erected here was one built by Richard Ward in which he kept a tavern to accommodate travelers on the "Pike".

The town of earlier days was never large and by the 1880's was said to contain only twenty-six dwellings among which were several brick houses of considerable size. But its three stores to serve the surrounding area as well as the usual shops of the artisans of the day made it a neat little country town. When the Panhandle Railroad was built in the 1860's, a station on that road was named Paris Crossing and this served the parent town as a shipping point. But this station was closed after a few years and the stations at Hanlin and Colliers, W. Va. took its place.

At Paris was located one of Hanover Township's rural schools, originally of one room, but in later years because of increased population, it became a two-room graded school and when it was closed in 1952 upon the consolidation of the township schools, it was a four-room organization. In the days when the Academy was the fore-runner of the modern high school, Paris had its Collegiate Institute which flourished best perhaps during the years 1879-1887 when it was under the direction of its founder, Prof. William I. Brugh, D.D. who then served as pastor of the Three Springs Presbyterian Church, also located in the village. In recent years, elementary pupils from this area attend the Hanover Township consolidated school located between Paris and Florence, just off Route 22. High School students in recent years attended Weirton, W. Va. High School, but Hanover Township now being in the Burgettstown Area School District, its students now go to Burgettstown High School.

In addition to the Three Springs Church mentioned above, which had its origins across the line in Hancock County, W. Va., Paris had both a Seceder and an Associate Reformed Church. These two joined in 1858 to become the Paris United Presbyterian Church. Both congregations had log churches for their first buildings, that of the Associate Reformed congregation being so located on the state line that the preacher stood in one state while his congregation was mostly seated in the other. The united congregation erected the brick building standing on the south side of Main Street which is now used as a store building. The congregation dwindled in numbers and is now extinct. The Three Springs Church, now known as Paris United Presbyterian Church, has renovated and enlarged its old building, erected in 1857, until it is now a modern church plant, serving a sizable congregation.

People of the Methodist persuasion in this area for many years have attended the historic Tucker's Stone Church located along Route 22 east of Paris. This old building, built in 1824, has also been remodeled in recent years and presents a sturdy and pleasing appearance. An ancient graveyard adjoins the Tucker Church, and the modern Chestnut Ridge Cemetery is on the opposite side of Route 22 at this point.

With the development of the steel industry at Holliday's Cove and Weirton the demand for housing for its workers has spread on to Weirton Heights in West Virginia, and, to the benefit of the Paris community, this demand has overflowed across the state line. So the small town of Paris of only twenty-six dwellings of the 1880's, stretched along both sides of the "Pike", has become the thriving residence community of the 1970's, with streets reaching out on both sides of the old "main drag". On these streets are found the modern fine homes of the steel workers of Weirton as well as of the myriads of other people who find employment in the booming Ohio Valley. To facilitate transportation to their work, frequent bus schedules are run into the Paris community from the Valley. So, although life in Paris of the early days was perhaps somewhat of a struggle, the town has come of age and bids fair to being of great importance in the years ahead.

Hickory

Hickory, the writer's home town, is one of the older towns of the area, having been established in the early years of the nineteenth

century. James Ross, the first settler here, died before title was completed to the land on which he had located, so it was patented to his executors, John Ross and John Shannon, and the tract was therefore called "Executorship" and it contained 302 acres. Andrew McCown purchased 100 acres of this land and opened a tavern, and, in 1797, offered lots for sale. There is no record of any sales until February 8, 1803, when William Hammond and Richard Donaldson each bought lots and other sales soon followed.

The earliest name of this town was Hickory Tavern, and to this name there is a story: A company of axe-men, cutting a road from Well's Mill on Cross Creek (at present Avella) to Canon's Mill on Chartiers Creek (at Canonsburg), reached the highest point in this area at noon on a certain day. They paused to eat their lunches here and an abandoned sled was used as a table. The meal being finished, one of the workmen pulled down a branch from a nearby hickory tree, attached the sled to it and then allowed it to return to its original position. Here the sled hung for several years. From this incident the place was called "Hickory Tavern", and when a tavern was located here a bit later, it took this name, which also became the name of the hamlet when a store, blacksmith shop and a few houses were added. However in some old records and on older maps the name "Mt. Pleasant" also appears, and this name was given to the township when it was erected in 1806.

An Associate Presbyterian (Seceder) Church was established here as early as 1795, and it became the Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church in 1858. The Mt. Prospect Presbyterian Church, founded in 1825, was located a mile and one-half west of the village. These two churches merged in 1968 and formed the Hickory United Presbyterian Church. An Evangelical Lutheran Church for German families in the area was founded in the late years of the nineteenth century, but the congregation has been discontinued and the building erected has been torn down.

Hickory's post office, carrying the present name, has been located here since about 1830.

Hickory is an unincorporated town of about 250 families, and is a fine residential village which is spreading slowly on all sides into the surrounding countryside. Its residents, consisting of many professional people and skilled artisans, as well as retired people, find employment in Washington, Canonsburg, Bridgeville, and Langeloth, as well as in Pittsburgh and its many suburbs. The town

is surrounded by fine farming land on which the industries of dairying and beef cattle husbandry are predominant. Some sheep are still kept on the hills of Mt. Pleasant Township.

Since the coal veins here are far below the surface, mining in the township has been confined to the lower parts of the township, with mining towns being located at Westland and Southview.

Early settlers in the area, in addition to James Ross, were the McGugins, Rankins, Campbells, Lyles, McCalmonts, McCarrells, Achesons, Hughes, Simpsons and many other families. Descendants of most of these pioneer families still live in the township.

Another early land-holder in this township was General George Washington who held title to 2,813 acres in the eastern part of the township. This was patented to him by the Colony of Virginia on July 5, 1774. Following the close of the Revolutionary War, General Washington visited this land on September 20, 1784. In his journal for that date he names the settlers who had "squatted" on his land and he describes the improvements which they had made. He dined at the David Reed home and then, in a meeting with the settlers, offered to sell the land to them, but at rates which they considered exorbitant. Having thus failed to deal with them, most of the settlers were evicted and the land was sold to others. At the present time, this "Washington Land" is divided into about fifteen fine farms, one of which is the former McBride farm, later the Peter Pan Horse Farm, near the Fort Cherry High School building.

Outlying schools in the rural areas and at the mining towns in the township have been closed and the former Mt. Pleasant Township High School building at Hickory is now an elementary school in the Fort Cherry School System to which Mt. Pleasant Township now belongs.

Frankfort

Although we go slightly outside of Washington County for our final article on NEIGHBORING TOWNS, we do so believing that Frankfort belongs in this category and hence justifies a "write-up" in this series. Located just over the county line in Hanover Township, Beaver County, Frankfort, in a sense, belongs to both Hanover Townships being in almost the geographical center of these two

adjoining municipalities. The town became important in early times from its being on the north-south road from Georgetown to Washington.

Incorporated on March 19, 1844, as Frankfort Springs, the post office later established here always bore the one name, Frankfort. This office, like many others in small country villages, was discontinued on Nov. 21, 1900, when the rural routes began delivering mail in the area.

As one drives through the village today on Route 18, many evidences of its earlier existence as a small country town can still be seen. A few new houses have been built but the town is not much larger than it has been for many years. Two or three service stations can be seen, but Frankfort also has its village store. Almost in the center of the town may be seen a marble memorial to the soldiers who have served in our Nation's wars. Just at the county line at the southern edge of town are the ruins of the Frankfort Springs Hotel, a three-story building of frame and brick construction.

The real Frankfort Springs are located a mile or so northeast of the village. The waters gushing forth from the rocks at this point were known far and wide for their recuperative and medicinal qualities. To accommodate those coming here for their annual "bracers" a hotel also was built at the Springs and during the height of the summer season in former times, it was always well-filled with guests. So, during this part of the year, at least, the village and the Springs had exciting, and no doubt also, prosperous times. Forty years or more ago a bad fall of rock ruined the Springs and about the same time the hotel there was destroyed by fire. This situation, together with the development of more pretentious places for vacation use elsewhere spelled the doom of Frankfort Springs as a summer resort. The Springs area is now a part of the Raccoon State Park.

Returning to the village, two substantial church buildings can be seen. The United Presbyterian Church which has a brick house of worship is located at the northern edge of the small town. With the Rev. John Anderson D.D. as the first pastor, this church began its existence as early as 1790 in a log building located two miles north of town, where it was known as the Kings Creek Associate Church. When the congregation was divided, one branch moved into Frankfort and erected a brick building, which was destroyed by fire in 1876. The present building was then erected. The other branch

of this congregation, still called Kings Creek, continued until 1940 when it was dissolved by Presbytery and its property located near the former Commettsburg Post Office was sold.

The Frankfort Presbyterian Church was established in 1830 under the direction of neighboring ministers, Drs. Stockton, McCurdy and Scott. It also erected a brick building on its property on the main street of the village in 1836. This building was used until 1871 when the present frame building was built. These two congregations are presently very small in numbers and it is hoped that a merger of the two can be arranged. There is a small cemetery located on the grounds adjacent to each of these two churches. In the cemetery to the rear of the Presbyterian Church can be seen the grave of Captain Samuel Campbell, the gallant commander of Company H of the 140th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers during the Civil War.

A noted institution of learning, the Frankfort Academy, was located here. It was established by the Rev. James Sloan, pastor of the Presbyterian Church from 1841-1848. At the conclusion of Mr. Sloan's pastorate, the school was closed and remained inactive until 1871 when a two-story building was erected for its use and the school's existence was resumed. As was true of many other private institutions of this type so Frankfort Academy had an erratic existence. Financial difficulties caused the building to be sold at sheriff's sale in 1855. But while the Academy was "down" for a while it was not "out" and through the efforts of liberally-minded people of the community its existence was resumed and continued well into the present century.

On June 14, 1910, a reunion of alumni and former teachers of this school was held at Frankfort. At that time a History of the School was prepared and read by Miss Anna M. Crouse, then a teacher in the school. This history was published in the Burgettstown Herald on June 22, 1910. Miss Crouse, a native of Hanover Township, Washington County, is now living in retirement after a successful career as a teacher in several schools of Washington and Beaver counties.

During the ministry of the Rev. E. W. Welch at the Frankfort U. P. Church, about 1920, and through his efforts and with the help of a number of interested parties, a public community high school was organized at Frankfort to replace the older Academy. This school continued until improved roads made attendance possible at other established high schools. The alumni of this school, a sizable

group, hold periodic reunions. Another community institution here is the Frankfort Springs Grange which meets in its own hall just over the county line in Hanover Township, Washington County.

SOCIAL LIFE IN BURGETTSTOWN IN AN EARLIER DAY

The Burgettstown Fair

The social institution which, in the opinion of this writer, has contributed most to Burgettstown and the surrounding community has been the Burgettstown Fair. Although no fair has been held now for nearly forty years, yet the old-timers of this whole area fondly recall the years when it was in full operation. Much has been written, of course, about the Fair, but this information has not been available generally to the present generation of readers.

The countryside around Burgettstown, in years gone by at least, was always noted for its abundance of high quality farm products and for the excellent livestock of all kinds which was bred on the farms and sold over a wide area in this growing nation. The soil here was exceedingly fertile and the farmers were among the best in their ability to get good crops from this soil. The high quality of their farm products and livestock was no doubt one of the reasons why the Burgettstown Fair was established so that these farmers might exhibit their products and let those who came to the Fair know how excellent they were.

The first Fair was a two-day meet held on October 8th and 9th of 1856. It continued to be held for two days each fall, usually in early October until 1871 when it was decided to expand it to a three-day affair. This was the pattern for most of its remaining years, although a four-day Fair was held for a few years, and on a few occasions, it was carried over to the fourth day on account of wet weather. The first four Fairs, those of 1856, -57, -58 and -59, were held on the Bell property, then owned by Mrs. Sarah Crawford, which was the area through which Shady Avenue now runs. For the Fair of 1860 and all following years, the Fairs were held on the same familiar grounds on a tract lying just off the borough line to the southwest, this land having been owned by the Burgetts, but it was leased during most of the history of the Fair from the Morgan Family. Since the Fair has been discontinued, the buildings on these grounds have been taken down and the Sutherland Lumber Company now has

its sawmill and storage yards on the same property.

The officers of the first Fair were Joseph Vance of Smith Township who served as President and Samuel G. Scott, also of Smith Township, who was Secretary. Others associated with these men were prominent farmers from over a wide area together with always a liberal number of local businessmen. And this was ever true of the organization throughout its existence. The group which conducted the Fair was known as the Union Agricultural Association and its officers and directors were always outstanding men. The roster of directors was made up about as follows: The membership of the Board for 1914, for the 59th Annual Fair, consisted of 2 men from Burgettstown, 3 each from Smith and Jefferson Townships, 2 each from Cross Creek, Mt. Pleasant, Hanover and Robinson Townships, 1 each from Independence, Hopewell, Chartiers, North Strabane, Cecil and Canton Townships and from Midway and McDonald--all in Washington County--then 1 man from Allegheny County, 1 from Beaver County, and 1 each from Brooke and Hancock Counties in West Virginia. Thus the entire area served by the exhibition was represented in a systematic way, and again I say, those who served on the Fair Board were always men of outstanding value and importance in their home communities. Thus, the Burgettstown Fair Board was a real "grass roots" organization.

With this excellent leadership the exhibition held was bound to be good, and from its beginnings the Fair drew great interest and was always largely attended. On the opening day, Tuesday of Fair Week, the directors who served also as superintendents of departments would be on hand to receive and place exhibits. On this day attendance would be confined mostly to those bringing exhibits for display. On the second day, Wednesday, the forenoon would be devoted largely to judging the exhibits, but by noon everything would be open for public viewing and then the crowds would start rolling in. Five thousand people would often be on hand on Wednesday afternoon. Then came the Big Day, Thursday, with good weather (and usually it was good with some of"October's Bright Blue Weather"). Then the crowds really came to the Fair!

There were three gates to admit fair visitors: the lower gate at the present entrance to the Sutherland Lumber Yard, the upper gate which was about 300 yards up the road toward present Langeloth, and the south gate on present Route 18 near Fairview Cemetery. On the Big Day, these gates were open early, by 6 A. M., I suppose, and from early morning until midafternoon at

least, a continual stream of well-loaded carriages, springwagons, buggies, buckboards and carts--anything with wheels, in fact--and even people on horseback and on foot would come in through the gates. Admission fees were scaled according to the size of the group coming in, but many were admitted on a family ticket costing $1.00 and good for all three days of the Fair. This ticket would admit the holder, usually the head of the family, together with all females regardless of age and all male members of the family under 12 years of age. While this rate was in effect, many heads of families would be encumbered with a multiplicity of females at Fair time. Later this rule was tightened so that only one adult female was admitted on the family ticket. In addition to admission to the Fair, this ticket also admitted the holder to an annual membership in the Association.

In addition to the many excellent exhibits on display at the Fair--and these ranged all the way from fine angel food cakes in the Exhibition Hall to the best sheep and cattle and hogs and horses, livestock of all kinds from the farms of Washington County and adjoining areas--there was always the Midway. This was a collection of fakirs and sideshows of all kinds who brought their games and gadgets to the Fair where they were usually well patronized by the young swains from the surrounding villages and farms, who had come to the Fair for what was really their annual "fling". For the youngsters there were always the Merry-Go-Round, sometimes a Ferris Wheel and other rides as well as good supplies of popcorn, candy, ice-cream cones and other confections.

In the horse department, classes were available for nearly all types of animals. For judging, these classes were brought into the inside of the ring of the racing track during the forenoons of the second and third days of the Fair. Then, in the afternoon came the racing programs. Racing at the Fair had been a feature since the first Fair of 1856 when a horse known as Cottrell owned by S. B. Hayes of Washington took the honors on a quarter mile track on which this horse did the mile in four minutes flat. From that primitive beginning racing at the Fair developed to a respectable standing in later years of the exhibition. When the Fair was located permanently in 1871, a one-third mile track was graded, and it was used throughout the history of the Fair.

In later years of racing here, the Grand Old Man of the Sport of Kings was Samuel D. Moore, a native of Burgettstown and one of the leading horsemen of the local area. Sam, as he was

familiarly known to thousands of people, participated in races here for many years, breeding, raising and driving his own horses. In the racing program for 1908, Sam had entered in the 2:23 pace on Wednesday afternoon, his gray mare, Fannie Osborne, and the same mare was in the Free-for-All Pace on the following day. Mr. Moore's bay stallion, Dr. Moore, was also entered in this year's racing program. Sam didn't win too many races, but he was always in there trying, and he did much to promote and encourage racing on this local track.

Another consistent entrant in the racing here were the Millers of the Bancroft Farm in Jefferson Township. The proprietor, T. Albert Miller, bred, raised and trained racing horses on Bancroft Farm for many years where he had a training track graded on the farm. In driving an entry from this farm at the 1936 Fair, Alden Miller, who had succeeded his father as proprietor of the farm, was fatally injured in an accident on the race track. By this time Delvin Miller, nephew of Alden and grandson of T. Albert Miller, was driving in races at this Fair. From that beginning at the Burgettstown Fair Del Miller has gone on to become one of the leading race drivers of the nation.

Other Social Institutions

Another institution, which during the few years of its existence closely rivaled the Burgettstown Fair in popularity, was the Annual Businessmen's Picnic and Outing held at Rock Springs Park at Chester, W. Va. Begun as a public service by businessmen in the towns along the "Panhandle Railroad" from McDonald to Colliers, W. Va., this annual affair was very popular during the years from about 1906 to 1912, and it was looked forward to and was well patronized by people from over a wide area.

In order to reach the Park in those times, excursion trains were run over the "Panhandle" with stops being made at McDonald, Midway, Burgettstown and most of the stations in between. Leaving these stations at an early hour, 7:00 A. M. in the 1908 excursion, the trains were run on the main line as far as New Cumberland Junction, near present Weirton, and here they were switched to the branch line running up the river through New Cumberland and to Chester which was the end of the line. Here the excursionists would detrain with their families and

friends and well-filled baskets and would walk the short distance to the Park entrance.

While it cost nothing to get into the Park, since no admission fee was charged, the family man usually found that it cost him plenty before he got out in the evening, for the small fry in the party had to be provided with the necessary funds so that all the rides in the Park and all the other attractions could be patronized.

Rock Springs Park of that day could probably be well described as a sort of glorified country fair grounds. Its attractions differed from those found at the Burgettstown Fair in that they were permanently installed and hence larger and more elaborate. Among the thrilling rides best remembered at the Park were: the Roller Coaster on which daredevils of all ages could find the excitement of a lifetime as the cars were loaded with passengers and pulled up the long inclines and then allowed to dash down terrifying slopes and around crazy curves until one really didn't know whether he was going or coming; the Shoot the Chute which was also a ride of thrills but all down hill on a greased track and terminating with a great splash in an immense tank at the bottom; and then, not to be forgotten, was the "Old Mill", a "tunnel of love" arrangement where the loaded boats were propelled through darkened channels along which an occasional lighted diorama appeared to break the monotony of the trip. But the diorama was nothing at all compared to the sly "smooch" stolen from his best girl by the country swain as the boat lingered in the darker parts of the ride. To those young folks the ride in the Old Mill was without doubt the high point in the whole day's outing. Swimming and boating were also provided in the Park and after a full round of all the main attractions during the forenoon, picnic time came around very quickly, and then in the pavilions or on a clean grassy spot, the table cloth would be spread, and the family and friends would do full justice to this part of the day's excitement. Friends and relatives from nearby sections of Ohio and West Virginia, knowing that this was the Panhandle Businessmen's Day at the Park, would join in the day's activities and would often be guests at the noon picnic.

Since East Liverpool, Ohio, lay just across the river from the Park, some adults and sometimes the young folks, too, would use a part of the afternoon for an annual visit to what was then known as the "Pottery City". In addition to visiting and shopping there, tours of the potteries were available and many of the

excursionists would take advantage of the opportunity to visit one of these big plants. I recall a visit to one of the best known which was then operated as the firm of Knowles, Taylor and Knowles, this being probably my first tour of a major manufacturing plant.

All too soon departure time approached and then vigilant fathers and anxious mothers would have to begin early to round up their numerous broods to be sure none missed getting on the train for home. Fortunately a late section was run but it didn't leave the Park until the evening program of dancing and other entertainment was finished, so small children who had run wild all day were hardly able to stick it out until such a late hour, so they tried to get on the first train home. Arrival back at Burgettstown probably by about 6 P. M., ended the day except for the long ride back to the farm for the country people. All this resulted in much weariness but great joy as all recalled this day of days at Rock Springs Park.

EARLY EDUCATIONAL HISTORY OF BURGETTSTOWN

For approximately 100 years after settlement here by the white man, the schools of Burgettstown were associated with those of Smith Township. Burgettstown was for many years a small country village. Its few houses clustered around the important corners of Pittsburgh and Washington (Main) Streets and then strung out in four directions along these important thoroughfares from this focal point. It was in 1781 that Washington County was established and just 100 years later, in 1881, the people of Burgettstown received approval by the Court for its charter as a borough. So, from a municipal standpoint, up until that time, this town was in every sense of the word a part of Smith Township.

As was true in all parts of this western country in the early days, the earliest schools here were of the subscription type; that is, a group of interested citizens would subscribe to a fund and then would engage a teacher to instruct their children. Often they would permit the children of their poorer neighbors to attend their school also. Such a school would be held in a vacant room in the house of one of the subscribers, or occasionally in a house especially erected for the purpose. These schools would, of necessity, be irregular in their organization and indefinite in the length of the term, or the length of time the school might continue. However, such efforts kept alive the desire for an education, and since many of the teachers were intelligent and well-educated persons, these schools fairly well served their day.

The earliest school held in Smith Township was taught before the close of the Revolutionary War by William Lowrie, a soldier in that war and a surveyor. This was on a farm later owned by M. Maxwell Work. A Mr. Sinclair taught in what was later the Cinder Hill district before 1800. The first teacher in Burgettstown was one George McKeag who taught here in the winter of 1798-99. The first building used regularly for school purposes within the bounds of the present borough was located up on Liberty Street in the "Old Town." One of the best known teachers in this building was Henry Robinson who taught here for fourteen years as well as for several years in other Smith Township Schools,

including at least one term in the Cooke School. Robert Patterson was prominent in early school affairs, he having been an early teacher and also instrumental in having Smith Township accept the Public School Law of 1834.

Another Patterson, the Hon. William Patterson of Patterson Mills in Cross Creek Township, was very active in securing the passage of this Law of 1834, and after it was passed, he worked hard to have it accepted by his home county of Washington and by the districts within the county. On November 4, 1834, a meeting, held at Washington and presided over by Robert Patterson, consisted of the County Commissioners and one delegate from each township in the County and the Borough of Washington, and a vote, taken on accepting the new law, resulted in a favorable vote of 21 to 5.

Then it was necessary to hold meetings in the various townships, since it was optional as to whether the townships would accept the provisions of this new law. If accepted, the township would levy the local taxes necessary to comply with the provisions of the Law. If they chose not to do so, the township would not share in the appropriations set up by the state. When the citizens of Smith Township met, they did so in the "Old Town" (in fact that was Burgettstown then) and since it was a rainy day and there was no building large enough for the assemblage, they went to the covered bridge at the foot of Pittsburgh Street near the mill. All in favor of accepting the law were asked to go to one end of the bridge and those opposed to the other end. Although there was considerable opposition and the vote was close, yet the measure did carry and Smith Township approved and accepted the Law. The opposition here was due to the necessity of having to erect suitable buildings in the various districts of the township. However, this was gradually overcome and ten district schools were soon set up in Smith Township.

In the arrangement of schools which was made, the Burgettstown School was No. 1 and the school later to be known as Plum Run was No. 2. Cinder Hill School became No. 3 and other numbered schools were located in the out-lying parts of the township, No. 9 being where the old brick school building stands in Slovan. This old school was long known as the "Yellow School."

The first building in Burgettstown, the Liberty Street Schoolhouse (it has a sort of patriotic sound, doesn't it?) was used

until about 1834. Spurred on, no doubt, by the passage of the new school law, arrangements were made for another building. In 1834 a lot of ground was leased from Dr. Stephen Smith on Washington (Main) Street and on it was erected a one-story brick building, containing two rooms. This building was used both for school and for religious purposes, for the congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church met here from the time of the erection of the building until 1872 when a building for the congregation was erected about where the Super Dollar Store is now located. When church services were to be held, school had to be dismissed. This is the building in the "Old Town" which was the home of Mrs. Adah Campbell until her death and later the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Lee Speer. This house was to be the Burgettstown Public School until the third building was built in 1867.

The book entitled A Century of Education by William Melvin gives the list of all, or nearly all, of the teachers in this building while it was used. Houston Walker taught in the room in the north end in the winter of 1834-35, and Dr. Joseph Campbell in the south end. Each year, one or two teachers were employed as required for the winter term, and each summer a "pay school" was usually taught for a few weeks--a sort of combination public school and subscription school, and one might add, a more efficient use of the building. This system prevailed until 1865-66 when the school was graded and put in charge of Prof. Van B. Baker, who was principal and taught the advanced grades while his wife, Mrs. Martha Baker, taught the primary grades. Mr. Baker used what was later known as the Nancy Shillito House on Pittsburgh Street while Mrs. Baker taught in the brick building.

Van Baker was a native of Cross Creek Village, and he was a prominent teacher throughout this entire area. He had taught at least one term in the Plum Run School and this term of 1865-66 at Burgettstown with Mrs. Baker. She also taught the "Pay School" term in Burgettstown in the summer of 1866. Later Mr. Baker was principal of schools at East Liverpool, Ohio, at Beaver Falls, and at a number of other schools. In 1883 he served as editor and proprietor of a newspaper at Ironton, Ohio. His wife died that year and two years later he married Miss Eliza McWha of Holliday's Cove, W. Va. Mr. Baker, an able school man, was later implicated in the Van Baker Murder Trials.

In September, 1867 the school board of Smith Township contracted for the erection of a two-story four-room frame school building in Burgettstown on a lot very near the present school building. The citizens of the town raised $200, bought this lot and presented it to the school board. The lot belonged to the Rev. J. T. Fredericks and he had priced it at $250 but he agreed to a reduction of $50 and the purchase was made. The question was asked: Why was not a lot purchased on higher ground and the school located further back from the road? The choice of location was probably wise. Then, the churches were located on the hill east of town. They were later moved down to Main Street.

Due to work on the new building, there was no school in Burgettstown during the winter term of 1867-68. Any who attended school during that term had to go to one of the nearby rural buildings, No. 2, No. 3 or possibly No. 9. The new building was completed about April 1, 1868 and a four months term was opened at that time with George T. McCord as principal and Miss Kate Ghrist, later Mrs. J. R. McNary as assistant. This school was then known as the Union School and two or three teachers were used for several years as required. In 1876 the school was regraded and the vacant room put into use, thus making four rooms in all, usually four teachers being used for the winter term and two for the summer term.

By 1894 there was need for still another room and for that term a room was leased over the drugstore of H. B. McMurray. During that year another Baker was in charge of the school, this being Simon Strouse Baker who later became President of Washington and Jefferson College. He was a successful educator from the start, and he got his start right here in Burgettstown. He was here through the school term 1896-97 and then found employment elsewhere, later reaching the zenith of his career at W. and J.

Since the third school building of Burgettstown was fast becoming inadequate, the question of a new and larger building came up as early as 1893 when a bond issue for a new building was voted on but defeated by a small majority. In March, 1895 the school board tried again and a bond issue for $6,500 was approved by a good vote. On April 20, 1895 plans for the new building, the present one, were accepted by the board and from that time on, things moved rapidly. On June 13 excavation for the building began; on June 26, stonework on the foundation was begun and on August 3, the first brick were laid. By Nov. 23 the building of six rooms was completed and ready for seating. On November 22 (Friday) classes

were held in the old building. The next week was County Teachers Institute and when school resumed on Monday, December 2, it was in the new building. The teachers were: Simon S. Baker, Miss Ada Dowden, Miss Dora Andrews, Mrs. Clara M. Weaver, Miss Etta Hobbs, a faculty of five.

The new building was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on Friday of that first week of school, December 6, 1895. During that afternoon, programs were carried out by teachers and pupils in all the rooms of the school. In the evening a formal program was presented to what is described as a "packed house", with many people being turned away for lack of room. It was a red-letter day for Burgettstown, one of the greatest in all its history.

W. T. Reed of the school board presented the building to the citizens, and it was accepted on their behalf by the Rev. Dr. D. W. Carson of the United Presbyterian Church. Prof. R. P. Stevenson on behalf of the Junior Order U.A.M. in a stirring speech presented "Old Glory" to the new school and for this Dr. L. C. Botkin gave the acceptance speech. "A History of the Burgettstown Schools" was read by William Melvin, and this paper with additions made soon thereafter comprised the text for Mr. Melvin's valuable book: A Century of Education which was published by him in 1898. Mr. Melvin was a noted educator in this whole area and had 31 years of teaching in the Smith Township and Burgettstown Schools. A large portion of this article is taken from Mr. Melvin's book.

Music for the dedicatory service was furnished by a quartette "The Strawberry Blondes" composed of Pros. S. S. Baker, John W. and J. Vincent Welch and W. W. Galbraith, all redheads. This was received with high appreciation by the audience according to the next issue of the Enterprise which comments: "The music by the Strawberry Blonde Quartette was well selected, varied in character, and rendered in the well-known good style of the club. It was deserving of the high appreciation with which it was received by the audience."

A sixth teacher was added to the faculty in 1897, and at a later date of which I am not advised, this building was enlarged to its present size of eight rooms.

Over the years since 1895, many other changes have occurred in the educational picture of Burgettstown. With the gradual development of secondary education here came first the Burgettstown High

School and then, in 1919 the Burgettstown-Smith Township Union High School, erected, dedicated and put into use in that year. Less than 50 years later a newer, bigger and better Burgettstown Area High School has emerged.

EARLY RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF BURGETTSTOWN

The Seceders

Since in the early days of this town, the majority of the people were Scotch-Irish, and hence Presbyterians of one sort or another, most of this article will deal with these religious bodies. Whatever might be said for or against the Scotch-Irish, they were, by and large, religious. It has been said of them that they "kept the Sabbath Day and everything else they could get their hands on". The writer has felt for some time that some account of the organizations, divisions and mergers of these churches in Burgettstown should be recorded, since the facts, well-known to the people of an earlier day, are not so familiar to the present generation.

The first religious organization here, dating from about 1800, was the Seceder, or Associate Presbyterian Congregation. Conducted as a joint charge with the sister congregation of Mt. Pleasant at Hickory, these two churches united in calling their first pastor, the Rev. W. C. Brownlee, a Scotsman who came to take charge of the two churches on May 3, 1809. Prior to the election of this pastor, these churches had been maintained as preaching stations and supplied with preaching by Chartiers Presbytery.

The second pastor of the congregations was the Rev. Alexander Donnan, a native of Ireland, who served the Burgettstown Church from May 1819 until June 1840 when he resigned this charge to devote his entire time to the Mt. Pleasant Church. Pastors who followed at Burgettstown were: Rev. Robert Hammond 1845-1857, Rev. S. H. Graham 1862-1868, Rev. John Hood 1868-1878. In October, 1878, the Rev. David Carson was called from the Service U. P. Church in Beaver County to the church at Burgettstown where he served until 1898.

Halfway between Burgettstown and Hickory, on the ridge road was located, almost on the line between Smith and Mt. Pleasant Townships, the old Mt. Vernon Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Being of a slightly different denomination from the Burgettstown and Mt. Pleasant churches, it had no relations with either of them but maintained its own existence and was served for some years by the Rev. Samuel Taggart in a joint charge with the Grove A. R. P. Church at West Middletown. Upon the merger of the Associate Presbyterian and Associate Reformed Presbyterian denominations in 1858, resulting in the establishment of the United Presbyterian Church, the old Mt. Vernon Church went out of existence and many of the members of this congregation united with what became the (First) United Presbyterian Church of Burgettstown. This merger of the denominations occurred in the interim between the pastorates of the Reverends Hammond and Graham.

The pastoral services of the Rev. David W. Carson were ever acceptable to the Burgettstown congregation. Before he came to Burgettstown, this church had its house of worship on the top of the hill east of town where the old U. P. Cemetery is located. Five years before Mr. Carson's coming, the congregation had moved to Main Street downtown and, in 1873, had erected the present attractive and commodious building. Had the question of instrumental music in the worship and Sabbath School services not arisen, it is probable that Dr. Carson would have served out his days in this congregation.

One of the strong tenets of the United Presbyterians of Dr. Carson's day was that the psalms be used exclusively for singing in worship services, and in spite of the admonitions in some of the psalms to "sing praises unto God with timbrel and harp", yet for many years the members of the United Presbyterian Church generally were opposed to the use of instrumental music in church services. But by the early 1890's this practice had begun to give way and some of the U. P. churches were introducing organ music into their services. When this was proposed in the Burgettstown Church, Dr. Carson at once denounced the practice and made it plain that he would never acquiesce in the matter, and he never did. Not only was he opposed to having instrumental music in his own church but also he was so opposed to its use throughout his denomination that he actually called a convention of United Presbyterians to meet in the city of Pittsburgh in which to voice his strong disapproval. In this he was aided and abetted very strongly by his brother, the Rev. James G. Carson, then pastor

of the Second U. P. Church of Xenia, Ohio and by quite a number of other like-minded ministers and laymen of the Church. Although this matter was strongly protested by these determined men, yet they were eventually overruled and the decision regarding instrumental music was left to the discretion of each congregation. By a majority vote an organ was ordered for the Burgettstown Church. When this action was taken by the congregation, Dr. Carson immediately announced his resignation and his pastorate of this church was concluded in 1898.

The sequel to this action was the organization of the Second U. P. Church of Burgettstown in which it was decreed from the first that no instrumental music would ever be allowed. Organized under the guidance of Dr. Carson, he was followed into this new church by a number of his parishioners from the First Church, among whom were his daughter, Miss Eleanor Carson, Mr. and Mrs. James Glass, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Acheson, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bubbett, the Thomas McBride Family, Miss Lizzie McBride, Mrs. Ann McBride Walker and a number of others whose names are not now recalled. In 1910 the membership was reported to be about 41 which was probably as large as it ever became.

To house the new congregation a new frame building was erected on the ground now occupied by Petrucci's Food Market, and Dr. Carson served the congregation as stated supply until his death on June 3, 1911. From 1911 until the time of its disorganization in 1944, the pastorate was vacant. Since the congregation had few accessions, it gradually dwindled in membership as the older members one by one passed on. Although this venture by Dr. Carson and his faithful adherents was no doubt taken in the strong conviction that they were entirely right in their manner of worshipping God, many of the present day would not agree with their point of view since in most Christian churches of our day, the use of instrumental music is believed to add much to the dignity and majesty of the worship period. However some denominations, notably the Reformed Presbyterians (Covenanters) and the Church of Christ have no musical instruments in their churches. In the early "church in the wildwood" no instrument of music marred the worship of Almighty God. In our modern churches, sublimity of worship can be attained also without the use of timbrel and harp, or organ or piano. Religious freedom in our land happily permits individuals and churches to determine in this matter according to their choices and their consciences.

The Presbyterians

As has been noted, the Seceders established the first church in Burgettstown. Since the old line Presbyterians usually were not welcomed at a Seceder Church, prior to 1845 people of this faith in Burgettstown and nearby rural areas attended divine services at one or the other of the old established congregations of Cross Roads at Florence or at Cross Creek Village. In 1845 a church was erected on the hill above Burgettstown to the east, and in this building afternoon or evening preaching services were conducted usually by the pastor of the Cross Roads Church who was then the Rev. Joel Stoneroad.

By 1849 sufficient interest had been aroused in the community to prompt the people of the Presbyterian faith to ask Washington Presbytery for permission to organize a Presbyterian Church here. This permission was at first refused by Presbytery, but persistently the people carried their request to Synod where Presbytery was overruled and the Rev. Mr. Stoneroad was appointed to organize the congregation. This was done on October 18, 1849 and the new church was called the First Presbyterian Church of Burgettstown. The first pastor called was the Rev. James P. Fulton whose pastorate dates from Oct. 2, 1850 when he was ordained and installed. The first bench of elders consisted of Robert Patterson, Thomas Thompson, John S. Lamb, William Cunningham and John Moore.

The Rev. Mr. Fulton served the church until 1857 when he was succeeded by the Rev. James T. Fredericks who was ordained and installed Oct. 26, 1858. This was Rev. Frederick's only charge and after serving the church with great fidelity for nearly 28 years, his pastorate was closed by his death at the relatively early age of 60 years. The account of his pastorate as recorded in the History of Washington Presbytery bears glowing testimony to his usefulness in the Burgettstown Church and community. During this pastorate the handsome and commodious building, still used by this church, now Hillcrest, was erected in 1874.

Thus by the beginning of the next pastorate, that of the Rev. Joseph L. Weaver, the church had experienced an era of

steady growth and was well established in a substantial house of worship, located almost in the center of Burgettstown. Rev. Weaver, a native of Freeport, Pa., had served a short pastorate in Ohio before being installed in the church here on May 10, 1887. He was a man of great ability and of strong personal convictions, and he entered upon his work in this church with considerable aggressiveness. In a historical news article which appeared in the columns of the Enterprise on July 5, 1967, reference is made to a copy of a booklet, "Pastor's Bi-ennium", found sometime before in a house on Shady Avenue. This booklet described the first two years of Rev. Weaver's pastorate in the Burgettstown Church during which the membership had increased from 260 to 380 and contributions had more than doubled. Also he spoke of the goodwill existing in the congregation when he says "never an unfriendly look from any coming to my eyes, nor harsh words to my ears." Unfortunately for Rev. Weaver and for the Church, this idealistic picture was to change before the close of his pastorate in this church in 1895.

In his preaching, a field in which he was most able, Rev. Weaver spoke fearlessly and he did not hesitate to denounce evil wherever he found it. Like the preacher whom Cal Coolidge once described, when he spoke of sin, he was "agin it". Also in his personal contacts with members of his church, he spoke very frankly and candidly regarding matters of personal conduct.

Two examples will suffice. (In these the writer is omitting names, since mention of the parties would serve no useful purpose and might possibly offend, although the incidents referred to happened 85 years or more ago.)

Through the channels known in early church records as common fame, Rev. Weaver was informed that one of his prominent members was following a course of personal conduct of which he, the pastor, did not approve. Forthwith, he approached the erring member who admitted it to be his besetting sin, but he brazenly told his pastor that he could do nothing about it. Of this, the pastor was not so sure.

Again, in a sermon, Rev. Weaver denounced secret societies and strongly decried their influence in other organizations and especially in the Church. This was probably an echo of strong sentiments against secret organizations which were prevalent during many years of the nineteenth century. (An ironic sequel to this sermon is that many years later, Rev. Weaver is reported

to have become a member of the secret order which he so strongly denounced in this sermon.)

With incidents such as these occurring in First Presbyterian Church in which Rev. Weaver spoke fearlessly and perhaps somewhat incautiously at times, misunderstandings arose, remarks of the pastor in his sermons and elsewhere were misinterpreted and at times misquoted. Charges and countercharges were made against individuals in the Church and against the pastor, and soon a real state of turmoil seemed to exist. As one reads the records of the Church and of Presbytery for this period, one gets the impression that a real fight was on in First Church. During the next two years, 1891-93, situations arose which bore little relation to the original troubles. Since the state of affairs became such that the session of the Church was unable to cope with the situation, on appeal to Washington Presbytery a commission headed by Dr. James D. Moffat, President of Washington and Jefferson College, was appointed to investigate conditions in the Church. Their report found about three-fourths of the congregation still loyal to the pastor, with the other one-fourth seemingly irrevocably alienated. No other solution being found, this commission finally recommended the organization of another Presbyterian Church in Burgettstown.

Organized by Dr. Moffat on June 16, 1893 this was at first known as the Second Presbyterian Church but on Sept. 11, 1893 the Presbytery was asked to permit a change of name to the Westminster Presbyterian Church and being granted, this was the name by which it was known during its entire corporate existence. With the organization, 112 members were enrolled, some of whom were the disaffected members from the First Church together with a number of persons whose sympathies were with this group. Meeting at first in the old hall known as Auditorium Hall which stood on the former site of the Mary Ann Theater, the congregation moved quickly the following year to erect its own building which was dedicated on November 25, 1894. This was to be the home of the congregation until 1962.

Although largely born out of the turmoil which had existed in First Church, the new Westminster Church soon made a secure place for itself in the religious life of Burgettstown. Soon after organization the congregation called as its first pastor the Rev. Harry Nesbit and upon his graduation from Seminary, he took charge of the church with his ordination on May 15, 1894. Capable

people were elected to the offices of the Church, a good Sunday School was soon set up, and all the usual activities of a good church were soon under way. Over the years since, the history of the Westminster Church has been one of which its members have been extremely proud.

So, as the nineteenth century came to a close, the Presbyterians, like the United Presbyterians, were divided and for the next half century or so, four churches stood near the center of Burgettstown where only two had stood before.

But the trend in recent years has been toward reunion and merger, as old animosities died away and Christian brotherhood of a very practical sort began to assert itself both in local churches and in denominations. In 1958 came the union of the two great Presbyterian bodies when the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America was formed. Following the union of the denominations has been the merger of many adjoining congregations as happened in Burgettstown in 1962 when the First U. P. Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church were merged into the present Westminster United Presbyterian Church of Burgettstown. So Presbyterianism in Burgettstown is now embraced in the two congregations, the old First Presbyterian Church (now Hillcrest) and the merged congregation of Westminster U. P. And so the situation has come back in a certain sense to where Presbyterianism began in Burgettstown.

The Catholics and Other Denominations

With the development of coal mining on a large scale, and the opening of the American Zinc and Chemical plant at Langeloth and other local industries, workers of European origin began coming into the Burgettstown area in large numbers. Many of these people were Roman Catholics. In order to attend a church of that faith, these people had to travel to Steubenville, McDonald or Noblestown.

In July, 1916, the Rev. William McCashin, then assistant to the pastor of the St. Alphonsus Church at McDonald, was sent to organize parishes in Bulger and Burgettstown. St. Anne's Church at Bulger and Our Lady of Lourdes Church at Burgettstown, with its first church building erected in 1918, were the result of

Father McCashin's missionary efforts. The history of Our Lady of Lourdes Church has been excellently presented in historical booklets of the Church. Later, the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul at Cherry Valley, and of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church at Avella were established to serve the people in these towns. Also, at Avella, the St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church was founded by people largely of Czechoslovakian nationality in the area.

At Burgettstown and in its neighboring towns, in recent years, have been organized the First Baptist Church, the Church of the Nazarene, the Christian Assembly, the First Church of Christ, the Langeloth Church of Christ, the Langeloth Community Church, the Francis Mine Community Church, the Lovely Zion Baptist Church and the Church of Promise. Through these churches of various denominations, most of the spiritual needs of present residents of the area are well-provided for.

TRAGEDY IN BURGETTSTOWN

Death of Sebastian Burgett

In any town or city or other sizable group of people it seems there must at some time come moments or hours of tragedy. In this respect Burgettstown has been no exception. We shall attempt to list a few of the tragedies which have come to this town during the years of its long history.

The first tragedy of which we have any record was the death of Burgettstown's first settler, Sebastian Burgett. Soon after he settled here Mr. Burgett built a mill on Little Raccoon Creek where West Pittsburgh Street crosses this stream and where all of the town's mills have been located. In an endeavor to enlarge his mill and increase its usefulness, Mr. Burgett required some large iron castings to complete the mill. He made a trip to Pittsburgh and obtained the castings at a foundry there. He loaded the castings on his wagon and was within two miles of his home when, endeavoring to drive his wagon over a log which lay in the road, the wagon upset and the castings were thrown from the wagon so violently and against Mr. Burgett that he was crushed and killed, apparently on the spot. His body was brought to his home and was laid away in the family graveyard, which was located up the hill to the east of his residence and to the rear of Our Lady of Lourdes School property. Here, for many years, the epitaph: "Sebastian Burgett departed this life Sept. 4, 1789 in the fiftieth year of his age" could be read. The marker has now disappeared and the only evidence of graves at the site are slight depressions in the surface of the ground to indicate the probable location of the old burying ground.

Railroad Accidents

Although railroads are usually a boon to any community, yet there is almost always association of accidents both in the construction of a railroad in the first place and also during the period of its

operation. One grievous crossing accident was recorded in our article on Raccoon when we spoke of the deaths at the crossing there of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll A. McBride.

Just a year before his death, my friend, Shurley T. Bruce, told me this story: Mrs. Mary H. Rankin, a widow, and her son, Orion, during the years before the turn of the century lived on Church Avenue in Burgettstown. The mother was a kindly woman, familiarly known to many as Aunt Mary. The son, a young man of industry and good reputation, was employed somewhere east of Burgettstown and traveled to and from his work by train. In coming home from work one dark evening, the train happened to stop at the telegraph tower several hundred yards east of Burgettstown station. When this stop came, the passengers from Burgettstown thinking that the train had arrived at their station arose and made preparations to get off. The first to the platform and steps was Orion Rankin and in the darkness he swung off the steps of the train and fell several feet below striking an abutment of a bridge which caused almost immediate death. This accident, now nearly forgotten by the people of this day, caused deep grief among the people who knew the Rankins.

The crossing on Main Street, Route 18, at the former Burgettstown station has been the scene of many accidents, not a few of which have been fatal ones. One of those still remembered happened on the night of November 10, 1923 when three young men from the Frankfort community were struck by a train and instantly killed here. Merle Karnes, a brilliant young man from New Concord, Ohio and a student at Muskingum College had taken time off from his college course to teach a term or two in the Frankfort High School. On this Saturday night, Mr. Karnes and two other young men from the Frankfort community, Carl Williams and Wylie White, had driven into Burgettstown to spend the evening. They had just started for home when they were struck at this crossing by a fast train. Their car was demolished and, of course, the young men were instantly killed. The accident caused widespread sorrow in the Frankfort community where these young men were well and favorably known.

Twenty years later two Burgettstown men met their deaths here, on December 27, 1943. At about noon on that day, N. Roscoe Holland and his son, Robert R. Holland, were instantly killed when a westbound passenger train struck their automobile directly in the middle, demolishing the car, throwing one body violently from the car and

carrying the other 75 feet or more down the track.

In those days a watchman was usually stationed at this crossing to warn of approaching trains. With the development of electronic devices, warning lights are now flashed and gates are lowered to prevent motorists from driving onto the tracks in front of approaching trains. Trains on this line have always been driven at high speed through Burgettstown to help in carrying them up the steep grade to the west of town.

Quite a number of accidents have occurred, too, at the Patterson crossing at the edge of town to the west. One of these happened in December 1910 when Irwin Stahl, a teamster for the Pittsburgh-Buffalo Coal Company was hauling a load from Francis Mine into Burgettstown. Mr. Stahl was very deaf and didn't hear the approaching train from the east. Also a heavy curve on that side of the crossing reduced visibility greatly. The wagon was struck and badly damaged, both his horses were killed and Mr. Stahl's body was carried under the train for sixty feet. Although critically injured, he was put on the train for Steubenville but he died before arriving at the hospital there. Dr. G. L. McKee happened along and rendered assistance and the accident was witnessed by Frank Stievenart, an employee of the railroad and by J. A. McClurg and H. A. McFarland both of Burgettstown.

A Man Injured by a Horse

One of the familiar personages around Burgettstown in my boyhood visits here seventy or more years ago was James Abel whose home was about where the post office parking lot is now. I remember Mr. Abel as a one-armed man whose right arm was only a short stub with his sleeve on that arm always neatly folded up and pinned under the stub. I don't recall that I ever heard the story of Mr. Abel's accident until I read it many years ago in an old issue of the Enterprise.

Mr. Abel was a prominent horseman of the area and at the time of which I write, he was keeping a valuable Clydesdale stallion at his stable for breeding purposes. One evening in June, 1890, while attending this horse in his stall, the animal seized Mr. Abel by his right arm and began dashing the unfortunate man up and down against the sides of the stall. This continued for

several minutes when Ernest Carnahan appeared on the scene and by beating the horse over the head with a club secured Mr. Abel's release. He was horribly crushed and his life was despaired of for a time but a crew of doctors headed by Dr. W. V. Riddile amputated the arm between the elbow and shoulder and the man recovered.

The vicious animal in this case should have been disposed of at once but this was not done and the horse was turned into a nearby field to pasture. About two weeks after injuring Mr. Abel, while running loose in this field, the stallion was struck by lightning and instantly killed. One naturally wonders if this was an act of retribution by an all-wise Providence.

Mr. Abel continued to keep horses and my recollection of him is that of leading and riding his horses around his home and on the streets of Burgettstown. He was a familiar figure at the Burgettstown Fair, also being one of those who, up to and including the year 1908, had never missed a Fair. His death must have occurred soon after that.

Fires

It seems almost a truism that fires do not happen--that they are caused. Whatever the truth in the matter or attitudes on it, the fact remains that uncontrolled fires are eternally causing widespread damage and untold tragedy. Burgettstown, like all towns large and small, has had its share of destructive conflagrations.

The Big Fire in Burgettstown happened, or was caused, on Friday morning November 29, 1895. At 4:45 A.M. on that date, J. G. Shane, hostler for the Burgettstown accommodation, went to call the crew of that train for morning duty. In passing the barbershop of W. E. Lowe, site of the former Culley's store on Railroad Street he noticed the room to be full of flame and smoke. Mr. Shane rushed to his engine which by then had a full head of steam and he blew several long blasts on the whistle. This soon aroused a number of citizens, but when they arrived on the scene, they found that they could do nothing to save the barbershop. Cyrus McCreary had a harness shop in an adjoining room and it too was soon destroyed. The Masonic Hall on the west side and the old banking room of the Burgettstown National Bank on the east side

were soon on fire. On the first floor of Masonic Hall were the business places of A. E. McCabe, grocer, Thomas Forsyth, merchant tailor, and J. A. McKenzie, musical instruments; on the second floor, were Richard Vaux Lodge, Junior Order UAM quarters and Joseph Armstrong, insurance agent. Isaac Fleming used the old banking room for a dwelling and restaurant and since this building was of brick, it was saved from the flames. The other buildings could not be saved, so the bucket brigade which had been quickly organized devoted its utmost efforts to saving the adjoining buildings.

Dr. W. V. Riddile owned the property now occupied by Mellon Bank. His coal house and stable were destroyed and his office, in another building, was barely saved. The flames soon jumped the alley to the long building where the Falcon Service Station now stands. This was occupied by B. F. McClure and Brother's Hardware Store on the lower floor and the office and printing establishment of the Enterprise-Call on the second floor. This building was destroyed but by valiant efforts of the men, and women, too, of the bucket brigade a steady supply of water was brought from the creek and from nearby wells and cisterns, and a stable on the McClure Brothers' lot was saved, and thus the spread of the fire was checked. Nearby buildings, Dr. Riddile's residence and office, Armor and Linn's Lumber warehouse, and Fulton's Feed Store were badly scorched but were saved from being destroyed. The weather, too, was favorable, there being no appreciable wind to spread the flames.

After the fire was over, the losses were appraised and were found to be considerable. On account of the intensity of the fire, little could be done to save the contents of the buildings and much of them was destroyed. The fortunate ones had insurance, but on several of the buildings there was no coverage. Mr. Armstrong, insurance agent, ironically had no coverage on his office equipment which was destroyed. The Enterprise-Call plant and equipment was estimated to be worth $3,200. It had insurance in the amount of $1,880 and $500 worth of movable property was saved, so the net loss here was less than $1,000. Among losses in the fire was a quantity of newly printed copies of the History of Cross Creek Graveyard. These books were afterward reprinted by Enterprise-Call and were then placed on sale. Soon after the time of the Big Fire, the present home of the Enterprise was erected and this has been the home of the local newspaper ever since.

In the fall of 1888, on the closing day of the Burgettstown Fair, a number of buildings in the Old Town were destroyed by fire. This included the residence and shops of J. K. Nichols, a blacksmith shop owned by Charley Green, a wagon shop belonging to Daniel Hoffman and several other buildings. Although many people on their way to the Fair congregated to help fight the flames, the buildings were doomed and efforts were concentrated on saving adjoining buildings. This fire was blamed on an incendiary, and an arrest of a suspect was soon made following the fire.

Floods

From its location on Little Raccoon Creek, or Hell Creek as it has been called in its worse moments, Burgettstown has frequently been subjected to the agonies which attend destructive floods. We shall now notice one or two of the worst of these in the history of Burgettstown.

The most tragic flood in the area recalled by the present older generation is probably that of the Labor Day weekend of 1912. With heavy rains coming to this area during the hours of darkness on Sunday and Monday nights, and being especially heavy between 10 P.M. and 2 A.M. on Sunday night, many people were caught in their homes very much unaware of the approaching floods. When the real situation became known, neighbors aroused neighbors, and so most of those in danger were saved, although hundreds in the area had to leave their homes and seek safety on higher ground.

At Cherry Valley that night the entire family of William Gillespie, an oil pumper, was wiped out, being caught at home on low ground on the Farrer farm just below Cherry Valley. Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie and their four children perished in the raging waters of Raccoon Creek. Avella, also, suffered heavy damage and loss of life. Two girls and a boy in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Crowe were swept away in their home just after the father had rescued his wife and two other children. Other parts of Washington County were hard hit as crops were badly damaged or destroyed in the fields, and as bridges on roads and railroads were swept out, thus halting traffic and disrupting communications at many points. A total of 11 lives was lost in the county.

The great tragedy in Burgettstown came early on that Monday morning when J. Cooke White, who was desperately trying to rescue two teams of valuable horses, was swept away in the swift current and drowned. Mr. White and his son, Alvin, went to the stable and had succeeded in getting one team out, and then went back for the other team. The son got his horse out, but Mr. White's horse fell throwing him into the swift current where he was quickly carried away. The badly mutilated body was found some distance down the stream later that Monday morning by D. J. Dowden.

In this flood, Auditorium Hall which stood for many years opposite Petrucci's Market was swept down the stream and demolished. Henry Westlake lost a horse in the raging waters and the family of Nelson Dodds was marooned in the second story of his home for several hours, with deep water around the house for 200 yards in all directions. A brilliant electrical storm accompanied the heavy rainfall which amounted to a cloudburst over much of the area. Extensive damage was done in Burgettstown to all low-lying properties. Westminster and Second U.P. Churches suffered extensive damage to floors, carpets and pews as mud and debris were swept into and around the buildings.

Another damaging flood occurred on July 6, 1950, but no loss of life was sustained in this one. It is hoped that flood control work which has been done along the creek in and above Burgettstown will greatly minimize the threats of flood damage in the future.

Storms

Burgettstown has been visited by a number of destructive wind storms, three of which could easily be classified as tornadoes. The first of these recorded was on May 4, 1871, over 107 years ago but no details have been found regarding this storm.

The next such storm to wreak havoc here was the so-called "Hanlin Station Cyclone" which came up the Harmon Creek Valley from the Ohio River on June 18, 1883. This was really a tornado, the path of the storm being restricted to a strip only a few hundred yards wide. Since this one occurred 95 years ago, there are not many around today who have any personal recollection of the storm.

Passing just north of Hanlin Station the storm blew down part of the old Hanlin Mill on Harmon Creek, damaged a nearby tract of timber, passed over the hill to the Henry Taylor farm where it unroofed the house and destroyed the barn, this farm being located in the valley near the former Plum Run Schoolhouse. Veering a little southeast, the storm crossed another hill to the Boyd farm, destroying timber and throwing large trees in windows like hay. At Boyd's a chimney was torn from the house, the barn lifted from its foundation, and an entire orchard was laid waste. Crossing the farm of Dr. Bell, it took out fences and a sheepshed, and killed or injured 125 head of sheep belonging to George Ahrns. When it struck the fairgrounds, it carried off fences and a number of the horsesheds.

It next crossed the farms of Samuel and R. K. Scott at the south end of Burgettstown and the farms of W. G. Shillito and John L. Rankin on the ridge, crossing then into Cherry Valley and touching the farms of Alex Hayes, the Farrer Brothers, George Raab and Joseph Keys where its fury seemed to abate and not much more damage was done. Many stories were told of freak happenings in the path of this storm as trees were uprooted and carried great distances, livestock was lifted off the ground and set down some distance away, often without injury, and chickens had their feathers torn from their bodies. People caught out in the storm had all kinds of fantastic experiences. Sam Noah was caught by the storm near Dinsmore station and took refuge in a calamus patch where by holding frantically to the heavy stems of the plants, he was able to save himself from injury. Damage in Smith Township was estimated at $10,000, a large sum for that day.

Again, on Labor Day weekend of 1947, a tornado which began to assert its fury near Eldersville on Tuesday morning, September 2, swept through that town, then followed the ridge east, passing just north of Langeloth and coming down into Burgettstown in the Old Town. On the way from Eldersville, two men, John Brenna and Theodore Vunka were killed and considerable damage was done to a number of homes. Here, in the Old Town, Glenn Nichols' machine shop and Frank Pappas' Lumber Yard were practically demolished and a dozen or so homes were badly damaged. But like the storm of 1883, this one passed over the hill east of town, seemed to disintegrate there and passed on without further damage.

STORIES TOLD IN BURGETTSTOWN AND NEIGHBORING TOWNS

At the old hotel which stood in the Old Town on the northwest corner of Main and Pittsburgh Streets, the proprietor for a number of years was Mercer Boland, and he frequently tended bar as well. He had an ingenious device for the convenience of his customers at the bar, a sliding door. When a thirsty soul wanted a drink, he approached the bar and brought his fist down with a thump to attract the attention of the person attending bar. "Mine host" would then open the sliding door and call out, "Gill or half-pint, sir?" The order would then be given and the desired quantity would be handed out. This procedure was repeated so often by Mr. Boland that it became habitual with him.

Mr. Boland was a Presbyterian and, at least occasionally, attended services at Cross Creek Church where Dr. John Stockton was the minister. During one of the venerable Doctor's long sermons, Mr. Boland fell asleep but he was soon aroused by Dr. Stockton's driving home a strong point by bringing his fist down on the pulpit desk with a resounding thump. This partially awakened Mr. Boland and thinking he was back at the hotel tending bar he quickly jumped up and called out, "Gill or half-pint, sir?" He soon realized where he was and very sheepishly sat down and the long service resumed.

Many good stories always came out of the holding of the annual Burgettstown Fair.

One of the rules of the U.A.A. which held these fairs forebade the sale and use of intoxicating liquors on the grounds, and also all games of chance, pool selling or betting on speed. These rules were observed very well and represented the official attitude of the membership of the association. However, a few thirsty people were always able to evade the rules with impunity by secretly carrying their own flasks from which they would be able to take a sly swig in the privacy of one of the covered horse stalls on the fairgrounds. Such thirsty ones were aided also by a few well-known and easily recognizable "boot-leggers" who managed to get onto the grounds with an ample supply of the contraband. One of

these was said to have been a well-built woman whose garments were so well supplied with pockets in which she carried the wet goods that she could scarcely walk when she first arrived on the grounds. A word to the wise was sufficient and by a deft sleight of hand performance she was soon able to put her supply of liquor into the hands of her eager customers. Another device used by a male boot-legger consisted of a small tank, well concealed about his person from which a hose was run down his right sleeve, this making it possible for him to deliver his shots in quick order.

In spite of this sly imbibing on the grounds, very little drunkenness was seen and disorderliness was not common. Betting was taboo, too, but around the front of the grandstand and at the foot of the judge's stand, it was not difficult to find someone who would take your wager on one of the day's races.

Any disorderliness which did arise was quickly dealt with. During his many active years on the Fair Board, William M. Lee of Holliday's Cove, West Virginia, was frequently looked to as the chief bouncer. Once a ruffian appeared at the lower gate and demanded admission without paying the admission fee. Mr. Lee was sent for. Persuasion on the man was of no avail and he pushed past Mr. Lee and onto the grounds. Mr. Lee followed him, grabbed him by the back of the neck and the seat of his britches and unceremoniously hoisted the man over the fence.

On another occasion, two well-dressed ladies got onto the race track, driving a high-stepping horse in a fancy buggy. Their presence on the track at that time was interfering with the racing program of the afternoon, but they kept circling the track time after time in spite of anything which anyone could do. When William M. Lee, who was a powerfully built man, appeared on the scene, he ran onto the track, grabbed the horse by the bridle and quickly brought the whole outfit to a standstill. The lady driver then started pouring the whip on to her horse trying to get him moving again. When she couldn't get the horse started, she began slashing the whip at Mr. Lee, and then things did start moving, and fast. Those who saw Mr. Lee get the ladies and their fancy rig off the grounds declared that it was a caution to everyone not to try anything of that kind as long as William M. Lee was on the grounds.

Out in Jefferson Township, where the Walker Clan was once numerous and where the name still exists, a number of years ago

one of the Walker men had a cow which suffered a broken leg. Mr. Walker didn't want to kill the cow which was a valuable animal, so he went to the woods and cut a sassafras pole which he took to the barn and substituted for the broken leg on the cow. According to Mr. Walker, the substitution worked perfectly, but he said that ever afterward this cow's milk always tasted like sassafras tea.

Then there was the man at Langeloth, whose name we cannot now recall, who was admitted to the Tall Stories Club with the story of his grandfather's clock. This clock had run for so many years that the shadow of the pendulum as it swung back and forth had worn a hole in the back of the case of the old clock.

James Gillespie was the 17 year old son of Winfield Gillespie who lived toward the south end of Bethel Ridge in Jefferson Township. The Gillespies were large raisers of sheep and each year produced a good crop of wool on the sale of which they depended largely for their cash income. On arising one morning, soon after sheep shearing time, the family discovered that someone had stolen all the wool and had hauled it away in a road-wagon. The direction of the wagon tracks was obtained and young James was sent in pursuit of the wagon on foot and in his barefeet. He followed the wagon tracks through West Middletown and Buffalo into Washington, and when he arrived there he found that the load of wool had been sold to a wool-buyer, and it had been sent on to Wheeling. Whether Mr. Gillespie ever recovered anything from the theft does not appear from the story as we have heard it.

Years afterward, in the 1880's, this same James Gillespie, who had gone into the huckstering business was plying his trade among the farmers in Jefferson Township. In attempting to cross Hollow Rock Run, then in flood in the Shades of Death in Jefferson Township, Mr. Gillespie lost his team and wagon which were swept away in the flood, but he managed to get out alive and lived to tell the story.

Another wool story concerned John Dinsmore whose farm lay at the west end of the Dinsmore Tunnel about two miles west of Burgettstown. Mr. Dinsmore was a large wool-grower and also, on occasion, purchased wool from his sheep growing neighbors. One day in the late 1870's, a man appeared at the office of a large wool commission merchant in Pittsburgh, representing himself to be a son of John Dinsmore and offering to sell for a stated price the current clip of wool from the Dinsmore farm. Knowing the

quality of wool which Mr. Dinsmore always produced, the wool merchant readily agreed to the deal and furnished the man with a sufficient number of wool sacks to hold the clip.

Next, this same man appeared at the Dinsmore farm and represented himself to be a buyer for this Pittsburgh firm. He offered to buy Mr. Dinsmore's wool at the price stated to the firm in Pittsburgh. Mr. Dinsmore readily agreed to sell, whereupon the man left the wool sacks and a few days later the wool was shipped by train to the city. When it arrived at the merchant's warehouse, the crook was there and in the name of Martin Dinsmore collected for the full value of the wool, reported to be about $4,000. A few days later, John Dinsmore went to the city to collect for his wool, but the firm refused to pay him on the grounds that it had already been paid for. It soon became obvious that both parties to the deal had been swindled. Mr. Dinsmore employed competent counsel and sued the wool merchants for the full value of the wool and the case was tried three times in the old district court in Pittsburgh. Each time the jury brought in a verdict in favor of Mr. Dinsmore and each time the wool firm appealed. Never again did John Dinsmore allow anyone to "pull the wool over his eyes."

In the olden days undertakers made the coffins for people whom they buried. According to the History of the Cross Creek Graveyard by James Simpson, the Hon. James Edgar who lived on what was later the George Pate farm in Smith Township was the first undertaker in the area, and he made his own coffins. The next was William Wallace who lived on the Ruth White farm near Mt. Prospect Church in Mt. Pleasant Township. His son, Oliver Wallace, followed him and William Reed of Cross Creek Village continued the business until 1836 and it is said that he made more than 100 interments in the old Cross Creek Graveyard.

Next, the members of the Donehoo family of Cross Creek were undertakers and for a time they made their own coffins. William Donehoo carried on the business until his death in 1864, and he was succeeded by his son, Daniel; he in turn by another son, Henry W. Donehoo. When he began buying commercially manufactured coffins, Henry Donehoo would have them shipped by rail to Burgettstown where he would come with a light spring-wagon and haul the coffin in its rough box to his home in Cross Creek.

When he was in Burgettstown one day on such an errand, Miss Ann Miller, a spinster and the milliner of Cross Creek Village,

espied Mr. Donehoo driving out Main Street with a coffin on his wagon. Miss Miller wanted to get to her home in Cross Creek and was looking for a ride, so she hailed Mr. Donehoo and asked permission to ride home with him. He told her he had no place for her to ride, but she insisted on sitting on the top of the rough box on the rear of the spring-wagon. Finally Mr. Donehoo consented, and Miss Miller got up on her perch and the strange looking outfit started through the Main Street of Burgettstown. As he approached the Old Town, one of Mr. Donehoo's friends who was a very witty man and always a practical joker saw him coming and decided to have some fun at Mr. Donehoo's expense. When the rig got close by, this man hailed him, calling "Hey, Donehoo, Hey, Donehoo!" Then when Mr. Donehoo stopped, he came over close to the wagon and said in a low tone of voice, "I just wanted to tell you, Donehoo, that your corpse has gotten out".

When he appeared in a program at Hickory a number of years ago, the humorist, Bob Seeds told this story, saying that he had told it all over the United States, but that this was the closest he had ever been to Burgettstown and he wanted to know if the story were true. He was quickly assured that it was. Later Mr. Seeds lectured at Burgettstown and he may have told the story here at that time.

Many good stories used to come out of the community once known as Devil's Den out Paris way. According to one such tale, back in 1908 just before election time, one of the candidates for county office was out in that region soliciting votes. Driving up to a certain house he spied a little girl of about seven years playing in the yard. He left his rig and approached the child and said, "Sissy, will you please give me a drink of water?" Of course she did, and thanking her, he drank the water, handed the child a nickel and stooping down, he kissed her. He then handed her his card for her Pa, and before leaving he asked her, "Sissy, has my opponent Mr. B. been out this way?" "Oh, yes," she said, "he was here just a little while ago." "Well, did you give him a drink?" "Yes, sir". "Well, he didn't give you a nickel, did he?" "No, sir, he gave me a quarter!" "Well, he didn't kiss you, did he?" "Oh, yes sir, he did, and he kissed Mama, too!" We hope that the better man won.

A HISTORY OF JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

The territory now known as Jefferson Township in northwestern Washington County has since early pioneer times been successively under the classification of a part of West Augusta County, Virginia, later Ohio County, Virginia; then a part of Hopewell Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania until March 23, 1790 when Cross Creek Township was erected out of a part of Hopewell, and then a part of Cross Creek Township until June 16, 1853 when Jefferson Township was erected out of the western part of Cross Creek Township. Thus since 1853 Jefferson Township has existed with its present limits. It is bound on the north by Hanover Township, on the east by Smith and Cross Creek Townships, on the south by Independence Township and on the west by Brooke County, West Virginia.

When white men first began coming into this region during the early 1770's, they found the territory of the present Jefferson Township literally a "howling wilderness". Being located, as it is, between the deep valley of Harmon Creek on the north and the deep entrenched valley of Cross Creek on the south, the surface of Jefferson Township is intersected in all directions by the valleys of the smaller streams which flow toward these two larger streams. The valleys leading to Harmon Creek are deep, the streams are short and swift, and so the terrain in the northern part of the township is very rough and steep.

In the eastern and southern parts of the township, the streams flowing into Cross Creek are longer and flow less swiftly, but in all cases the valleys are deeply cut, and the slopes on the intervening ridges are in most cases quite steep. Through the middle part of the township and flowing in a southerly direction are the two branches of Scott's Run, which form a single stream near the site of the old Kidd's Mill, the single stream flowing then across the state line into West Virginia and joining Cross Creek at the village of Scott's Run, also in West Virginia. Lying between the two branches of Scott's Run is a prominent ridge known in earlier times as Irish Ridge. Then a mile or two east of the Scott's Run Valley is the stream known as Hollow Rock Run, which likewise flows through a

deep ravine toward Cross Creek. Lying just west of this valley is the long ridge known as Bethel Ridge which extends from a point just southeast of Eldersville to a point over the Penowa tunnel of the Norfolk and Western Railroad. Other smaller streams do their proportionate share in carving the surface of this part of the township into deep valleys, steep hillsides and narrow ridges, thus making the surface of Jefferson Township uniformly quite rough.

The territory of Jefferson Township provided excellent shelter for all of the wild animals of the primeval forest, and they were here in abundance. Of these the wolves were the most ferocious and they, together with the panthers and wild cats once quite numerous, posed a threat to the peaceful dwelling of a civilized race of people. A few bears and numerous deer existed here in early times, and the usual smaller animals such as foxes, woodchucks, raccoons, black and grey squirrels, wild turkeys, buzzards, grey and bald eagles, ravens, etc. filled the forests and became fair game for the trusty rifles of our early settlers.

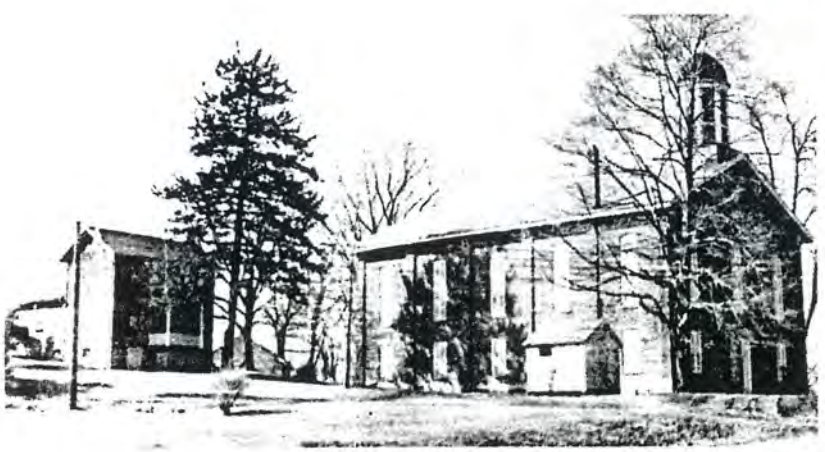
Many, if not most, of the settlements in this vicinity were made by adherents to Virginia which claimed all territory south of the Ohio and Allegheny Rivers and was in exclusive control here for five or six years during the Revolutionary War. The boundary dispute was finally settled in favor of Pennsylvania, and this state agreed to recognize bona fide settlements made under Virginia. The investigation of these claims greatly delayed the granting of patents by Pennsylvania, so that the settlers might be left for ten or fifteen years without any assurance that their titles might be recognized.

When Virginia was in full control of government in this section, all citizens, at least those who had been loyal to Pennsylvania, were required to take an oath of loyalty to Virginia, renouncing all adherence to Pennsylvania. Then when the territory officially became a part of Pennsylvania, these same people were required to renounce Virginia and swear allegiance to Pennsylvania. Some names among those who took the oath at Cross Creek on September 11, 1794 are familiar as members of early Jefferson Township families.

The Washington County settlers who adhered to Virginia often had their slaves and registered them when required to do so by the laws of Pennsylvania. There were a few but not many slaves in Cross Creek Township as it existed in those early days, partly because the staunch Presbyterians who came from the east opposed

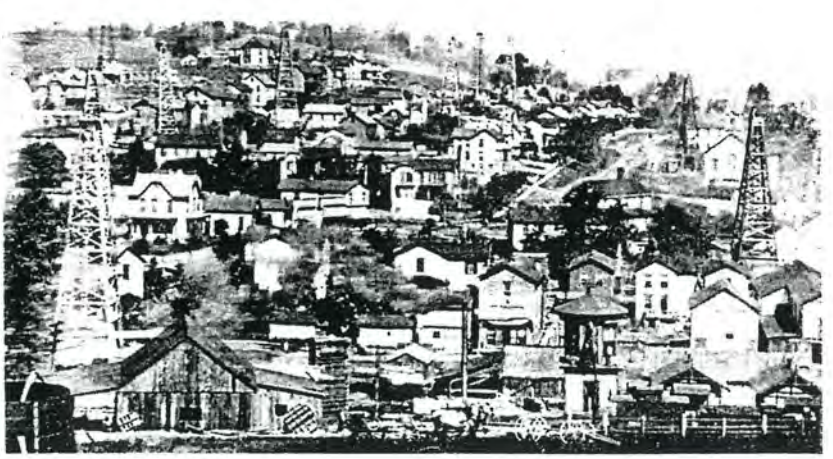
Florence Crossroads. Rt. 18 and Old 22. 1935.

P.R.R. Station, Midway. 1930



Cross Creek Presbyterian Church and house built by Col. Joseph Vance in 1830.

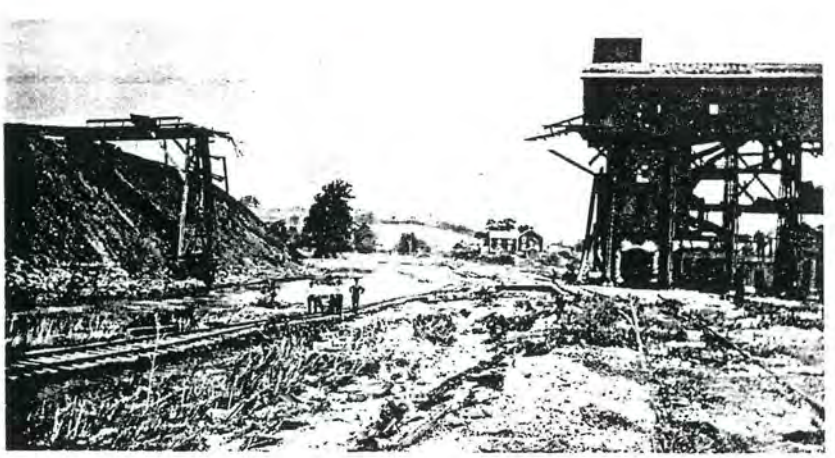
McDonald during oil boom of 1890's.



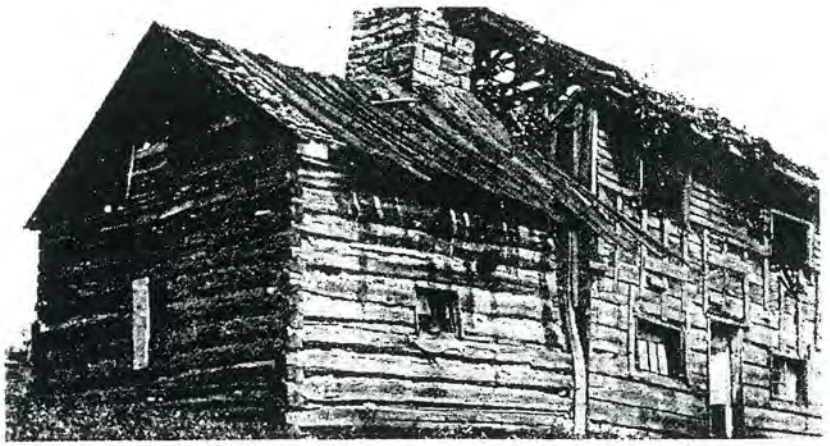
Raccoon at intersection of Main and Cherry Valley Roads. 1937.

Point Pleasant School between Raccoon and Bavington. 1922.

Main Street, West Middletown showing original McKeever Study. 1910.

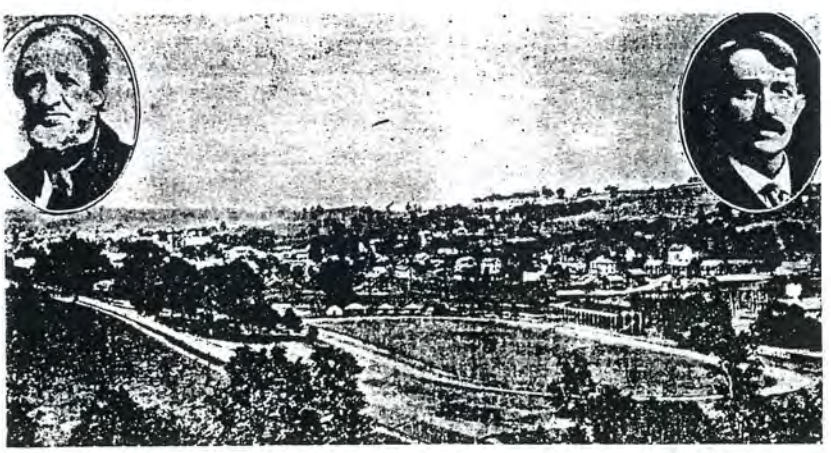


Erie Mine Tipple after 1912 flood.



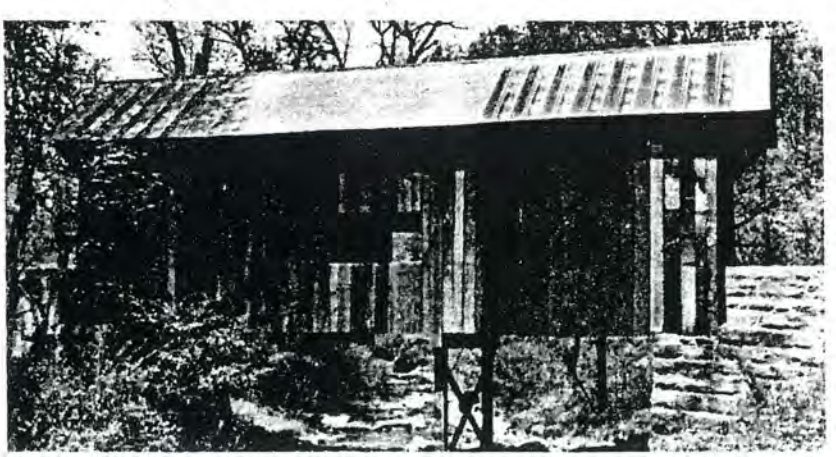
Early Fortified Doddridge home as it appeared in 1911. Independence Twp.

Intersection above arch at Midway. 1915.

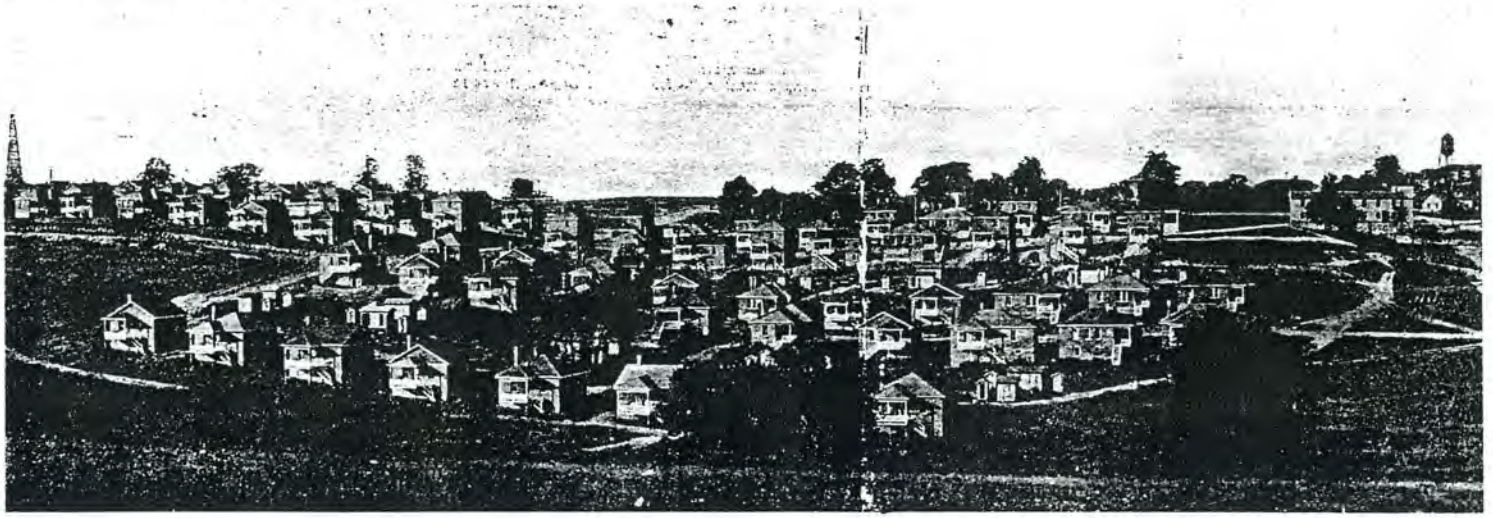


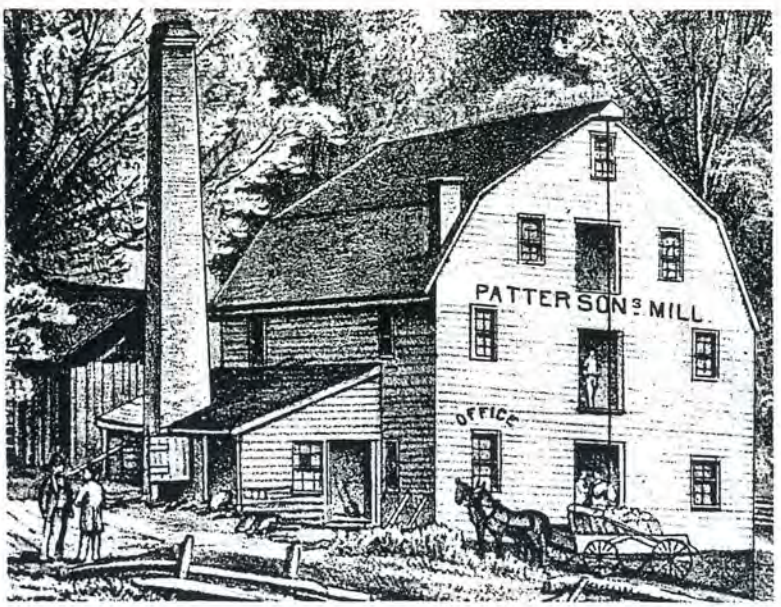
Burgettstown Fairground as it appeared in 1909. Left, Joseph Vance, first president of fair board. Right, John W. Quivey, president in 1911.

Covered bridge over King's Creek, Hanover Twp.

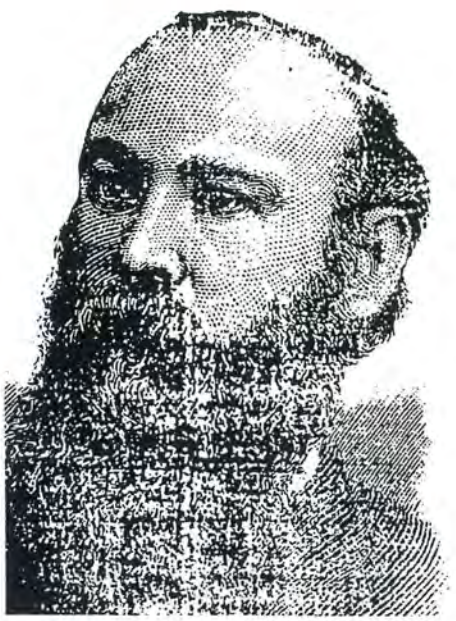


Langeloth in the 1920's.

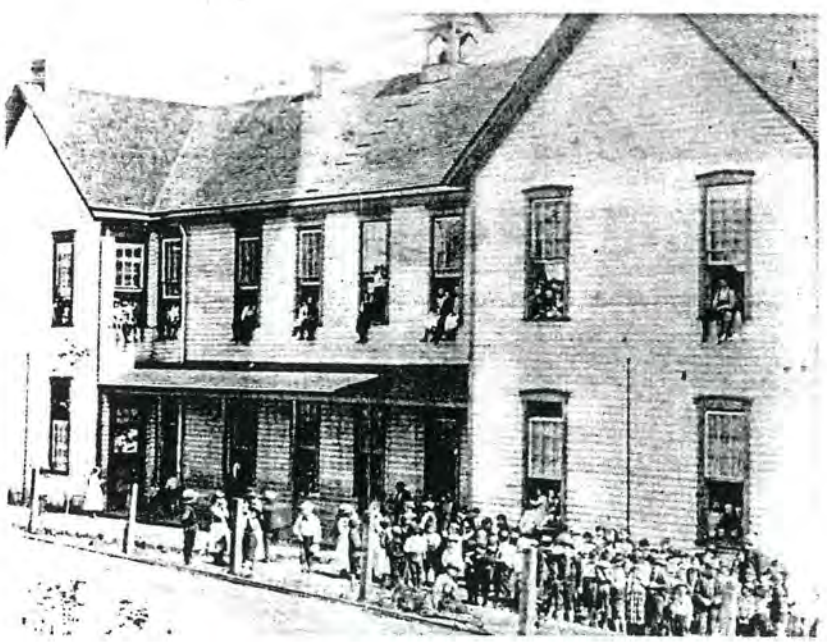




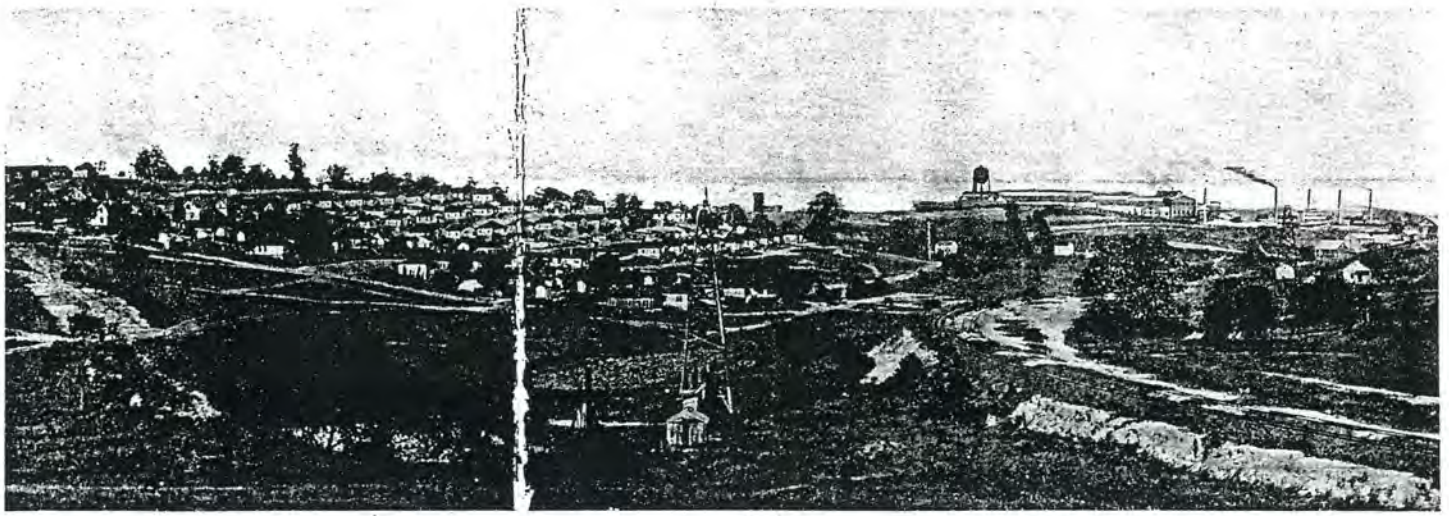
Patterson's Mill. 1795-1925

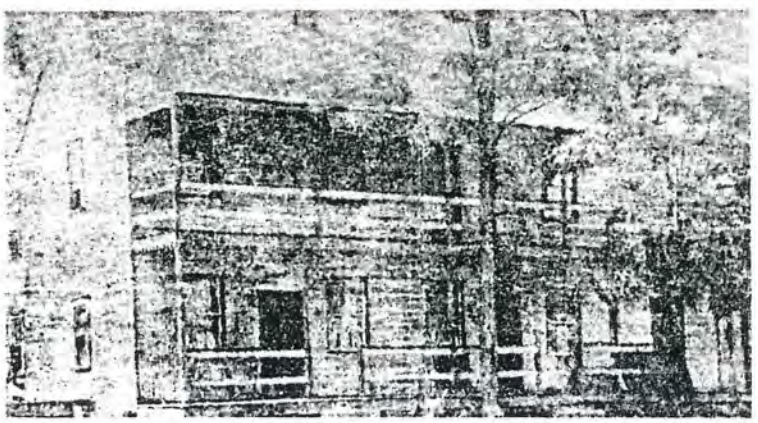


Martin Van Buren Baker as he appeared at his murder trials in 1887-1888.



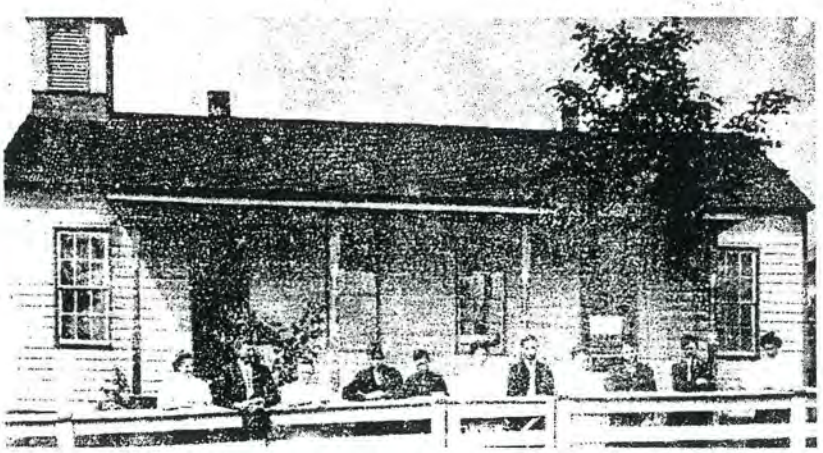
McDonald Public School. Early 1900's.



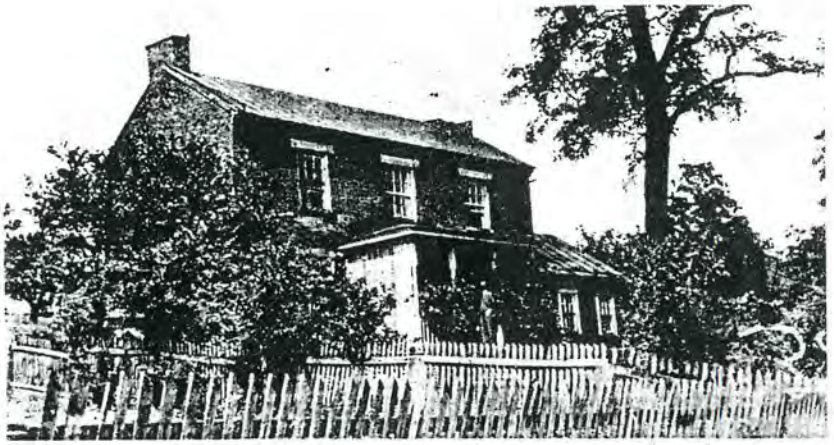


Scene of John Allingham's murder, Eldersville.

McConaughey's Pool Room and Ice Cream Parlor, Cherry Valley. 1915.



Cross Creek Academy Building. Erected 1858. Removed 1935.

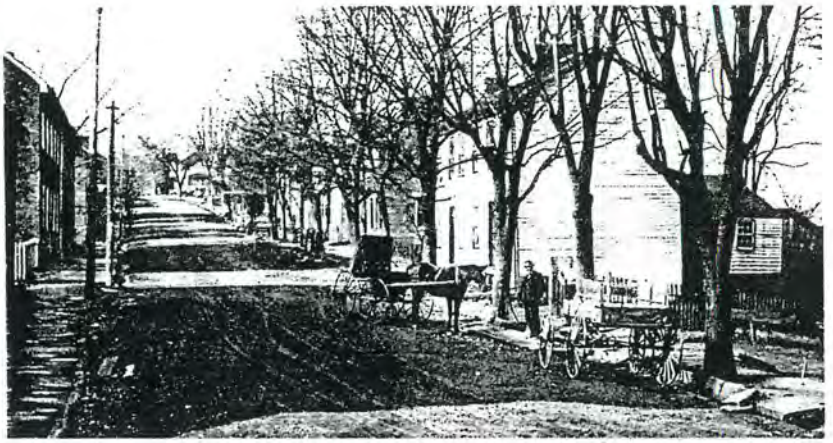


House in which Robert Dinsmore was murdered Dec. 4, 1886.

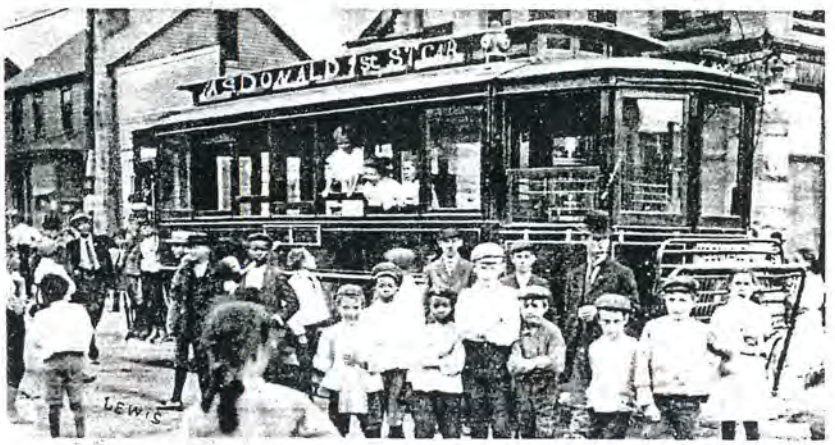
Cedar Grove. 1910.

Main Street, Independence. 1915.

Main Street, Avella. 1911.



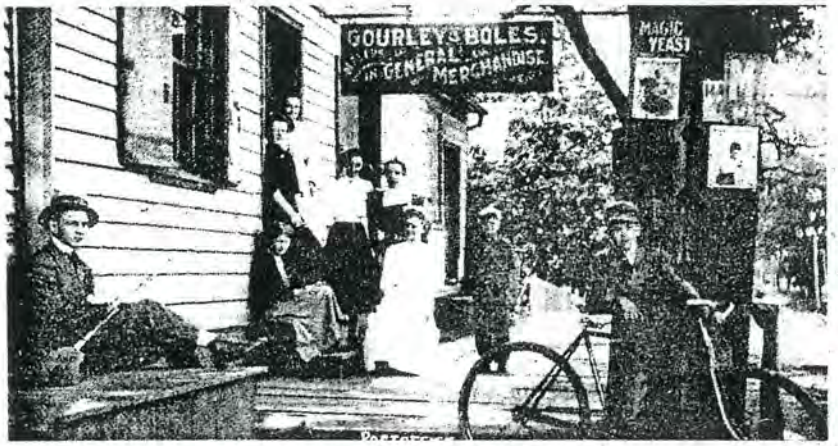
Main Street, West Middletown. 1910.



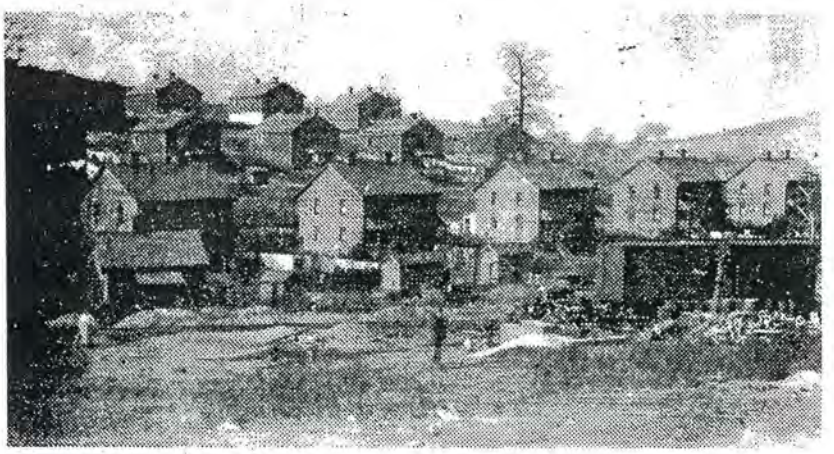
McDonald's first street car.

Parade, Main Street, Slovan. 1949.

Main Street, Burgettstown looking toward Pennsylvania Railroad. 1900.



General Store and post office, Eldersville. 1910.



Bulger 1900.

Atlasburg, 1915.

Main Street, Hickory. 1930.

slavery, and those from Virginia, at least many of them, were just starting out in life and could not afford slaves.

Among the very earliest of the white men to come into the present Jefferson Township area was Robert McCready who settled here on a tract of 332 acres which was patented to him as the Good-Will tract, or Robert's Fancy, on September 16, 1786. He had come to this region, probably about 1777, after having served his country for a time in the American Army in the War of the Revolution.

Robert McCready was an educated man, and after coming to this region, he taught school for a time as he had previously done in York County, Pennsylvania. His signature will be found on many old deeds and wills which he wrote for his neighbors, many of whom were illiterate. Mr. McCready and his family continued to occupy the site of their original settlement, and here after an eventful life of 94 years, his death occurred on August 10, 1846. His body and that of his wife, Ann Levins, lie in the old graveyard at Cross Creek.

The homestead farm of Robert McCready came into the possession of his son William who occupied it until his death which occurred on the day when Abraham Lincoln was first elected to the presidency of the United States. William McCready's son, Robert W. McCready, later living at Follansbee, West Virginia then owned this farm until it was sold to the Penowa Coal Company several years ago. The last members of the McCready family to occupy this old homestead were Mr. and Mrs. Lorin McCready, he being a great grandson of the original settler.

In spite of the comparatively rough terrain of the Jefferson Township area, it was rapidly settled by families, who like the McCreadys had come over the mountains of Pennsylvania and Virginia during the latter part of the eighteenth and the early years of the nineteenth centuries. They came into this region, staked their claims and started to clear away the forests which covered the land in such profusion. In those days, trees on land were much more of a liability than an asset, and in clearing their land and erecting their homes, the pioneers found it necessary to destroy much more timber than they used. The labor required to clear the land was enormous, and fire was used along with saw and ax in felling the trees and removing them from the land.

And so, in time, the fertile ridges and the narrow valleys of the present Jefferson Township were cleared and fine farms and comfortable homes were established, while many of the steeper slopes still remained heavily wooded. However, these also were gradually cleared off and on these hillsides lush bluegrass appeared to furnish excellent pasture lands for the farmers' herds and flocks. The last of these virgin forests, on a slope overlooking the valley of Harmon Creek between Hanlin Station and the West Virginia State Line, was cut off about 50 years ago. Thus at the present time very few trees of marketable size can be found in Jefferson Township. Nearly all of the timber here now consists of second growth trees which will require many years to reach a stature fit for the sawmill.

Thus, the early settlers of Jefferson Township were families who came here seeking to carve new homes out of the wilderness. Their subsistence consisted of what they could secure from the region round about their new wilderness homes. For meat, they had to depend at first upon the animals of the forest, and so they were, almost without exception, hunters who used their rifles in securing this portion of their daily food. If the pioneer could afford it, they brought with them a cow or cows for milk and soon they were bringing in also hogs, which seemed to thrive very well on the acorn diet of the forests. As soon as a small clearing could be made, the family would have its own corn field and a large truck patch which contributed in a very practical way to a more abundant living for the family, and in many cases for less fortunate neighbors.

The clearing of the forests and the establishing of the homes were attended by a hazard with which every settler was very familiar. Although the Indians who roamed these forests did not live here permanently, they did come into this region each summer on hunting expeditions, and since the wild life was abundant, the red men did not look with any favor upon the intrusion of the whites who were destroying their hunting grounds and establishing civilized homes. So, of necessity, each log cabin was in effect a family fortress and many were the pioneers who fought off the Indians in their repeated attacks.

In times of greatest danger, the white families sought safety in the frontier forts erected for that purpose. Although none of these forts seems to have been within the limits of Jefferson Township several were located nearby, with Vance's Fort a short distance north of Cross Creek Village, Well's Fort on a hillside near the

present town of Avella and another Well's Fort just over the line in West Virginia, and Dillo's Fort in the present Hanover Township. Whenever an alert was sounded through a neighborhood, the families quickly left their homes and went to the fort, until the danger apparently was over, and then gradually returned to their homes to resume their simple frontier life until the Indians again appeared. The uncertainty and danger of such an existence developed in these pioneers the qualities of individualism and self-dependence which enabled them to win out, not only over the wilderness, but also eventually over the red man and his cunning way of life.

One of the heroines of this pioneer type of life whose story illustrates at once the dangers of the times and also one means of overcoming them was Elizabeth Clark. Her story is as follows: One day in the spring of 1782, Elizabeth, then a young lady of 25 years, was left by herself, busy at the loom while her father, James Clark, Alex. Leeper and Samuel Leeper went to the adjoining Leeper farm to build some fence, and John Yeaman went to a garden about one and one-half miles away to get some parsnips for dinner. The latter, on his return, stopped at a spring on the farm now owned by Russell Orenchuck to get a drink and was resting on a log, when the Indians rushed upon him, killed and scalped him.

Soon thereafter the Indians came along to the cabin where Elizabeth Clark was weaving. Seeing them as they approached the cabin, she quickly climbed up into the loft of the loom shop and covered herself with flax tow. The Indians came into the cabin, took some meat from a pot boiling on the fire, cut some web off the loom, and then left. The frightened girl in the loft expected to be burned alive, but the Indians did not know that she was there, so left and for some reason did not fire the cabin as they frequently did in such cases.

When the men returned home from the Leeper farm ready for dinner, Elizabeth told them what had happened. Since John Yeaman had not returned, they went to look for him and found his body at the spring where he had been killed as described above. The same band of Indians had earlier on the same day attacked and killed Samuel Robison and William Parks on a farm a mile east of Eldersville, where they were preparing ground to plant potatoes. A son of Robison, Samuel Robison, Jr. had jumped on a horse and was able to reach a place of safety, but his father had missed the jump in attempting to get on his horse, and the Indians killed and scalped him.

These are stories typical of the conditions of danger under which our pioneer families were compelled to live. The year 1782 or early 1783 marked the close of these Indian expeditions to this region, and thereafter the pioneers were able to live in more peaceful surroundings.

Elizabeth Clark, in 1783, married John Gardner, Sr. and they went to housekeeping on the farm then known as Greathouse Castle about a mile west of the present village of Eldersville. Here they spent their lives. They are the ancestors of the Gardner family who have, since earliest times, been prominent in the life of Jefferson Township. John Gardner's death occurred on September 10, 1821 at the age of 64 years, but his wife, Elizabeth, survived him for 32 years and death came to her on October 1, 1853 at which time she was aged 95 years. Thus her lifespan in Jefferson Township covered a period of history from the time of the earliest settlements through the earliest years of the American Republic and more than half of the nineteenth century. She saw the town of Eldersville laid out in 1814, and she lived until after the township of Jefferson was set up in June, 1853.

In her later life, although blind for several years, she was very industrious and spent a great deal of her time in knitting and could shape a very nice stocking, always knowing when she would drop a stitch. The account of the life of this pioneer woman illustrates the physical and moral fiber of which our ancestors were made, and for any qualities which we may possess today, we are deeply indebted to our sturdy forebearers.

Industrial History

As previously indicated, early Jefferson Township was a farming area with most of the land being cleared and used in some manner to contribute to the economy of the family farm. These farms in early, and until fairly recent times, were occupied and cultivated by the early settlers and their descendants of the second and third generations. As the lumber industry became a profitable one, sawmills were established and the timber cut off and the lumber marketed or used in the construction of better homes or larger barns on the farms of the township. While several of the old homesteads have been abandoned and the buildings torn down or allowed to waste away, yet at the present time

many substantial farm homes do exist. Many of the old homes have been renovated, and Jefferson Township still holds an enviable position as a farming section.

Earlier, sheep were raised here, but the development of the coal industry brought in families who kept dogs which became a menace to the sheep, and this condition together with a lower price for wool and mutton caused a rapid decline in the sheep industry, which has been replaced by a greater emphasis on the raising of cattle of both the dairy and beef types. Before the days of the milk truck, dairymen of Jefferson Township hauled their milk to the railroad principally at Hanlin Station for shipment each morning to the Pittsburgh market. Now milk produced in Jefferson Township is hauled by truck each day to Pittsburgh and Weirton, West Virginia.

An industry related to agriculture in Jefferson Township which must not be overlooked is the growing of fruit. The high ridges in the vicinity of Eldersville furnish soil conditions and the air drainage which are vital to the successful growing of fruit. Commercial orchards have been maintained in this area by Edward Robertson northwest of Eldersville for some years by the Copeland Brothers in the orchards developed by the late "Doc" Boles northeast of town and by Van Nest Wiegmann whose orchards adjoin the village on its southeast corner. Apples, pears, peaches and cherries of high quality have been grown and marketed from these orchards.

One of the early settlers of southern Jefferson Township was George Miller, Sr. who came to this county from Donegal, Ireland about 1792. In 1795 he settled in Cross Creek, now Jefferson Township. He and his son, George, Jr. lived on, and their descendants still occupy, the same tract at the present time. In the days of Albert Miller, son of George Miller, Jr., this tract came to be known as Bancroft Farm and was developed into a farm for the breeding and training of standardbred horses, an industry carried on by Albert Miller until his death in 1929, then by his son Alden Miller until his untimely death following an accident in a race at the Burgettstown Fair in September 1936.

On June 27, 1893 Albert Miller conducted at Bancroft Farm a sale of 31 standardbred horses descriptions of which are contained in a sale catalog which is in the possession of the writer. Maj. L. H. Bean and father of Ravenna, Ohio were auctioneers. On his farm in 1890 Albert Miller had constructed a mile long track

for use in training his horses. The circular area within this track comprised a fertile knoll on which crops were regularly grown and on which corn could be planted in a single spiral row, terminating on the very top of the knoll.

Following the death of Albert Miller in 1929, dispersal sales of his stock of horses were held at the farm in 1930 and 1931. However this was not to terminate the interest of the Miller family in the racehorse industry. During Alden Miller's last years on the farm, his nephew, Delvin Miller was growing up there and his interest in racing had reached the place where he was driving in races and was rapidly developing into a first class driver and horseman.

Now Delvin Miller, owner of the Meadowlands Farm near Washington, Pennsylvania and co-owner of the Bancroft Farm, is known as one of the most successful trainers and drivers in the United States.

Back on Bancroft Farm Delvin's brother, Albert Miller lives with his wife, Rita in a new house constructed near the old home.

Since much of Jefferson Township is underlaid with a valuable vein of the Pittsburgh Coal, there has for many years past been a gradual, and at times, a rapid development in the mining industry. This vein of coal outcrops along the valleys of most of the streams which intersect the Jefferson Township area. This outcropping has made it easy to develop the coal beds by the slope mining method. In several points in the township since early times, coal banks were opened with short entries into the exposed vein, which with a small loading platform, made it comparatively easy for the local miner to go into business.

The same conditions made it easy later for mining to be developed on a larger scale. The earliest development of this type was that conducted by the Keystone Coal Company, which prior to 1882 bought a tract of coal of about 2,000 acres together with 50 acres of land in the vicinity of Hanlin Station where shipping facilities were available on the Panhandle Railroad which had been constructed through the northern end of Jefferson Township about the year 1865. From this mine operated at Hanlin Station coal was shipped on the railroad to a point on the Ohio River opposite Steubenville, Ohio where a tipple was used to load the coal on to river barges. After thus operating for ten or twelve years, this tipple

was wrecked when a string of loaded cars got out of control and running onto the tipple at a high speed, demolished it, this disaster resulting in putting the Keystone Coal Company out of business.

Early in the present century, interests controlled by John H. Jones of Pittsburgh opened two mines along the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad in the northeast corner of Jefferson Township near the Smith Township line. These mines, known as Jean and Bertha, were conducted by the Bertha Coal Company until about 1928 when operating difficulties caused the closing of the Jean Mine and the gradual abandonment of the Bertha Mine. While other companies have since endeavored to reopen these workings, none have been successful, and the large mining camp which once covered the hillside at these mines has ceased to exist.

During the period of World War I, the Superior Mining Company opened a mine in a deep valley just north of Eldersville. A mining camp, known locally as Shinntown, was built adjacent to Eldersville and at one time a large number of miners and their families were located here. A tipple was built some distance below the mouth of the mine, and a spur was run in to the tipple from the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Extensive operations were conducted here until the tipple was fired by an incendiary in 1929. So with the outlet for the coal being destroyed, operations at the mine ceased since no attempt was made to replace the tipple.

Upon the completion of the line of the Wabash Railroad through the valley of the stream of Cross Creek in 1904, the way was opened for development on a commercial scale of the coal beds in southern Jefferson Township. Accordingly two mines were opened in that region. The Penobscot Mine at Penowa was opened on the tract of land patented to Samuel Marshall as Penobscot and this mine was operated by the Avella Coal Company controlled by the Turney and Jamison interests of Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The mine of the Jefferson Coal Company was opened on the farms formerly belonging to the Buxton families about a mile above Penowa on Cross Creek.

Difficult conditions of the depression years of the 1930's caused the abandonment and dismantling of the Penobscot Mine and the gradual disappearance of the mining camp from whose families this mine drew its laborers. The Jefferson Mine continued to operate on a limited scale but its later operations were confined mostly to stripping and removal of shallow beds of coal in the Penowa area, and also to conducting a similar operation in Han-

over Township. The houses remaining in the camp of the Jefferson Coal Company, have been sold to the families who continue to occupy them.

A more recent coal development in Jefferson Township was that of the Penowa Coal Company controlled by Leonard Sasso. This firm leased a large acreage of coal lands in the southwestern corner of the township from the Island Creek Coal Company, and developed them with a tipple located on the west branch of Scott's Run about four miles southwest of Eldersville. The shipping outlet was a branch line of the former Pittsburgh and West Virginia Railroad, built up to this tipple from Scott's Run, West Virginia.

An attempt had been made during World War I by John A. Bell to develop this tract, but after building the branch line of the railroad at great cost, a ban was imposed on opening the mine, so there was no coal shipped over this branch until later years when the development was undertaken by the Penowa Coal Company. This operation continued into the late 1950's.

Now extensive stripping for coal in Jefferson Township is being carried on by the Bologna Coal Company whose offices are in Burgettstown. Its work at present is closely adjacent to the village of Eldersville, to the north and northwest. The Penn-Weir Coal Company controlled by the Stravaggi interests is also engaged in similar coal operations in the township.

With the decline of deep mining in the township, it became necessary for the men formerly employed as miners to seek other employment. This has been found in nearby areas such as in the plant of the American Zinc and Chemical Company, until its closing several years ago; in the Climax Molybdenum Company currently operating at Langeloth; in the great mills of the Weirton Steel Company, and in other industries in the Ohio Valley near Steubenville, Ohio and Follansbee, West Virginia. Many workers in these industries have built homes along the good roads which traverse Jefferson Township in and around Eldersville.

In speaking of the mining industry here, it must not be overlooked that Jefferson Township has considerable importance in connection with the natural gas industry. Numerous wells have been drilled in the area and while they have not been heavy producers, yet gas in paying quantities has been found. Several years ago, the Manufacturers Light and Heat Company established a pump

station on land purchased from Thomas A. Pettibon and from this plant and the lines of the company which meet here, great quantities of this valuable fuel are pumped into these old gas wells and stored underground until needed in times of heavy demand. This plan has enabled the gas companies to increase their service to customers, both domestic and industrial. In addition to the above named firm, the Peoples Gas Company also has lines in this area.

Religious History

Since many of the early settlers of the Jefferson Township area were religious people, it is natural to expect that an early interest in the establishment of schools and churches would have developed. Among families of this type were Robert McCready, already mentioned, and some of his neighbors, John Morrison, William McCandless and Samuel Strain, who began holding religious services in their homes where they were joined with other neighbors. These meetings led to the organization of the Irish Ridge Society, which in 1779 joined with a similar society from the region of Vance's Fort in founding the Presbyterian Church at Cross Creek Village. In this church, Robert McCready and John Morrison both served as ruling elders, and many families from the Jefferson Township area became affiliated with it as members. The interest in Presbyterianism on the part of these early settlers reveals the Scotch-Irish backgrounds which most of them possessed.

In the early 1800's many people began coming into this locality either directly from Ireland or as Irish immigrants who had spent short periods of time east of the mountains and who later came to western Pennsylvania. One of these was a man known in those days as Big Charley Scott who at an early date came and settled on Scott's Run near where that stream flows across the present West Virginia state line. Here he seems to have established a mill. He appears to have been a lay preacher in the Methodist Church, and to his place came many of his friends seeking to establish homes in this western wilderness. Most were able to locate on good land near his own settlement. Since these people were very largely of the Methodist persuasion, it soon resulted in the establishment at Bethel in about the year 1813 of a Methodist Society, which was able in 1814 to erect a house of worship. This was a small frame building which stood on the hilltop still known as Bethel near the center of Jefferson Township. This station was made a part of the Ohio

Circuit and was served by ministers who preached also in turn in the other churches belonging to the same group.

During the 1820's, a dissension arose in the Methodist Episcopal Church over the question of reform in church government. This controversy seems to have reached its height in an action taken by the General Council at Pittsburgh in 1828, which appeared on the part of the "reformers" to render secession from the M. E. Church a necessity. Accordingly, in 1829 almost the entire Bethel Society withdrew from the older church and organized under what was called at the time, the Associate Methodist Church later to become the Methodist Protestant Church.

Here at Bethel, then, were two churches, the older M. E. organization, or what was left of it, and the newly formed church, and for about three years the two groups held services in the same church building, the one erected in 1813. Difficulties over this arrangement soon arose, however, and in 1832 the newer organization decided to erect its own house of worship which was done that summer. This was a stone building, larger and more commodious than the older one. Called "New Bethel" this building was dedicated on September 9, 1832 and following the dedication a period of great revival is said to have spread among the people of the society and throughout the whole neighborhood. From this new society at Bethel and the one formed at Eldersville in the same year have come the two churches at these places, known for years as the Bethel and Eldersville Methodist Protestant Churches, and since the reunion of the Methodist bodies some years ago, and later mergers affecting these churches, they have come to be known as United Methodist churches. The Eldersville Church is still a very active organization, but the Bethel Church has been closed except for occasional services held there.

The early history of Methodism in the Jefferson Township area is well written up in the excellent book by Rev. John Scott, D.D. which is entitled: Recollections of Fifty Years in the Ministry. The present writer is indebted to this book for valuable information, not only on this local church history, but also for its value in tracing the movements within the Methodist Church at large, with which its author was so familiar. The book is also a valuable source on the history of the Scott family, who had numerous descendants in the neighborhood where the Rev. Mr. Scott himself was raised and dedicated to the ministry. Among the Scotts was another Charles Scott, "Charley on the Hill", so called to distinguish

him from Big Charley Scott, "Charley at the Mill", both men being prominent and active in affairs of the community.

As previously pointed out, a number of the families of Jefferson Township were from early times affiliated with the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church. Among these was George Miller of the Miller family already mentioned, believed to have some connection with the movement for the setting up of Jefferson Township separately from Cross Creek Township. The desire of George Miller and some of his Presbyterian neighbors was to have a church located nearer their homes. Accordingly, about 1849, Mr. Miller, John Leeper, Enoch Hays and John Barber with a number of their neighbors organized the Pine Grove Presbyterian Church and built a house of worship on a rise of ground just above Scott's Run and near the old mill known for many years as Miller's Mill or Kidd's Mill. This congregation seems never to have been very large, the membership being listed at times as around 15, but services were held here regularly for several years and the ministers who served the congregation are given as the Reverends David Hervey, James Fleming, Joseph Pomeroy and W. I. Brugh, D.D. Later interest in this church declined and the organization finding it difficult to meet expenses, disbanded and the building was torn down.

In 1844 a number of members of the Methodist Protestant Church in the Eldersville area seceded from the church and formed themselves into a society of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. A frame church was erected at the corner of Church and High Streets in Eldersville, and services were held here regularly for a number of years. The group was composed of a number of families who were sympathetic to the abolitionist movement, the issues of which were of considerable consequence in the years preceding and immediately following the Civil War. The building used by the Wesleyan Methodist Society is still standing and is used at present as a private dwelling.

In addition to the churches mentioned within the limits of Jefferson Township and at Cross Creek, families of Jefferson Township attend religious services at St. John's Episcopal Church and the Cross Creek U. P. (Tent) Church in Brooke County, West Virginia as well as churches, both Protestant and Catholic at Follansbee, West Virginia, Burgettstown and Avella, Pennsylvania.

Educational History

Interest in education developed in the Jefferson Township area at an early date along with religious movements. As was the custom in early pioneer communities, sporadic attempts to establish schools during the early years were made, and schools were held in private homes or in log buildings erected for the purpose. These schools were the forerunners of the district schools established in various parts of the township after the passage of the School Law in 1834. The first buildings erected after this law became effective were at Eldersville and in the Melvin District. Following these at dates now unknown, schools were established in the following additional districts: Cole, Miller, Gardner, Lee and at Hanlin Station. Classes including the eight grades of the elementary school were conducted in these districts regularly until the gradual building of good roads made possible the start of the consolidation movement, which began with the closing of the Melvin and Gardner Schools in 1922 and the transportation of pupils from these districts to the Eldersville School. By 1930 this consolidation was completed with the closing of Cole School and with the pupils of this area being transferred to Eldersville.

The school at Eldersville was originally a one-room building, but the growth in population in the immediate vicinity of Eldersville incidental to the opening there of the mine of the Superior Mining Company made necessary the enlarging of the school building to a three room plant. This building was used as a primary building housing the first three grades of the Eldersville School after the erection of the brick building on Washington Street in Eldersville in 1930. These two buildings comprised the Jefferson Township Consolidated School and were both in use until a decline in school population made possible the transfer of all pupils to the brick building in September 1944.

During the height of the coal mining industry in the township, schools were maintained at Bertha Mine in the northeastern part of the township and at Turney in the southern part of the district until the gradual closing of the mines made schools at these points no longer necessary. The few remaining children in these areas were transferred to other schools.

An educational effort for which Eldersville was well known for many years was the Summer Normal School conducted at this

place during the closing years of the last and the first several years of the present century. Its function was the preparation of prospective teachers for the examinations for teachers' certificates, and it was largely attended each summer term. This school was first conducted during the summer of 1881 and 1882 by Samuel Amspoker, then a recent graduate of W. and J. College, and later to become a prominent member of the Washington County Bar. Then after a lapse of three years, the effort was revived in 1886 when Prof. R. P. Stevenson of Burgettstown took up the work and continued it until 1904. Persons who assisted Prof. Stevenson in this teaching were: Everett Noah, W. H. Martin, A. G. McCracken, N. R. Criss, William Melvin, Rev. J. C. Carpenter, Rev. John Sutherland, Lillian Murchland, and Mabel Reed.

In 1905 Prof. Elza Scott, a native of Jefferson Township and a prominent educator in this and adjoining areas, assumed the leadership of the normal school and with the assistance of J. F. Grubbs and C. R. Bane continued to operate the school each summer until it was closed about 1915. This school was instrumental in training many teachers of northern Washington County, and its roster contains the names of many now deceased and others now retired, from the teaching profession.

In 1909 there was held at Eldersville a celebration commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the passage of the Public School Act of 1834. This gathering was attended by many persons, then and formerly residents of Jefferson Township, who had attended school at Eldersville. Honored guests at this celebration were Miss Margaret Jane Moore, teacher in 1855-56 and W. W. Knight, teacher here in 1857-58, both being advanced in years but very alert and active in spite of their age.

Again in 1910 another educational anniversary was held at Eldersville when the students and teachers of Eldersville Normal School met in a reunion celebration. Samuel Amspoker, founder of the school, shared honors on this occasion with the other instructors of this well-known and well-loved institution. Newspaper articles published following these reunions of 1909 and 1910 give complete accounts of both celebrations.

Eldersville

This thriving village of Jefferson Township was laid out by

Thomas Ward in 1814 and in honor of its founder was called Wardsville during the first few years of its existence. A tavern was kept here by Thomas Elder who bought two acres of land from Ward, and through Elder, the town soon became Eldersville, by which it is still known. Here are located the elementary school, the Jefferson Grange and the Cynosure Lodge I.O.O.F. A polling place has been maintained here since 1854 when the first election was held in a building formerly used as a church and owned by Hugh Patterson. The Eldersville Methodist Church has been an active society since its organization in 1829.

The Map of Eldersville in the 1876 Atlas of Washington County shows the following among the property owners in Eldersville at that time: G. Allingham, J. and H. Cooper, and R. C. Osburn Merchants: Cornelius Boles, blacksmith and William Cosgrove, postmaster.

Cornelius Boles, Sr. and Jr. and Robert Boles, son of C. Boles, Jr. conducted the blacksmith trade in Eldersville for three generations. In addition, Robert Boles was instrumental in organizing the Eldersville Brass Band in 1879. This capable musical organization's minutes are carefully recorded in a book from 1879 to August 17, 1886. This book was in the possession of Robert Boles' daughter, Mrs. William Sanders of Eldersville. Mrs. Sanders had also the agreement signed by C. Boles, Sr. to serve as blacksmith apprentice when he first joined the trade in 1819 at Cross Creek Village.

Kidd's Mill

Among the wild, secluded spots of Jefferson Township of the present day, none is more secluded or more wild and beautiful than the site of the old grist and sawmill known for years as Kidd's Mill. The location is near the junction of the two branches of Scott's Run in southwestern Jefferson Township and near the West Virginia line. Near here once could have been seen a declivity known as Hiskus Jump, the story of which comes to us from pioneer times that a man by the name of Hiskus was being closely pressed in a chase by Indians. When the red men were so close to him that he felt that capture was certain, he decided that he would rather leap over the cliff and risk death in that manner than to be captured by the Indians. He made his escape

by jumping over the cliff, which he did safely, and then concealed himself in a small cave which he found in a large rock on the other side of the creek.

When one visits the spot today, it is difficult to imagine that here at one time was a center of much activity. All that one sees today is Scott's Run flowing rather swiftly at this point, through a steep-walled valley whose sides on an early spring day are covered with white-flowered trillium and other wild flowers in abundance, and overhanging from the steep banks of the stream are many pine trees. The only sign of human progress in evidence is a very idle railroad trestle spanning the creek and a little farther upstream the ruins of the old mill. While this was once a flourishing crossroads community, today one sees only the scars of the roads which once converged here, there being no road on which one might use a wheeled vehicle within a half mile or more of the old millsite.

A mill was first established at this point by Charles Scott, an Irishman who was an early settler here. The mill was maintained by Charles Scott and his son who sold the tract to Samuel Cresswell who in turn built a larger mill in 1852 and conducted its operation until he sold it in 1855 to Thomas Weaver who appears to have continued as owner and operator until 1865. Then he deeded the property to David A. Benjamin who was trustee for an eastern syndicate which drilled a well to a depth of 800 feet. But this proving unsuccessful, the mill property was sold on March 30, 1868 to Nathaniel Gillespie who, with his son, James, conducted the mill until March 1, 1878 when it was transferred to G. Chalmers Miller. At this time the mill was known as the Pine Grove Grist and Sawmill, the name Pine Grove belonging also to the Presbyterian Church which stood on the hillside just a short distance from the mill.

In 1885, Chalmers Miller deeded the mill property to Eliza Kidd, and thenceforth the mill was known as Kidd's Mill. Eliza Jane Stewart Kidd was a daughter of Robert Stewart of Jefferson Township. She was married prior to 1850 to David Kidd, a native of Ireland. After their marriage this couple moved to Guernsey County, Ohio where Mr. Kidd's death occurred in 1868. The widow and her six children returned to Jefferson Township, and she soon undertook, with the help of her fifteen year old son, Robert, the purchase of a farm of 108 acres near Eldersville. In addition to purchasing the farm at Eldersville, the Kidd family purchased the mill as above stated, and Robert Kidd managed the operation of the mill during the rest of its period of existence.

In its early days this was a watermill, but steam was eventually introduced. Some time after the introduction of the use of steam, a terrible tragedy occurred at the mill August 8, 1882 when the boiler exploded, tearing a gaping hole in the side of the mill as it blew up; then flying out through the air, it struck the steep bank across the creek and then rolled back to the level ground. In this accident, the miller, Tom Bavington, was killed and his helper, James Phillips, was critically injured and died soon afterwards. Elza Scott, then a small boy, was out with his mother picking berries nearby on that fateful day. Suddenly, a horseman appeared riding up the Run Road toward Eldersville. This man, John H. Murchland, saw the Scotts and called out, "The mill's blown up and killed Tom Bavington" and then rode on furiously to Eldersville to secure medical help from the village physician, Dr. J. F. McCarrell. Elza Scott and his mother rushed home, and the boy was dispatched to the homes of neighbors to tell them of the tragedy.

Kidd's Mill continued to operate until shortly after the turn of the century when it was closed down. At this place, Mrs. Agnes Murchland, sister of Robert Kidd, served as postmistress at the Bancroft Post Office and also, for a period of ten or twelve years, conducted a summer resort hotel for working girls from Pittsburgh who came here for vacations of two weeks. The post office was discontinued upon the installation of the rural free delivery of mail.

HISTORIC PLACES IN HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

When the Borough of West Middletown was observing its sesquicentennial anniversary in July 1973, some attention was given also to historic places in the area of Hopewell Township which surrounds West Middletown. During the celebration and just after it was over, some 225 persons took the bus tours on which these places of historic interest were visited. Narrators on the trip were: Mary S. McGaughey, Grace M. Miller, Dorotha M. Wilson, Homer R. Ross and A. D. White.

Hopewell Township was one of the thirteen original townships which were included in the organization of Washington County on July 15, 1781. The territory it included embraced the present township of Hopewell as well as the present townships of Cross Creek and Jefferson which were taken from the parent township on March 3, 1789, and of Mt. Pleasant Township which was set up on May 12, 1806. Then, too, the present Independence Township was created a separate municipality in February, 1856.

Early settlers within the present limits of Hopewell Township included William Smiley, Robert Caldwell, the Rev. Joseph Smith, David Boyd and others who came to the area a bit later than these earliest settlers.

The tour of Hopewell Township began and ended at West Middletown to accommodate those attending the anniversary, but the points visited were all outside the borough limits. The first stop was at the Hopewell Township Memorial Park, which is located along Route 844, one mile east of West Middletown. This park created by the citizens of the township in 1949 and 1950, was designed as a memorial to the men who served in the armed forces of the United States during World War II. (The memorial park and marker in West Middletown honor the memory of the men in all previous wars.) When a complete roster of these men was compiled, it was found to contain 99 names, and these are inscribed on a bronze tablet attached to a native sandstone, suitably located in the center of the park. This substantial list of names, together with the lists on the memorial in the West Middletown Park, bears a lasting testimonial to the

patriotism of the men of Hopewell Township and of West Middletown Borough. Of the 99 names on this roll of honor, three of them are preceded by the gold star, which indicated that Frank Krajacic, Teddy Bredniak and Lloyd Denning made the supreme sacrifice as they gave their lives in the service of their country. This Memorial Park is suitably maintained by the supervisors of Hopewell Township.

Another point of interest in the immediate vicinity of this park was the home of Old Naylor. He was a free black man of Wheeling, West Virginia who, while a resident of that city, during the days of the fugitive slave migrations to Canada, gave unremitting aid to the fugitives who came to Wheeling on the so-called "underground railway". Working secretly, he would receive the fugitives as they came into the Wheeling area, and, just as secretly, he would speed them on their way to the next "station". The old man was suspected of these clandestine activities, but he was never caught. When approached and questioned on his participation in this movement, he always feigned drunkenness so realistically that he was never able to supply any information, and the enforcement agents invariably gave up in questioning this suspect.

After rendering this service to these people of his own race, Old Naylor came to West Middletown in his declining years, to live among friends and in a community which had always been sympathetic toward these unfortunate people. But there was really no place for Old Naylor to live so the people of the community donated materials, labor and the space for building a house, and soon the building had been completed. When it was shown to Old Naylor, he was surprised, but pleased, and his remark was, "Well, who'd have thought it? Old Naylor has a home at last!" The location of the Naylor home is shown on Barker's Map of Washington County, dated 1856 as being on a side road just a few rods east of the Hopewell Township Memorial Park. The house is no longer there.

In the days of the old one-room district schools, Hopewell Township had six of these schools. The route of the tour of historic places passed near the sites of five of these. On the hill just above the Memorial Park stands the building which housed the former Pleasant Grove School, known locally as the "Tarrtown School." It received this nickname from the small group of dwellings which once surrounded the school, and which was called Tarrtown after Thomas Tarr who lived in one of the nearby homes. This school was closed in 1920.

The second school passed on the tour is the former Templeton School, named for the Aaron Templeton family who once owned the farm from which the ground for the school was taken. Like the Pleasant Grove School, the Templeton School has been converted into a residence, and it is now the home of Mrs. John Elias. This school, too, was closed in 1920, when the Buffalo Elementary School was opened to the pupils of this district. As will appear later, it was on the Aaron Templeton farm where was located the preaching "station" where Alexander Campbell preached his first sermon.

The Farrar School which was passed as the tour groups drove into the site of the first Brush Run Christian Church was so located as to serve the children of families living in the southwestern corner of the township. The building is still standing, but is used now only for farm storage purposes. It was closed at the end of the 1936-37 school term, when the roads in this district for the first time permitted transporting the children to the consolidated school at Buffalo Village. Mrs. Mary Scott McGaughey, one of the tour guides, was the last teacher at the Farrar School. The school was named for the Andrew Farrar family who lived on a farm a short distance south of the location of this school.

The tour did not pass the site of the Maple Grove School which was located on the former W. G. Maxwell farm one mile east of Buffalo Village along present Route 844. This school was closed in 1920 and the building has been torn down.

Serving the rural families in the northeastern part of the township was the Oak Ridge School. This building stood on land once belonging to one of the Maxwell farms in that district. The school was closed in 1920 and the building torn down soon thereafter. The site is now occupied by a modern home.

The last of the school sites visited on this tour was that of the White School, located about a mile southwest of West Middletown. Known locally as "Possum Hollow School," it was used regularly by the township until 1932. It had further use in the term of 1940-41, after the two-room school in West Middletown burned down. Mrs. Dessie Jones taught the pupils from the borough in this building for this one school term. Also, in the terms of 1960-61 and 1961-62, the building was used by the Avella School District, when Mrs. Dorotha Wilson taught a single grade here. Since that time, the school has been closed permanently and it was the last one-room building in Washington County to be used for school purposes. The

original building for this school stood, in 1876, just outside the borough line of West Middletown, and sometime later the new building was erected one-half mile to the south. The original building, still standing, has been converted into a beautiful home by Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Patterson who now occupy it.

West Middletown Borough was served by a township school until 1856, when it became a separate school district and had its own school until the building burned, as before stated, near the end of the school term 1939-40. Mrs. Ruth Dunkle and Mrs. Dessie Jones conducted the last term of school in that building.

Antedating most, if not all efforts in education in this area was the school opened in his study near Buffalo Village by the Rev. Joseph Smith, first pastor of the Upper Buffalo Presbyterian Church. This was in about the year 1785, and the school was claimed to have been "the first school opened with exclusive reference to training young men for the ministry." It was conducted successfully for several years until the failing health of Mr. Smith compelled its abandonment. Then most of the students in attendance transferred to the Log Cabin School of Dr. John McMillan near Canonsburg. Among the early students were Joseph Patterson, James McGready, Samuel Porter, James Hughes, John Brice and others, most of whom became noted preachers in that early day.

Hopewell Township had a notable part, also, in the field of public secondary education. In 1844, the Hon. Abram Wotring, ever a friend of liberal education, converted a building which formerly housed his horse mill into an academy building, and thus was started a school which its principal, W. A. McKee called the Franklin High School, but it was usually referred to as the "Horse Mill Academy". Although it existed for only a few years, this school is said to have done a very good job of instruction. In 1853, another school, known as Upper Buffalo Academy, was founded in Buffalo Village by Dr. John Eagleson, then pastor of the Upper Buffalo Church. It was managed by a board of trustees and was conducted in a building in the village built especially for that purpose. During the fifteen years this building was in operation, it was instrumental in preparing for schools of higher education many of the young men of the neighborhood.

West Middletown, too, had its Union Grove Academy, begun about the year 1828 and conducted for some years with considerable success and benefit to the young men of the community.

We shall speak of Pleasant Hill Seminary, a school for girls, later in this article.

The Hopewell Township Public High School began operations in 1913 and continued until 1927, when the building was converted to the use of the elementary school, for which purpose it was used until the summer of 1977, when it was struck by lightning and it has not been reopened.

As the people of Hopewell Township have always taken an active interest in the education of their young people, so have they ever been interested in the religious and spiritual welfare of their people as has been shown in their taking active parts in the religious movements and institutions within the borders of the township, in West Middletown Borough and in other adjoining communities. Since the tour of historical sites included the scenes of these religious activities, we shall trace briefly the course of these movements.

Since many of the early settlers of the area were of Scotch-Irish extraction, it goes without saying that the organization of a Presbyterian Church would follow the early migrations of these people here. Many of these early families came during the decade of the 1770's, and most land patents are dated in the 1780's, many of them, incidentally on Virginia certificates. So, by the close of the second decade, the township had been pretty well settled.

In the absence of settled ministers, it could be assumed that religious services among these people were few in number and informal in character. In the Cross Creek Country, two societies had been formed to foster the religious life of the people, and meetings for religious worship were held in the homes of the area. That, no doubt, was the custom also in the Hopewell area. But organized religion here dates actually from June 21, 1779 when the people from the vicinity of Cross Creek and those from Buffalo met halfway between the two communities and made out a call for the ministerial services of the Rev. Joseph Smith. Mr. Smith of York County had been here earlier that year and had preached in the two communities, so when the call was presented to him in October, he accepted it and moved here later that year or early in 1780. He served in the joint pastorate of the Cross Creek and Upper Buffalo churches from that time until his untimely death in April, 1792 when he was only 56 years of age. His grave in the Buffalo Graveyard was visited on this historical tour.

Two of the chief sponsors of the call and the ministry of the Rev. Joseph Smith were his friends and ruling elders, William Smiley in the Upper Buffalo Church and Mr. Smiley's brother-in-law, Judge James Edgar in the Cross Creek Church. These men were instrumental in bringing Mr. Smith here from York County, the home county of all of them, and they were his faithful supporters in his years in the ministry here. When financial troubles afflicted the two infant congregations in 1787, it was Elder William Smiley who volunteered to take the boatload of flour to New Orleans to secure money to pay the arrears in their pastor's salary. Death came to William Smiley in 1813, and his dust reposes in Buffalo Graveyard, only a few steps away from the tomb of his beloved pastor.

Another historic grave here is that of William Smiley, Jr. whose body rests almost by the side of his noted father. In 1808, at a barn raising on the farm of the Rev. John Anderson, second pastor of the Upper Buffalo Church, it was reported that the men working there had consumed too much whiskey, and, as a result, in raising into place a heavy timber, it got away from them, fell, and crushed Mr. Smiley, who was killed instantly. This accident caused the Rev. Mr. Anderson to condemn the use of whiskey on such occasions, and ever thereafter, he espoused the cause of temperance.

The graves of the Rev. John Anderson, his wife, and of the Rev. Dr. John Eagleson, third pastor, his wife and family, are also found in this old graveyard. The fourth pastor, the Rev. J. D. Walkinshaw is also buried here, but his grave is not marked. Other historic graves in the old yard at Buffalo include those of members of many first families of the area: the Caldwells, Taggarts, Reeds, Hamiltons, Dinsmores, Vincents, Andersons, Donaldsons, Hunters and many others among those who have lived in the area for many generations.

Early Seceder families of Hopewell Township found places of worship at the North Buffalo Church in adjoining Buffalo Township to the south, and at the Mt. Hope Church in the western part of Hopewell (now Independence) Township to the west. Those who belonged to the Union (A.R.P.) Church, of course, attended the Grove Church in West Middletown.

We will now tell of the Christian Church, or Disciples of Christ, whose early beginnings are so closely tied with the history of Hopewell Township.

Thomas Campbell, a Seceder minister from northern Ireland, came to Washington, Pennsylvania in the year 1807. Due to a scarcity of ministers in that early day, he was, at first, welcomed by the members of Chartiers Presbytery, the local ecclesiastical body of that denomination. In his preaching to a number of local congregations, however, Rev. Campbell soon incurred the displeasure of his ministerial brethren by preaching a doctrine of salvation for all men, and, on the occasion of a communion service of inviting to the Lord's table members of other Presbyterian bodies of the area. He was censured for this by the presbytery, but, being certain that he was right, he followed his own course and was finally forbidden to minister in any Seceder congregation.

In 1809, Thomas Campbell was joined here by his wife and family, including his oldest son, Alexander Campbell, who during his formative years had reached some of the conclusions on religious matters which his father also had reached. Thomas Campbell was then engaged in preaching to small groups of people wherever he could get an audience. By that time, the elder Campbell had committed to writing his ideas on religious matters which were contained in what he chose to call the "Declaration and Address". In reading this document soon after he arrived in America, Alexander Campbell found himself virtually in complete agreement with his father's ideas.

On July 15, 1810, Alexander Campbell preached his first sermon on the Templeton Farm in Hopewell Township using as his theme: "A House Built upon a Rock" from Matthew 7:24-27. By this time the Campbells had organized their small group of followers into a "Christian Association" and instead of preaching stations at the various farm homes, they had decided to build a house of worship on the Gilchrist Farm in the valley of Brush Run in southern Hopewell Township. Alexander Campbell's first sermon at the site of this church was on September 16, 1810 when he spoke from Job 8:7 "Though thy beginnings were small, thy latter end shall increase." The new church building was dedicated on May 4, 1811 and on the following day, the Sabbath, a communion service was held in the building. Alexander Campbell's first sermon in the new church was delivered on June 16, 1811.

The first baptisms for members of the new congregation were held in a pool in Brush Run, in the valley below the church on July 4, 1811 when about 30 persons, all members of the new church, received the sacrament at the hands of Thomas Campbell. On the

first day of January, 1812, Alexander Campbell was ordained to the ministry, and this service of ordination was performed by the elder Campbell.

At the birth of his first child on March 12, 1812 (Alexander Campbell had been married to Margaret Brown just one year earlier) he began to question in his mind the proper method of baptism. After much study of the Scriptures on the matter, he decided that the rite was only for professed believers, and he thus ruled out the baptism of infants. And he concluded, also, that immersion was the proper method of baptism. Accordingly, on June 12, 1812, with a Baptist minister, Elder Matthias Luce performing the rite, the church members and others gathered again at the pool on Brush Run when seven persons including Thomas Campbell and his wife, Alexander Campbell and his wife and three other persons were immersed. Four days later, on June 16, 13 other persons received baptism at the same place.

Although the Brush Run Church was independent, from this association with the Baptists and the practice of immersion, a loose connection with the Baptist denomination existed for the next fifteen or sixteen years. The Campbells preached in Baptist churches, and meetings were held to try to reconcile differences in matters of opinions and practices between the Campbells and the Baptist Associations. Alexander Campbell tried to reform the Baptists, much as his father earlier had tried to reform the Seceders. But by 1829 or 1830, efforts for complete agreement had failed, and the two groups were at or near the parting of the ways.

Concurrently with the movement taking place here in the Brush Run Valley with the Campbells as the chief leaders was a similar movement in Kentucky where Barton W. Stone was the chief proponent. Walter Scott of Pittsburgh, an itinerant preacher was heading a similar activity among members of the Mahoning Baptist Association in northeastern Ohio. When these men finally discovered that they had very little in common with the Baptists except their belief in the practice of immersion in baptism, and they had so much in common with each other, they joined forces and as a result the new association was born. (They didn't like to call it a new denomination.)

"Though thy beginnings were small, thy latter end shall greatly increase". These words and the sermon by Alexander Campbell seemed to have been prophetic for this new movement which has increased from the 30 or so members of the old Brush

Run Church in 1811 to the nearly four million members in the three branches: The Disciples of Christ, the Christian Church and the Church of Christ as they exist today.

The site of the Brush Run Church, on a high hill surrounded by woods and one-half mile from the public road was visited by the tour groups. On the site stands a granite marker with the inscription: "Site of the Brush Run Church - Dedicated on May 4, 1811." The site of the baptismal pool on Brush Run also was visited. Both properties are under the control of Bethany College, are fenced in with notched rail fences and are maintained by the College. Both sites are open to visitors.

The newest church organization in Hopewell Township is the Grace Bible Church located adjacent to the Memorial Park on Route 844. The Rev. Richard Meloy, a native of Hopewell Township, has been serving this church as pastor, but he has recently resigned to take charge of a congregation in Florida.

The George T. Work Farm

This farm on Brush Run was the home of a noted soldier of the Ringgold Battalion of Civil War fame. Mr. Work, born and raised on the family farm near Buffalo Village, enlisted in the Union Army in 1861 and was engaged in the Battle of Drainesville and other early battles, holding the rank of captain of a company of cavalry. Early in 1862, Mr. Work suffered an attack of malarial fever and was discharged from the service on a medical certificate.

On his way to the home community, he visited Governor Curtin in Harrisburg and received his permission to recruit two companies of cavalry for the federal service. These companies were enrolled and taken into the service that fall. They were joined to the Ringgold Battalion in which Mr. Work served throughout the war and in which he attained the rank of major. At the close of the war, he returned to the home township and purchased this farm on Brush Run where he conducted the farm and a grist mill until 1876, when he was elected sheriff of Washington County, serving in that office for three years. He then lived in retirement on this farm until his death. His brother, Samuel C. Work saw service also in the Ringgold Battalion, in which he was a non-commissioned officer in one of the companies. The Work farm on Brush Run is now the property of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Laucik who live on the farm.

The Wotring Farm and Louise Wotring Lyle

Abram Wotring of French-Huguenot descent came to Hopewell Township in 1825 and settled on a farm two miles northeast of Buffalo Village. This man was well educated, was a thrifty and industrious individual, and in his new home became a prominent farmer, churchman and jurist. He had a family of 11 children, four sons and seven daughters. To all of these children, Judge Wotring gave a liberal education, and all became prominent in the fields of their chosen life work.

Perhaps the best known of the Wotring Family and the one whose life we shall sketch briefly was one of the daughters, Louise Wotring Lyle. She was born on the home farm in 1842 and received the usual education allotted to members of this family. Louise engaged in social and church work in the City of Pittsburgh where she soon became acquainted with and married a young Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Joseph G. Lyle. Together they served churches in Homestead, Pennsylvania, in Illinois and in Wheeling, West Virginia. Mrs. Lyle proved to be a perfect helpmate as a minister's wife and she labored diligently with her husband in the care of the flocks entrusted to them.

In the flood of 1884 which caused so much devastation in the city of Wheeling, both Mr. and Mrs. Lyle did all they could to relieve the suffering and want among a stricken people. As a result of these incessant labors, Mr. Lyle sickened and died, and Mrs. Lyle carried on her relief work until normal conditions had been restored. Being thus left widowed and childless, she began preparing to achieve her lifelong ambition to become a medical doctor. She went to Cincinnati where a part of her medical training was received and in 1892, at the age of 50 years, she received her M. D. degree from the Women's Medical College of Cincinnati.

With great interest still in the people of Pittsburgh and their problems there, she returned to that city and, so it is claimed, with a capital of only five dollars, she set in motion the chain of events which led to the organization of the Presbyterian Hospital, a great institution now known as the Presbyterian University Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Lyle often returned to the Washington County farm home, and later to the family home in the city of Washington for her vacations, never forgetting the place of her origin and her many friends here who were ever delighted to honor this remarkable woman.

Part of the stone house can still be seen on the Wotring farm as well as the cut stone foundations for two springhouses which stood near the mansion house. Also, a short distance away stood Judge Wotring's horse mill which, as we have earlier noted, he had transformed into the "Horse Mill Academy."

The Robert Fulton Farm

The inventor of the steamboat was born on a farm in Little Britain, now Fulton Township, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on November 14, 1765. His mother, Mary Smith Fulton was a sister of the Rev. Joseph Smith, first pastor of the Upper Buffalo and Cross Creek churches. In order that his mother might be near her brother's home, Robert Fulton purchased a part of one of Joseph Smith's farms in Hopewell Township as a home for his mother and sisters. They soon moved to this farm and appear to have lived here until the mother's death. This farm was, in 1876, the home of the J. B. Maxwell family, and in more recent years it was the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Taggart. Robert Fulton never lived on this farm, and, due to his activities in the East and abroad, it is probable that he never spent much time in this area with the members of his family. A news item in an old paper stated that on one occasion, Robert Fulton spent some time with his mother at the farm near Buffalo. He also visited West Middletown where he entered into the social life of the young folks of the day with enthusiasm. While this writer is skeptical about the entire truth of this statement, yet he gives it here for whatever it might be worth.

The Joseph Smith Farm

The Rev. Joseph Smith took out patents for two tracts of land to the northwest of Buffalo Village: One tract was Mt. Joy containing 406 acres and the other was Welcome of 363 acres, both patented on December 12, 1785. In addition, it is claimed that he bought from Joseph Wells a third tract of 376 acres for a price of 1,625 pounds, and that the obligation to pay for this additional land was responsible

for the financial straits in which Mr. Smith found himself in 1787, and for which situation, Elder William Smiley took the boatload of flour to New Orleans. Some of these matters are somewhat in doubt but it is known that the Rev. Mr. Smith was a large landowner in Hopewell Township. His home was on the tract Mt. Joy which lies on the headwaters of the stream Cross Creek, and just over the hill from the Robert Fulton farm. Here Rev. Smith died on April 19, 1792.

The Wilson Mill

Along the stream, Cross Creek, as its headwaters were traversed on this tour of historic places, the sites of three old mills were passed. The first was the old Stewart mill on the Davidson Brothers farm near the Mt. Pleasant Township line. Here the outline of the dam where water was collected for running the mill, the course of the millrace and the location of the mill itself can all be clearly traced. The mill which was a grist mill stood opposite the Davidson home and across the road from this house.

The Harvey Lawton mill, used only as a sawmill, was located one mile down stream from the Stewart mill. It is shown on the Lawton farm on the 1876 map of Hopewell Township, but no trace of the millsite can now be seen.

In the so-called Wilson Valley, two miles below the Lawton mill was the old grist mill established in the early 1800's by James McElroy and conducted by his family for many years. It was later known as the Wilson mill, owned and conducted by Andrew C. and Robert M. Wilson. The mill was originally run by water power but was later converted to steam power and as such it is shown on the 1876 map. This mill burned down once while being conducted by the McElroys, but it was rebuilt and continued in operation until 1906 when it again burned soon after it had passed from the ownership of the Wilson Brothers, and it was never again rebuilt.

Near the site of the former Wilson mill can be seen the only covered bridge still remaining on the stream of Cross Creek. It stands in the area of this valley which will be flooded by the lake which is being planned for construction here in the proposed Cross Creek Park.

Also, on a plot of ground adjacent to the old mill site, during the summers of 1975 and 1976, a group of archaelogical students from the University of Pittsburgh, working under the direction of Dr. James Adavasio of the University, excavated an old prehistoric camp site, from which was taken a large number of artifacts, bones, arrowheads and other implements of the time represented. This work was done in anticipation of the flooding of the area by the new Cross Creek dam. The materials found there have been taken to the University for study and a publication on the findings is looked for some time in the years ahead.

Pleasant Hill Seminary

This select school for girls was established in the 1840's by Jane Campbell McKeever, sister of the reformer, Alexander Campbell of whom we have already written in connection with the Brush Run Church. Jane Campbell was a well educated woman and a natural born teacher. For a time after her marriage to Matthew McKeever, she conducted a private school in her home in West Middletown, and so successful was this venture that they decided to build a school of larger proportions. The site selected was at Pleasant Hill, one and one-half miles northwest of West Middletown. Here several buildings were erected to provide accommodations for 100 girls, and it is said that the enrollment reached, but never exceeded that number.

Under the personal direction of Mrs. McKeever, with her husband as business manager, the school was conducted with success, graduating its first class in 1847, and continuing, after Mrs. McKeever's retirement under the direction of her son, Thomas Campbell McKeever, who conducted the school with marked success until his untimely death in 1867. Efforts were made to continue it, but difficulties arose and soon the school was closed. Using the buildings at Pleasant Hill, a conference of black people conducted what they called the Zion Collegiate Institute for about three years, but this effort, too, failed in 1881. In the years immediately following that time, some of the buildings burned and others were torn down, and now the only remaining building on the site of the old school is a one-story brick structure comprising a part of the home of Mr. and Mrs. William McAdoo.

When Campbell McKeever was in charge of the school, he had built for his personal use an octagonal shaped study, which was patterned after a similar building which Alexander Campbell had

erected on his home grounds at Bethany. Some years after Pleasant Hill Seminary closed its doors, this study of Mr. McKeever was moved into the Borough of West Middletown and there it had been used for a number of purposes. It stood in the borough until sometime during the 1930's when it had become so dilapidated that it was torn down. During the recent sesquicentennial anniversary at West Middletown, this McKeever Study was reconstructed on a plot of ground at the west end of West Middletown and plans are to use it there for community purposes, including a community library.

The Site of the Samuel T. Ferguson Murder

As one continues down Seminary Hill after passing the site of the old Seminary, on the level in the small valley at the foot of the hill, he comes to an insignificant culvert under the bed of the road. This was the site of the Ferguson murder on the afternoon of September 24, 1903.

Samuel T. Ferguson was the contractor for a nearby portion of the Wabash Railroad which was built down the Cross Creek Valley in 1902-1903. On this September afternoon, Mr. Ferguson and his bookkeeper, Mr. Charles Martin were driving in a two-horse rig down this lonely road with about $3600 in money for the payroll due that day at the construction camp. As they crossed this culvert on the road, an explosion occurred. The rig was blown to bits, the two horses in the team were killed, and the bodies of Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Martin were thrown some distance. Mr. Ferguson was killed outright and Mr. Martin was critically injured, but he finally recovered.

As developed in the subsequent investigation, two men with possibly other accomplices, had planned this crime, knowing that the payroll at the camp was due and that Ferguson and Martin would travel down that road that afternoon carrying the money. A charge of dynamite had been placed in the culvert and a wire to an electric battery triggered the explosion at the moment when the rig was directly over the culvert. After securing as much of the money as they could carry, the criminals made off with it and disappeared. They were traced to the east coast, but eluded capture and took passage on a ship bound for Europe. Through skillful detective work by chief of detectives Thomas R. McQuade of Pittsburgh, the men were intercepted and arrested as they left the ship at Southampton, England and

they were held there until American officers arrived to bring them back to this country.

When they were tried for the crime in the courts of Washington County, one of the men, Milovar Kovovick was found guilty of murder in the first degree and he was hanged. A sentence of ten to twenty years in the penitentiary was given to Milovar Pattrovick who appeared to have been implicated in the crime to a lesser degree. He was released on parole on or about November 20, 1913 after serving about ten years of his sentence. When these men were arrested, they had in their possession only a small part of the money which they had carried away, and the rest was never recovered.

The body of Mr. Ferguson was taken to the Brownlee Funeral Home at West Middletown and a funeral service was held for him at the France Hotel in the borough conducted by W. W. Hunter of Hopewell Township assisted by the Reverends William McClure of Xenia, Ohio and R. Elmer McClure of Blairsville, Pennsylvania. The McClure brothers, natives of West Middletown were visiting at the McClure home there for the weekend and so assisted in the funeral service. Mr. Ferguson was buried in West Middletown Cemetery.

The Manchester Farm and Home

Isaac Manchester, a native of Rhode Island, came to Hopewell (now Independence) Township in 1798. He acquired by purchase the tract of land, Plantation Plenty, which had been patented to Samuel Teter on a Virginia certificate some years before. Captain Teter had erected on the property a blockhouse which served as protection from the Indians for his family and neighbors, and he served as commandant of the fort. When John Doddridge built a more easily defended fort on his property one mile to the west, Captain Teter dismantled his fort and took command, in times of need at the Doddridge stockaded fort.

Soon after settling on this tract, Isaac Manchester began the construction of a mansion house, which he so designed as to be an exact replica of a beautiful dwelling back in his native town of Middletown, Rhode Island. This house took 15 years in building, and all the materials: clay for the bricks, stone for the foundations, and lumber for the woodwork, all came direct from the farm and all was fashioned for its part in the house by workmen under the personal direction of Mr. Manchester. This house was virtually complete by 1815, and it still stands on this farm. It was the home of Isaac

Manchester until his death in 1851, then of his son, Col. Asa Manchester during his long life, and finally his daughters made this their home until the last member of the family had passed away. Now it is the home of a descendant, Eugene Painter, his wife and family. They are maintaining the home and farm in fine condition and are there conducting an extensive farm and dairy operation. The home is not publicly open to visitors.

The Doddridge Home, Fort and Graveyard

Among the earliest settlers in western Hopewell (now Independence) Township was John Doddridge and his wife and family who came here about the year 1773. He was a brother-in-law of Capt. Samuel Teter, the latter having married Mary Doddridge. Mr. Doddridge's wife was Mary Wells, a niece of Alexander Wells, who settled on Cross Creek in the vicinity of the present town of Avella. These three families: Doddridge, Teter and Wells came into this region, virtually together, or at, or very near, the same time.

On the tract, Extravagance, of 437 acres on which John Doddridge made his settlement, he built a log house and a stockaded fort, which was used as a place of refuge from Indian attacks until the danger of them had passed. This was also the home of John Doddridge's son, the Rev. Joseph Doddridge, prominent Episcopal minister on the frontier, and still well known as the author of Doddridge's Notes on the Settlement and Indian Wars of Western Virginia and Pennsylvania.

One-half mile south of the Doddridge home was the site of the Doddridge Methodist Chapel, built by John Doddridge and used for many years by various religious groups, the last of which appears to have been the African Methodist Episcopal congregation which now meets in its own house of worship in West Middletown. At this site, too, is an old burial ground, now in poor condition, but containing the graves of a number of members of the McKeever family and some others.

The former Doddridge farm is now owned by the Carl family.

OUR DISTRICT SCHOOLS

In reading the old classics, Hoosier Schoolmaster and Hoosier Schoolboy by Edward Eggleston, one might get the erroneous impression that such schools and school people belonged only to the Hoosier State, Indiana. In opposition to that impression we would like to state that one-room schools were the rule over virtually all of rural America until recent consolidations and mergers brought the era of the "deestrick" school to a close.

In endeavoring to write about our old-time schools of this area, it is necessary first to define a school "district" as this term was understood when public schools were first authorized by public law in Pennsylvania in 1834. Under that law each township and borough of Washington County usually comprised a "district" as we of the present day are used to thinking of the term. But, for the purpose of locating and erecting the one-room schools, each district was divided into sub-districts, which came generally to be known as "districts" in the language of the people, and the one-room schools erected in each of these smaller areas became known as the "district schools", which was simply a term for the old-time schools of which we are writing.

Because of the uneven terrain of this part of the country, the areas served by district schools were irregular in shape and by no means uniform in size such as school districts are in a level country where all sections of land can be laid out in regular patterns. In the townships of Washington County, the chief criterion for the laying out of a district school was a sufficient number of pupils to justify both the opening of a school and its location. The school was usually located at a point so that all pupils to be served would be within a reasonable walking distance of the building. And so, in many of the townships in the vicinity of Burgettstown, the rural schools were located in what might appear to have been a very haphazard pattern.

Smith Township had ten (or eleven) district schools, all established sooner or later following the enactment of the School Law of 1834 which authorized this system of public schools. These schools were numbered and located as follows:

The Burgettstown School was originally No. 1 but after the borough was established in 1881, this number was assigned to the Tenan School, built in either 1881 or 1882 and located near the Tenan farm a little to the northwest of Burgettstown.

No. 2 was Plum Run located in the valley of that stream and on the old road to Eldersville about one and one-half miles west of Burgettstown.

No. 3 was Cinder Hill about one and one-half miles northeast of Burgettstown near the farm owned in later years by Andrew Proudfit. The site is now within the stripped-over lands of the Harmon Creek Coal Co.

No. 4, Point Pleasant was on the eastern side of Raccoon Creek and just a short distance upstream from Bavington.

No. 5, the Russell School near Bulger, was the last of Smith Township's one-room schools to be closed which was done at the end of the 1927-28 school term. Sara McNall Purdy was the last teacher in this building.

No. 6, Midway, was located in the eastern end of the township near the old location of the Center U. P. Church. But as the population in the part of Midway which was in Smith Township increased, the school was moved to that place and eventually other rooms were added making it a graded school and finally being taken over by Midway when it became a borough in 1903.

No. 7, Farrar, near Cherry Valley, became in time the Cherry Valley graded school.

No. 8, Cooke, was near the Cooke farm on present Route 18 south of Atlasburg. The old frame building built in the 1860's was used until 1912 when the brick building, still standing, was built and used until this school was closed.

No. 9, the "Yellow" School at present Slovan.

No. 10 might have been named "Controversy". This school was authorized by an act of the State Legislature in 1849 against the wishes of the school board and these men would have nothing to do with the new school, so

they resigned in a body as a protest against the affair. The court appointed a new school board, and school was held in this building until about 1858. The 1861 map of Washington County shows that this school was located on the hill above Burgettstown and just east of the old U. P. Church, now the location of the U. P. Graveyard.

No. 11 was formed by resolution of the school board in 1853. The school, once known as Mud Hollow from its location, was later moved onto land of John L. Proudfit near Raccoon Station and it was then known as Oak Hill. After No. 10 disbanded, No. 11 took the number 10 and was ever afterward known by that designation. So it is generally regarded that Smith Township had only ten district schools.

In Cross Creek Township which also had ten district schools, four of them were named for trees of the forest and the other names, in part at least, were given because of location. The schools in this township were:

No. 1, Nosco Hall (or Hall of Knowledge) was located on the former A. M. Rankin farm on the eastern side of the township.

No. 2, Bunker Hill and No. 3 Cemetery, were on different locations in Cross Creek Village. They were combined into a two-room school on land taken from the Stockton farm in 1878.

No. 4, White Oak, was located on the Lawton farm between Cross Creek and present Cedar Grove.

No. 5, West Point, was at Patterson's Mill.

No. 6, Willow Valley on the former Arnold Lawton farm stood near the new Avella High School building.

No. 7, Bushy Rock, was located south of Woodrow among the huge boulders known as Walker's Rocks, named for John N. Walker who owned the land on which this school was located.

No. 8, Beech Knob, was on the former Eli Marquis farm between Cross Creek and Rea.

No. 9, Limestone Lane, later known as Muddy Lane, stood on the former Studa farm south of Rea Station.

No. 10, Buckeye Valley, was at the site of present Avella.

The last one-room school to be closed in Cross Creek Township was the Beech Knob School, closed at the end of the 1944-45 term. Mrs. Hazel Carter Cooke, who later taught in the Avella School, was the last teacher in this school.

The schools of Jefferson Township were unique in that all of them were named for families residing in the vicinity of the school, and some of them, at least, were located on land belonging to the families for which they were named. These schools were:

No. 1, Miller, stood on the old George Miller farm in the southern part of the township.

No. 2, Melvin, was on the old Melvin farm in the valley of Scott's Run southwest of Eldersville.

No. 3, Eldersville, was originally a one-room building but later a graded school and now the site of Eldersville Grade School of the Burgettstown Area Schools.

No. 4, Cole, was located on an old farm of the Cole family.

No. 5, Gardner, was on the Follansbee road one and one-half miles west of Eldersville.

No. 6, Lee, stood on the former Robert Lee farm between Eldersville and present Langeloth.

No. 7, Hanlin, was at Hanlin Station on the Panhandle Railroad both school and station named for the Hanlin family. The last of these schools to be closed on account of consolidation within the township was Cole School closed at the end of the 1929-30 school term. Mrs. Ruth LaPosta, later a teacher at Eldersville School, taught in Cole School for that last term.

Old maps of Hanover Township for 1861 and 1876 show that the municipality had as many as 14 rural schools during those years. While the numbering of all of these schools does not appear in later records, the following seem to be about the way these schools were identified, many of these schools being named also for adjacent landowners. They were:

No. 1, Coventry, east of Florence.

No. 2, Dillo, on Fort Dillo Run in the northeastern part of the township.

No. 3, Sturgeon, on Route 18 between Florence and Frankfort.

No. 4, Florence at this village; later a three-room school.

No. 5, Hamilton, halfway between Florence and Paris.

No. 6, Boyd, on the hill above Aunt Clara's fork of Kings Creek.

No. 7, Boyce, near Hanlin Station.

No. 8, Fulton, location not identified.

No. 9, Purdy, probably named for the Rev. J. L. Purdy and located near his home northwest of Florence.

No. 10, Paris, located at that village: later a graded school.

No. 11, Miller, on a branch of Harmon Creek in the southern part of the township.

Two other schools named in some later lists are not identified by number: Rock School closed in 1917 and Beech Grove closed in 1923. Upon the completion of the Hanover Consolidated School in 1952 all outlying schools were closed and all pupils were and are transported to that central location. Other districts of Washington County had their own system of naming and numbering schools, nearly all having both a name and number.

In the days of the subscription schools, prior to 1834, many types of buildings were pressed into service. In his excellent book: A Century of Education, William Melvin said that if all the buildings used as schools in Smith Township were suddenly recreated, there

would be a great variety of architecture, and they would be so numerous that there might not be room for all of them to stand. This statement is somewhat of an exaggeration, of course, but it does point up the great variety of these early school buildings, many of which were only log cabins and not many of which were erected especially for school purposes.

With the passage of the State School Law in 1834, standards for school buildings began to appear and although there was still some variety in the type of buildings, yet their quality did begin to improve. For one thing, this law established districts within townships, as already pointed out, so that when a school was located in a certain spot, it was likely to remain there for many years of service. Some log buildings were still erected after this time, or log structures if properly located, still remained in use, but by 1834 sawmills were so numerous in Washington County that there wasn't much excuse for erecting any other than frame buildings, so most of the buildings from that time on were of this type of construction. And since permanency of location existed, the buildings could be built more strongly and larger as well.

A variety of arrangements for the use of the land on which one-room schools were built is found in the old records of neighboring school districts. School boards had the authority to purchase outright the land on which a building was to be located. For many of the old schools, however, a sort of donation of land was often made. Lots for these schools were often not well selected, and an adjoining landowner might agree to the use of some of his marginal land for school purposes as long as it was actually so used. Under such an arrangement, when abandoned by the school board, the land would revert to the owner. This apparent liberality on the part of landowners was not always a sacrifice for quite often the land donated was remote from the farm buildings and of little value as tillable land.

The Cooke School in Smith Township stood on a corner of the former Sturgeon farm, isolated from the rest of the farm by the public road, now Route 18, running through this corner and cutting it off from the farm. Three of the school properties of the former Cross Creek Township School District were rented from adjoining property owners for an annual rent of one grain of wheat to be paid upon demand. On March 20, 1846, Mary P. Smith conveyed to the school directors of Cross Creek Township one acre of ground, the former Patterson Mills School lot for one dollar cash. Frequently coal companies would permit the use of some of their land adjoining

their mining camps on easements to school districts which permitted the erection of a school building and usually provided for the reverting of the land to the owner when no longer used for school purposes.

In establishing standards for the erection of the one-room schools, no limits were set either way as to the number of pupils to be accommodated. In those days, with a growing rural population, usually a district had a sufficient number of pupils to justify the continued operation of a school year after year. Much later, if the enrollment fell below ten pupils, the school would be temporarily closed and the remaining pupils would be transferred to another convenient school.

These schoolhouses were almost without exception built in a regular rectangular shape some being as small as 20 by 24 feet, but most being about 24 by 30 or 32 feet. One wall would be built solid, and on this wall, lengthwise of the schoolroom, would be placed the blackboard. The door and sometimes one window would be placed in the front, and in the other two walls, would be placed other windows, these always being single in the other buildings. At best, natural lighting was poor from the scarcity of windows and artificial lighting was never used except for evening social events held at the school. Mention has often been made of the use of greased paper for windows, but when pane glass came into general use, of course it was used for windows in schools and homes as well.

The early blackboard was just that--an ordinary pine board, or series of boards, well planed on one side, then painted black after being put in place in front of the schoolroom. At the lower edge of this board was usually a chalk rail, used for holding the chalk and erasers, although in the earliest schools this accessory was probably lacking. On the same side of the room as the blackboard was the rostrum, a long narrow platform on which the pupils stood to recite or to "do their sums" at the blackboard. An especially indulgent teacher would sometimes allow a long bench on the rostrum where classes might sit during recitation periods.

Because of the early heating problems for many years school would not be in session during the most severe winter weather, and the excessive ventilation which existed in the earliest schools complicated this problem. But as better and tighter buildings were built and when the potbellied stove came into use, the school term was rearranged so as to hold school during the colder months of the year. Wood was always abundant and coal usually available so there

was no problem in obtaining fuel. With the use of coal, the coal house became a necessary outbuilding on the school lot, along with coal buckets, pokers and fire shovels and all that went with the primitive heating of those days.

Beyond keeping them reasonably warm in cold weather, (and as cool as possible in hot weather) not much attention was paid to the comfort of pupils. The earliest seating in the district schools consisted only of rough benches split out of oak logs and set on crude legs inserted through immense auger holes in each end of the bench. Through a gradual evolution of improvement, the benches became sawed boards and backs were provided on the benches for greater comfort. These in turn gave way about the middle of the nineteenth century to the commercially produced combination double desks, each desk having in front of it a seat, so that rows of the combination could be set on the floor in the schoolroom. Still later single desks of the same combination type came into use, but in many of the older schools the old double desks were used well into the years of the present century and in some cases until the schools were closed. This use of the double desks permitted pupils to have seatmates in school and if the teacher permitted it, this could be your closest friend, a really chummy arrangement.

Not many of the old school lots boasted the luxury of a well for drinking water, so this was often carried from a nearby neighbor's well or spring, and while that might appear to the present day student a burdensome chore, yet in the easy life of the one-room school, it was a delightful privilege, usually doled out to selected pupils who could be depended on not to consume too much time in the errand and who also had their schoolwork well enough in hand to merit the privilege. Usually it took two pupils for this tour of duty, since they could carry a bucket of water between them without spilling any. When the bucket of water was set on the three cornered shelf in a corner of the room, the pupils were allowed to go to it and by using the common dipper all could quench their thirst. Since germs were then mercifully unknown and unsuspected, all drank with confidence from this common drinking vessel. Any water not consumed from the dipperful was supposed to be poured back into the bucket to avoid waste of the precious fluid. Oh, for the return of the day when ignorance was bliss!

The outside sanitary arrangements on the early school grounds were also very primitive. Well known to all who have any familiarity with the traditional one-room school were the two small out-houses

placed on opposite corners of the school lot and at a respectable distance apart, one for the boys and one for the girls. But I have been told on reliable authority that even these facilities did not exist on the original district school lots. Since in those earlier days, good tracts of woodland usually stood near each district school, when the call of nature came the individual pupil, or small groups, would simply take to the "tall timber" to answer and satisfy the call. Later, of course, toilets of an approved type became a part of the regular school setup and were required as a matter of both health and decency.

Schoolhouses were built primarily of course for school use, but as time went on these buildings became as well community centers for the social life of the people of the district. Each winter season had its round of old-time singin's, spelling bees, box socials and literary societies and these were always well attended by families from the immediate area. And when the traveling was good, such as when a good sledding snow was on the ground, many people would come from adjoining districts as well, and take an active part in these social affairs.

In conducting the contests of skill in spelling, singing or debating, usually the rivalry between individuals and districts was good-natured and wholesome, but occasionally this rivalry would get out of hand and then trouble or excitement might begin. If a young man happened to bring to one of these affairs a young lady to whom some other young man had recently been paying attention, when he got ready to leave for home, he might find that his saddle horse had been turned loose or that the girth of his saddle had been cut, or some other trick had been played on him, so that he would have to walk his girl home, and if the distance was great this might prove to be quite a chore.

Once in Cross Creek Township, bad blood arose between the residents of the Muddy Lane School District and some young fellows from an adjoining district. So, while the literary society was in progress one night at this school, the door was fastened on the outside, the transom above the door was opened and a live skunk was thrown into the crowded room. Needless to say, the society quickly adjourned and all who could do so jammed the windows in frantic efforts to get away from the odorous intruder. Eventually everyone did get to the open air, but it was said in that community for weeks thereafter that Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes could be seen hanging out on clothes lines on every fair day as the people endeavored to

remove the objectionable odor from the contaminated garments. Dry cleaning was unknown in that day, so dependence had to be placed on nature to help in the deodorizing process.

Such occasions were of course rare and unusual and so for many years the one-room district school did well its part in educating the youth of the districts and in furnishing wholesome social activities for the people of the area in which they were located.

The most important personality in the district school, of course, was the teacher, the schoolmaster as he was once known when most teachers were, of necessity, men. Two well-known types of these old-time teachers have come down to us through the channels of American literature: 1. The Hoosier Schoolmaster of Edward Eggleston, previously alluded to, and 2. Ichabod Crane who became immortal through the pen of Washington Irving in his "Legend of Sleepy Hollow". While admittedly there were a few of the eccentric and bucolic type of Ichabod Crane among the old-time teachers, yet most of them were, I am convinced, more of the type of the Hoosier Schoolmaster. They were men, and later women, who were well educated and cultured and who were entirely capable and efficient in handling the myriads of pupils placed under their care in the district schools. Many of these teachers were college students who, after a year or two of advanced schooling, were compelled through economic necessity to take time off to earn money to continue their own education. So they took a school for a term or two, then having earned a few dollars, they resumed their studies and on graduation from college, would enter one of the learned professions of the ministry, medicine or law, and not a few of them returned to the school room to pursue successful careers in teaching.

We can mention only a few of these old-time teachers, but the first one who comes to mind, from his having been one of my father's teachers, is John H. (Schoolteacher) Johnston, who lived at various times in Cross Creek and Independence Townships and who spent the closing years of his life in the city of Washington, Pennsylvania. During the 1860's and 1870's he taught in the Cooke School in Smith Township and in Nosco Hall in Cross Creek Township, and as late as 1894 he was teaching in the Bower Hill School in Peters Township and the following term, possibly his last, was in the Scott School in North Strabane Township. One of his former pupils in the Bower Hill School, Charles M. Crouch of Venetia told me that Mr. Johnston was an excellent teacher. From his long experience as a disciplinarian and "drill" teacher, he was able to handle large groups of children in these small

one-room school buildings. Often in the early fall of a school term, he would start out with a moderate enrollment of the smaller children of the school district. But when later in the fall, the crops were "safely gathered in", the big boys and girls would begin enrolling for the winter months of school. If the weather broke early in the spring, these same larger pupils would be compelled to quit school and to resume the farm work at home. And so, during much of the colder weather, such a teacher as Schoolteacher Johnston would have a full school. I have heard my father say that in the Cooke School as many as 75 pupils might be attending at one time. But Mr. Johnston was equal to the task, since he could manage that number of pupils, could keep them under good control and could do the necessary act of teaching.

Another name which comes to mind was a man of whom I never personally knew very much, but who had a good reputation as a teacher. This was Milton M. Todd who taught in schools in Robinson, Jefferson and Cross Creek Townships and perhaps in other districts as well. Although handicapped by the amputation of one of his limbs, Mr. Todd was reported to have been able to get around very well with the use of a crutch. He could play ball with the boys and if a pupil needed chastising and tried to escape from Mr. Todd's clutches, he was soon overtaken and properly punished.

And speaking of punishment: some of these old-time teachers believed that "lickin' and learnin" did go together as per the proverb that "sparing the rod might spoil the child" as the poet expressed it. Yet, among the better teachers, group control was obtained without undue use of corporal punishment. The wise pupil usually learned that punishment for infraction of the rules could be severe and that it could be avoided by obedience and cooperation with the teacher. And the just and capable teacher would thus be enabled to devote more attention to instruction than to discipline.

Every school district had teachers who were considered locally the "best" and many of the old-time teachers were highly respected and much esteemed in their home districts. In addition to those above mentioned other schoolmasters who come to mind of noted service in years gone by included Van Baker of Cross Creek Village, D. Wallace Patterson of Avella, W. H. S. McAdoo of Independence, Elza Scott of Eldersville, William Melvin and R. P. Stevenson of Burgettstown, W. C. McDonnell of Hanover Township, and well-known "schoolmarms" included Belle Rankin of Cross Creek Township and her quite famous aunt, Ann Marshall, also of Cross Creek, Dora McCorkle of Burgettstown, Lizzie McCarrell and Margaret Jane Moore of Jefferson Township, and of course a host of others who made immortal

names for themselves as they guided the education of their generation of young folks in the schools of their respective communities. While school teaching is not an easy vocation, yet many of the old-time teachers have lived many years beyond their periods of active school service.

Adequate preparation for teaching has always been a problem in public education. So how were our early rural teachers prepared for their jobs? In all honesty it must be admitted that some of our early teachers were themselves products of the schools where they were later to appear as teachers. That is, as soon as they had completed their own schooling in a one-room school, they believed themselves qualified for teaching, and if they could get a school, they went to work and any further preparation might depend upon what they could pick up in the school of experience. But fortunately, by the time the public schools under the Law of 1834 were getting under way, there had appeared in many of our Washington County communities the well-known academies which were our first local institutions of secondary education. Many of these schools were promoted and encouraged by local Presbyterian ministers, who were themselves well educated men and who sensed the need for better education among the people of the communities where they served as pastors. Thus, Dr. John Stockton was the moving spirit in the Cross Creek Academy during most of his fifty years as pastor in that village. Likewise the academy at Florence was established in 1833 under the wise guidance of the noted Rev. Elisha McCurdy.

Still another type of teacher training institution which should be mentioned was the summer normal school which came into being late in the nineteenth century and which lasted for several years into this present century. The term in such a school was usually of six, seven or eight weeks duration, held in a public school building following the close of the regular school term. Taught by men and women outstanding in education of their day, these short term schools would be attended by teachers in service as well as by prospective teachers. After intensive instruction in the public school subjects as well as in the elements of pedagogy, the students would take the examinations conducted by the County Superintendent of Schools, which if passed would entitle them to receive certificates for teaching the following school term. Well known in Northern Washington County was the popular Eldersville Normal School opened in 1882 by the late Samuel Amspoker and conducted for more than 25 years by such well-known masters of the teaching art as Burgettstown's own R. P. Stevenson, Eldersville's Elza Scott, C. R. Bane and by others who competently assisted these men in this school.

Of course, during the later years of the previous century, the so-called State Normal Schools had come into being in Pennsylvania. These were open during the regular school term and could be attended by such teachers as were able to devote more time and money to their preparation for teaching. These schools offered both two-year and four-year courses as well as the summer "short term" courses and those graduating from the longer courses were usually certified to teach without further examination by the county superintendent. Other colleges also prepared for teaching since most of them offered courses in education.

In the matter of teacher preparation, we have traveled a long way since the days of the early one-room school. Adequate preparation is one of the prerequisites of good teaching. We would not and cannot return to these schools of yesteryear, yet in all fairness, we must recognize and admit that those old-time schools very well served the young people of their day, thanks to the dedication and faithful service of the schoolmasters and schoolmarms who labored diligently in those old district schools.

It seems fitting to include in this section on "Our District Schools" some attention to the objects for whom these schools were established and maintained: the boys and girls of the farms and hamlets far and wide over our country, who attended these one-room schools. Since the district school was essentially a rural school, its pupils were predominately boys and girls from the nation's farms with a fair sprinkling, in some cases, of pupils from the country villages. Since the villages differed from the farming areas only in that the houses were closer together and there was not so much land involved in the homestead, the pupils who came out of these villages were not far removed from the soil, if at all, so they were country boys and girls too.

The enrollment in the typical one-room school varied probably from about 25 pupils to around 45 or 50, which might go even higher during the colder months of the year as pointed out previously. Although the education of the girls lagged a bit in our early society, yet in the district school they had equal rights and opportunities with the boys. Fewer girls had the chance of going on to the academy or to college in those days, but they did receive the advantages provided by the district school.

We have alluded to a few classical references to education in American literature in earlier articles. Edward Eggleston had a good story in the Hoosier School-boy, a companion story to the Hoosier

Schoolmaster. The Quaker poet, John G. Whittier gives a good picture of the old rural school situation in his "In School Days" beginning,

"Still sits the school-house by the road,
A ragged beggar sunning;
Around it still the sumacs grow
And blackberry vines are running."

The poet goes on to speak of a childish romance which was characteristic of the district school situation.

Hawthorne in one of his Grandfather's Chair stories paints a fine picture of the old-time school and of the old school teacher, Master Cheever, and he proceeds to tell of the good times which the boys and girls had during play hours at the old school. Even Shakespeare gives a good word picture of

"The whining school-boy with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school"

as one of the stages in the life of a man.

That education in the old-time school had its tasks and burdens and that some of these were distasteful to the pupils is well known, and anticipation of them no doubt caused many a school-boy to "creep unwillingly to school". But since parental influences were largely favorable to education, few unwilling pupils were able to evade attendance at school. "You may send a child to school but you cannot make him think" went the old adage, but if the old-time schoolmaster could not make him think, he could at least give him a good start in that direction. If the school-boy knew what was good for him, he had better put on the appearance of thinking or studying, at least while he sat in the presence of the master.

The earliest curriculum we think of in terms of the three R's Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic, and these did form the core of the teaching and learning program, with spelling coming in not far behind. The importance of reading is pointed up in the development of the well-known textbooks edited by Washington County's own William Holmes McGuffey which were used far and wide all over the country, millions of copies of them having been published. Since the literary content of these readers was so good, their format was widely copied by others developing sets of readers. So, in addition to learning the art of reading, the boys and girls of the McGuffey

era were given a good course in literature as well.

Arithmetic, too, had its "place in the sun" educationally speaking and such texts as the Western Calculator published by Joseph Stockton in 1820, as well as Every Boy's Arithmetic, or the Intellectual Calculator preceded the publishing of the excellent series of texts on Mathematics by Joseph Ray from the nearby Panhandle of West Virginia. Pupils were not considered competent in arithmetic until they had advanced at least through the Rule of Three, or Ratio and Proportion as it was known to a later generation.

Writing was taught at first without benefit of the copybook, the schoolmaster if he was a good penman, furnishing the "copy" on the blackboard or on a sheet of "foolscap" or other paper for the pupil to imitate the best he could. That some good penmen came out of this system of writing instruction perhaps should commend the persistence of the pupil rather than the method of instruction. And the old Webster Blueback Speller and its myriad of successors in the textbook line provided most of the "meat" of instruction in this important branch of learning.

Instruction in these core subjects was almost entirely by a strict method of drill! drill! drill! Memorization was a favorite method of driving the essentials of an education into hard skulls, this being especially applicable to the learning of poems, the multiplication tables, and the spelling of words! words! words! As the so-called content subjects of history and geography were gradually introduced, the earlier texts in these subjects were designed for the use of this same method of drill. Dates in history, the states and countries and their capitals and other relevant data were committed to memory. The rules of grammar came in for the same treatment. Late in the 19th century when physiology was mentioned as a possible addition to the course of study, much opposition arose since many of the parents thought it very indecent and entirely unnecessary for their boys and girls to learn about the parts of the human body and their functions in the processes of living. But as more thoroughly prepared teachers came into the schools, not only did methods of instruction improve but a better rounded course of study emerged as well to the benefit of all concerned. School equipment improved, too, as maps and charts and other visual aids were added to the primitive slates and blackboards of an earlier day.

If the periods of study were somewhat distasteful to those early "scholars", relief came several times each schoolday as school was dismissed for recess and dinner time. These periods for relaxation

and play were looked forward to eagerly by all pupils, except possibly the most studious who might prefer to "keep their nose in a book" rather than to go out for the sunshine and fresh air and fun of the school yard. And if the school-boy had crept unwillingly to school as Shakespeare had it, he always "went storming out to playing" as per Whittier's poem "In School Days". As equipment and methods of instruction in the schoolroom were often primitive, so playground equipment in those early days was definitely non-existent. But this didn't deter the youngsters from having some real games on the playground. A flat board, shaved down at one end for a handle, provided a bat, and a homemade ball, simply a ball of string or yarn or twine, provided the necessary equipment for a quickly organized game of ball. Trees or stumps conveniently placed by nature often served as bases, so a quick choosing of sides by two captains was the only preliminary for getting the game quickly underway. But what a sigh went up when, with the bases loaded and an embryo Casey at the bat, the master rang the school bell and the cry "To books" went out over the school ground!

But after another hour or two of "study" intermission time always came around again. Noon dismissal always heralded dinner time when well-filled lunch pails or baskets would yield up an abundance of food for the growing youngsters. When the weather was good, this was quickly eaten so no time would be lost from play, as another game of ball or prisoner's base or hi-spy would quickly get underway. And the cold winter days with plenty of good crisp snow would be looked for with unbounded joy as homemade sleds and Yankee Jumpers would appear on the school grounds as if by magic. Then the full noon hour would be devoted to sled riding on a convenient nearby hill. If the snow was a wet one and the temperature not very low, sledding would be spoiled but the snow would be just right for snowballing and the building of snowmen and snow forts. Here again, the boys might choose sides and then terrific battles would be fought and these not without casualties as hard snowballs might find a vulnerable spot on an intended victim.

Some play was too rough for the girls, but not much, for many of these country lasses could play ball as well as their brothers, and in most school yard sports, the girls were tomboys enough to take their own places and to uphold their rights of participation. Only in the snowball fights did the girls sometimes withdraw to the safety of the schoolroom, as the boys delighted to pelt them unmercifully with hard snowballs as well as to wash the faces of any girls brave enough to remain outdoors at such a period of play.

All work and no play made Jack a dull boy, but in the school situation, there were few dull boys or dull girls, either, in the traditional schoolday as work and play were pretty well balanced in the daily schedule of the district school.

School Days! School Days! Dear Old Golden Rule Days,
Readin' and Writin' and'Rithmetic
Taught to the tune of a hickory stick
You were my queen in calico
I was your bashful barefoot beau
You wrote on my slate, "I love you, Joe",
When we were a couple of kids.

While it may be true that the process of education as it was carried on in the district school was distasteful to some of those for whom it was intended, yet after it was all over and as the former boys and girls looked back with nostalgia on those "good old days", it was usually with a feeling of gratitude and appreciation for the training received within the walls of the old district school. Within those sacred walls lessons were learned that could not be forgotten, so thoroughly had they been drilled into even the least responsive of minds. There, too, lifelong friendships had been formed and attachments made which could not be broken, even though the individuals were later separated by great distances. Yes, there, too, romances had been sparked which in many cases had blossomed into lifelong companionships. Almost without exception, intense loyalties had been inspired and fond recollections were maintained for the one-room school, no matter what station in life was attained by the individual former scholar.

Since this attachment in some degree at least existed for most of the former district schools of this area, there have been, over the years, notable migrations back to the scene of their early education by many of the pupils of these schools, and many reunions have been held to bring together for one more time former teachers and pupils. Since these occasions have been recorded in the Burgettstown Enterprise and in other newspapers of Washington County, we would like to speak briefly of some of these which have come to our attention.

The first of which I will speak was not in the immediate area of which we are writing, but I refer to it because it is believed to have been the first such affair held in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On August 14, 1879 some 2,000 persons met near the site of the old Plum Run School in Chartiers Township near Houston to hold a reunion of former teachers and pupils of this district school. The occasion

was made notable because of the standing of so many of the men and women who attended the reunion and who had formerly attended this school. Although not a former teacher or pupil, the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Pennsylvania, the Hon. J. P. Wickerham was present and presided during the program. In addresses given regarding the history of the school, it was disclosed that from this old country school there had gone out 52 men who had become farmers, many of them still living and working within the old school district; there were 11 clergymen, one of whom was a Professor in a Theological Seminary and one the President of Washington and Jefferson College; four were lawyers, one practicing on the west coast and one an editor of a newspaper; two had become practicing physicians; 43 had become teachers of whom 23 were still teaching at the time of the reunion; six men had given their lives in the service of their country in battles of the Civil War. Among former female students it was stated that the preponderant number of them had become faithful wives and mothers and others were "earnest, conscientious and intelligent female workers in every department of social life". And so the product of this old school was judged very good by those most familiar with its history: by its own former pupils and teachers.

For the reunion which will next be described we will return to the Burgettstown area and to the site of another Plum Run School, our own Plum Run, right here on the outskirts of Burgettstown in Smith Township. This old school, originally located in a log building on the Dinsmore farm near present Bertha where it was known as the Hays School, was moved to the location in the valley of Plum Run on the old Eldersville road in 1836. It was ever afterwards known as Plum Run and two different buildings occupied this final site of the school.

When 300 people including many former teachers and pupils gathered at this site for a reunion on August 25, 1910, earlier school days were recalled and numerous tributes were paid to the old school and to the numerous teachers, some living but many then deceased, who had taught here. In addition to a bountiful dinner, always a feature of such an occasion, an interesting program was given to recall in a formal way the good old days at Plum Run.

To call the school to order for the reunion, a school bell used by Miss Ann Marshall 52 years earlier was used. Samuel F. Patterson, teacher there in 1861-62 offered the invocation. Mrs. Mary Bucher Marquis, both a former pupil and a teacher there, read a paper on "Reminiscences" and other former teachers including Charles H. Russell and E. F. Westlake, both then of Washington, Pennsylvania recalled their days at this school. All together a list

of 32 former teachers was read, most of them well-known throughout Washington County. The Cross Creek Brass Band, then in its heyday, rendered suitable music under the direction of John M. Powelson.

On such occasions memorabilia are always exhibited. At this reunion, tribute was paid to Joseph Rea McNary, long associated with this school and largely responsible for this reunion. He exhibited a Reward of Merit badge given him by a teacher, James E. Stevenson in 1853. This writer, although never connected with this old school, has in his possession one of the red ribbon badges worn by those attending this 1910 reunion of Plum Run School.

The year 1910 appeared to be quite a year for school reunions since two more of which we shall speak were held in that year. On July 15, 1910 former students and teachers of the Eldersville Normal School, which has been referred to, held a reunion of the persons who had attended that school during its previous 28 years of existence. In preparing for this affair, it was discovered that at least 475 men and women had been enrolled at one time or another. The list of persons published in the Burgettstown Herald for June 8, 1910 includes most of the teachers of northwestern Washington County for the closing years of the nineteenth century and the first ten years of this present one. Most of these former students attended this reunion and paid a generous tribute to the well-known educators of the area who had directed the school during its 28 years.

The last reunion to be described, held also in 1910 on June 14 at Frankfort in Beaver County, recalled the early days of the Frankfort Academy. Organized in 1839 by the Rev. James Sloan and Thomas Nicholson this school had a somewhat erratic existence but was still going strong in 1910. Begun as an all male school, its main objective was to train teachers for the public schools and to prepare young men to enter the junior class in college. Some young men, it is said, pursued their entire college course in this old school. The Academy was closed from 1848 until 1871 but it was revived in the latter year as a coeducational school, and being under the direction of capable teachers it continued successfully until 1885 when the building being used was sold at sheriff's sale.

Not to be kept down, the school sprang to life again in 1895 and was continued somewhat beyond 1910. At the reunion held in that year, the great value of the school to the Frankfort community was praised. In a history of the Academy written and read by Miss Anna M. Crouse, the records of its years of existence were recalled and its usefulness was clearly explained. This Academy

was followed by a community high school conducted for several years around the early 1920's. A loyal and active group of alumni of these two old schools still hold periodic reunions.

Five-year reunions of the same type are held at Cross Creek Village to memorialize the old academy and high school long conducted there. One of the most recent reunions of the type of which we have been speaking was that of the Miller School in Jefferson Township held at Meadowcroft Village in the southern part of that Township on August 20, 1966 under the direction of the Miller brothers, Albert and Delvin, who have restored and refurnished this school as part of their pioneer village at Meadowcroft. This reunion was described in full in issues of the Burgettstown Enterprise for August 10 and August 24, 1966. Although so many of these schools have long been closed and have been superseded by the modern schools of the present day, yet they will always live in the hearts and minds of their loyal former students as long as any of them remain in the land of the living.

And so, it is the wish of the writer to bear his own testimony to the value of these old-time schools. Having been a pupil in two of them, viz, in Cooke School in Smith Township and in Nosco Hall in Cross Creek Township, and having done my first teaching in the latter school, I feel that I know a bit of what I have been trying to describe. Having then gone on to be a part of the process of consolidation and merger of our schools in recent years, I have been in a position to judge and to compare the district school with our modern school systems. My earnest contention is that the district schools very well served the young people of their day. My earnest hope and prayer is that our modern schools may do as well for the young people of this present day.

THE ROBERT DINSMORE MURDER STORY

It was on a cold, wet night early in December of the year 1866, just one hundred twelve years ago, that a prominent and well-to-do farmer by the name of the Robert W. Dinsmore was murdered in his home in Hopewell Township. A reading of the files of the Washington Reporter for the winter of 1866-67 and the following spring will reveal the whole story.

A member of the well-known Dinsmore family of Canton Township, Robert Dinsmore was born in 1810 on the farm in Canton Township settled by his grandfather, James Dinsmore in 1795 and now the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Malcolm Dinsmore and family. When he was married to Nancy Perrin in the early 1830's, the young couple moved to a farm in Mt. Pleasant Township owned by Mr. Dinsmore's father and known as the Ridgway farm, where on the night of September 4, 1796 the nine-year old girl, Mary Stewart, had been murdered under mysterious circumstances. Nancy Perrin Dinsmore died there in 1834 leaving a young daughter, Nancy Jane. In March 1839, Robert Dinsmore took for his second wife Miss Matilda Clutter, a daughter of Samuel Clutter of Hopewell Township. On March 31, 1851, Samuel Clutter deeded to Robert and Matilda Dinsmore his farm of 111 acres in Hopewell Township. Sometime after that the Dinsmores moved to this farm. Here in 1857 a daughter, Ella, was born to the couple. Thus, Robert Dinsmore, his wife, Matilda and these two daughters made up the family in 1866. Their home was in the brick house in Hopewell Township which was the former home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Gamble of Washington, R. D. 3.

Mr. Dinsmore was a successful farmer and stockman. Income from the farm of that day came from the sale of cattle, sheep and wool, and hogs and Mr. Dinsmore had good herds and flocks on his Hopewell Township farm. At the time of his death, his flock of sheep numbered 250 head, a not unusual flock for those days. It was well known that Mr. Dinsmore was a prosperous man, and it was believed, also, that he was used to keeping fairly large sums of money on his person and about his home. A short time before his tragic death, he had been seen in stores in Washington trying to get someone to change a one-thousand dollar bill for him. Since he was having some trouble finding that much "change" he was offering five dollars to anyone who would change the bill for him. Rumors that he was "well-fixed" and

that he kept considerable money about him led to the tragedy.

A man who had been spending some time in the town of Washington and the surrounding countryside was one Robert Fogler. He seems not to have been regularly employed, although during the early part of the year 1866 he had worked for some time for the Hon. William Montgomery who owned a farm lying along the present Jefferson Avenue about a mile northwest of the Washington of that day. Having been injured while working for Mr. Montgomery, Fogler had become a chronic loafer, occasionally doing small jobs, but spending a good deal of time around a store conducted by James Montgomery in Washington, by whom he also was occasionally employed. A few weeks before Mr. Dinsmore's murder, Fogler became for a time a salesman of lamp-wicks and chimneys, and among places visited was the home of Robert Dinsmore in which Fogler deliberately spent considerable time, ostensibly to survey the premises with a view to returning at some time in the future to rob Mr. Dinsmore.

In the course of a few weeks, Fogler completed his plans for his return visit and on the evening of December 4, 1866 that visit was made to this Hopewell Township home.

As related later in his confession to having committed the crime, Robert Fogler revealed that he had an accomplice who he claimed was William Montgomery, Jr. son of the Hon. William Montgomery, already mentioned. This young man was known as "Babe" Montgomery. According to Fogler's story, preparations for the trip were made soon after dark on the fateful evening. Starting out on foot from a sheepshed on the Montgomery farm, where some change of clothes had been made and where burnt cork had been applied to their faces for a disguise as Negroes, they traveled by the Cross Creek road, present Route 18, to the forks of the road near the Samuel Taggart tenant house and where the Taggart one-room school stood for many years. Taking the road to the left at this point they traveled up the valley past or near the Daugherty schoolhouse in Canton Township until they reached the top of the hill and the cld West Middletown road, which followed the ridge at that point, running just a few hundred yards above the Dinsmore brick house.

When the pair approached the house about 9:30 o'clock, on this cold wet evening, they discovered by looking in a window that the family was having worship. They waited until this was over; then they approached the house and knocked on the door. From the inside, Mr. Dinsmore called to ask, "Who's there?", and going to the door he opened it slightly to ask what was wanted. A voice from the outside

said, "Someone is ill at Mr. Miller's and he wants one of the boys to go for the doctor." To this Mr. Dinsmore replied, "You must be at the wrong house. We have no boys," and thinking that they wanted the home of Mr. Slemmons who lived nearby, he opened the door further to point out the way to this neighbor's home. Upon doing this, two men pushed their way past Mr. Dinsmore into the house and accosted him with the statement, "You are the man we want", to which he replied, "What do you want with me, you rascals?" but without further dialogue, the men began tussling with Mr. Dinsmore.

Robert Dinsmore was a strong, well-built man and he would have been the equal of almost anyone who might have challenged him single-handedly. On this occasion he was almost able to handle his two assailants. One of the ruffians had a revolver and the other a long-bladed knife, and Mr. Dinsmore had almost succeeded in wrestling the gun from the larger man, when that one called to the other to hit Mr. Dinsmore over the head with a chain. This he did and the blow stunned the aged man for a moment. The man with the gun retrieved that weapon and in the scuffle the gun was discharged twice, at least one bullet penetrating Mr. Dinsmore's chest. Being thus disabled, Mr. Dinsmore stumbled into a back room, and the intruders, thinking that he was going for a gun, became frightened and hastily left the house.

During all this scuffle and confusion (the whole affair must not have lasted but a few minutes), Mrs. Dinsmore and the two young daughters who had just retired, fearful both for their husband and father and for their own lives, stood rather helplessly by and were witnesses to the whole tragic occurrence. After the thugs had left, Mr. Dinsmore fell to the floor and lay unconscious for several minutes. The wife and daughters barred all doors, fearing that the assailants would return to do further harm. Since no communication with neighbors was possible except by personal messenger, for nearly two hours the frightened women dared notgo out of the house to summon aid. After ten minutes Mr. Dinsmore regained consciousness and began to talk briefly, asking what had happened. He was told that he had been shot and he then asked if the men had taken his wallet. He was assured that they had not. A sad, lonely vigil then began with the three women in the house alone with the dying man.

Since the intruders had not returned by one o'clock in the morning, Mrs. Dinsmore started Nancy Jane to the home of the nearest neighbor, R. S. Caldwell, to spread the alarm and to summon aid. About the same time, she blew a loud blast on the dinner horn,

hoping that some of the neighbors would hear and come to their assistance. Mr. Caldwell returned with Nancy Jane, and soon after he entered the house, Mr. Dinsmore drew his last breath and was gone. Mr. Caldwell helped to summon the Slemmons family and other neighbors; then he started out to apprise other members of the Dinsmore family of the tragedy and the death of their brother.

Mr. Dinsmore had three brothers and one sister. By a carefully planned route, Mr. Caldwell was able to ride quickly on horseback to the home of each of these. He went first to the old Dinsmore Home in Canton Township where one brother, William Dinsmore lived, he having inherited this home place upon the death of the father, John Dinsmore, in 1858. Leaving there, he rode quickly to the home of another brother, John C. Dinsmore, who lived on the farm in Mt. Pleasant Township now owned by Mr. and Mrs. James Brezinski. This farm adjoins the Ridgway farm where Robert Dinsmore had formerly lived. This lay on the way to the home of the sister, Mrs. Mary Cowen, who, with her husband, Samuel Cowen, lived on the farm in Mt. Pleasant Township near the Mt. Prospect Church, now the home of the Wussick family. His last stop was to be at the home of the third brother, James Dinsmore, who lived on the farm in Cross Creek Township now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Cowden. Mr. Caldwell reached this home before daylight on the morning of December 5, and having thus informed all the members of the immediate family, he returned to the house of the murder to render what further help he could there. Needless to say, the whole countryside had been aroused and all the neighbors of the widowed Mrs. Dinsmore were there to offer their help.

Among those coming early upon the scene was the county sheriff, Edmund R. Smith, who quickly surveyed the details of the crime and then immediately set to work to round up the murderers. Before the day was over he had taken into custody and jailed the prime suspect, Robert Fogler. Prompt action was taken, also, by the coroner who happened to be Captain Isaac Vance of South Strabane Township, a veteran of the recent Civil War, who had done valiant service as an officer in Company C of the 140th Regt. P.V.I. Capt. Vance had lost an arm in the Battle of Gettysburg and because of this injury, he had been discharged from the service on a physician's certificate on January 12, 1864. He was then appointed a deputy provost marshall and a recruiting agent in which capacity he served until the end of the war. He was commissioned as Coroner of Washington County on November 16, 1864 and he served for three years in that office.

For his jury of inquest, Capt. Vance summoned to the Dinsmore home on the morning after the murder the following men: Capt. Alexander Wishart, George T. Hammond, Andrew Brady, Archibald Allison, John Stewart and James R. Smith. Testimony was taken from Mrs. Dinsmore, Nancy Jane Dinsmore, Dr. William Mitchell of Buffalo Village who had conducted an autopsy, and from the neighbor, R. S. Caldwell. The inquest was continued the following week at Washington. Upon its completion, the verdict of the jury was that Robert Dinsmore had met death at the hands of Robert Fogler and an accomplice, but they could not agree on the identity of the accomplice, so "Babe" Montgomery who was under suspicion was not held, but Robert Fogler who was already in jail was held there to await trial.

Although "Babe" Montgomery was not implicated by the coroner's findings, yet he was strongly suspected, and knowing of this cloud which hung over him, he decided to leave the Washington community, apparently thinking that another community might be more congenial for him at that particular time. Several days after the coroner's inquest, Robert Dinsmore's brother, William Dinsmore of Canton Township made an information against "Babe" Montgomery and a warrant was issued for his arrest. In the search for young Montgomery, he was traced to Venice in Cecil Township, where he had been heard to have inquired the "best road" to Canada. Soon after this, he was located at Wellsburg, West Virginia and officers from Washington County hastened to that place, brought him back to Washington and placed him in jail.

Upon his arrest, Fogler at first tried an alibi, but upon being advised of one matter of very strong circumstantial evidence against him, he confessed. When the murderers left the Dinsmore home so precipitately on the night of the crime, they felt sure that they had not been recognized, and that no possible evidence could connect them with the crime. But, unwittingly, one very strong piece of evidence did remain at the scene. On the morning following the murder, a heel from a leather boot was discovered sticking lightly in the half-frozen mud outside the kitchen door of the Dinsmore home. This was picked up, washed off and held as a possible clue to the identity of the murderers.

Soon after the arrest of Robert Fogler, Sheriff Smith went to the home of a Mrs. Wibley who lived on West Walnut Street in Washington where Fogler had a room. Upon searching the premises, Sheriff Smith found a pair of leather boots, well-washed, but with the heel of one of the boots missing. The heel found in the yard of

the Dinsmore home fitted exactly, even to the wooden pegs which had held the heel in place. Also, a pair of very wet and muddy trousers, obviously belonging to Fogler, was found on the Wibley premises. When confronted with this evidence, Fogler made a full confession, at the same time implicating young Montgomery as being as much involved as he was. The two men, therefore, remained in jail until the February 1867 term of court when both were tried for their parts in the crime.

On February 21, 1867 the trial of Robert Fogler began in the Washington County Court with the Hon. Alexander W. Acheson as the presiding judge. Counsel for the defense consisted of James R. Ruth, I. Y. Hamilton and L. R. Woods Little. Conducting the prosecution were: District Attorney Boyd Crumrine, Attorneys H. J. Vankirk of the Washington County Bar and N. P. Fetterman, Pittsburgh.

The jurors in this case were as follows: Alex B. Duvall of East Pike Run Township, Dwight Bigler of West Bethlehem Township, W. V. McFarland of Smith Township, James B. Wilson of South Strabane Township, John Baker of East Bethlehem Township, Alexander McCalmont of Mt. Pleasant Township, John S. Barr of Somerset Township, W. R. Sutherland of West Finley Township, Major George T. Work of Hopewell Township, foreman, Lewis E. Smith of Greenfield, (present Coal Center), Edward R. McCready of Washington and James V. Dorsey of East Bethlehem Township.

Testimony taken for the prosecution from Mrs. Matilda Dinsmore, Miss Nancy Jane Dinsmore, Robert S. Caldwell and others brought out the facts in the case as already enumerated and pointed strongly to Robert Fogler as the murderer, in light of the circumstantial evidence submitted and the near-recognition of Fogler as per the testimony of Mrs. Dinsmore and Nancy Jane. Also, Fogler's confession to I. H. Longdon was presented in Mr. Longdon's testimony.

No witnesses were called for the defense. After the taking of testimony, arguments for the defense were made by Attorney Little, and for the prosecution by Attorneys Vankirk and Fetterman. Judge Acheson then charged the jury and the case was put into their hands at 4:30 P.M. on Saturday evening, February 23. At about 5:50 the same evening, the court bell was rung, signifying that a verdict had been reached. Immediately the court room was filled to overflowing by curious spectators. Court was reconvened and the prisoner, appearing calm and composed, was brought into the court room. Next the jury filed in, and having taken their places in the jury box,

Judge Acheson asked if a verdict had been reached. Upon being answered by the foreman, Maj. Work in the affirmative, the judge asked, "What is your verdict"? Major Work then answered in a clear voice, "Guilty of murder in the first degree". Upon motion by counsel for the defense, the members of the jury were polled individually, each juror responding in confirmation. The prisoner was then remanded to jail with instructions from Judge Acheson that he was to be kept in solitary confinement. Court was then adjourned.

The case against Robert Fogler having thus been disposed of, the trial of William Montgomery, Jr. was begun on the following Monday morning, February 25, with Judge Acheson again presiding. Counsel for the defense in this case included the following: William McKennan, D. S. Wilson, Alexander Wilson and the firm of Hart and Brady. For the prosecution: District Attorney Boyd Crumrine, N. P. Fetterman and H. J. Vankirk.

The jurors selected to sit on this case were: Joseph England of East Finley Township, Oliver C. Horne of Monongahela, Alexander McCalmont of Mt. Pleasant Township, Thomas S. Irwin of Claysville, Francis Cunningham of Jefferson Township, James W. Kuntz of Washington, Robert M. Morgan of Mt. Pleasant Township, David Buchanan of Independence Township, George Valentine of Donegal Township, Cyrus Wells of Independence Township, John Johnson of Amwell Township, and Robert Laird of Donegal Township.

Testimony for the prosecution was very similar to that given in the Fogler trial. Dependence was placed upon the fact that Fogler and "Babe" Montgomery had been very intimate, that they had been seen together late in the afternoon before the murder, and that the man who had accompanied Fogler to the Dinsmore home had been a short man much of the size and build of young Montgomery.

An alibi testified to by members of the Montgomery family and others claimed that "Babe" Montgomery had been at home and in bed during the entire evening on which the murder had been committed.

In its verdict rendered late on Saturday evening of the week of the trial, the jury pronounced the prisoner "Not guilty".

On motion of D. S. Wilson of the counsel for the defense, the prisoner was discharged and Court adjourned. Thus, by the processes

of justice in the Washington County Court, Robert Fogler was judged guilty of the murder of Robert W. Dinsmore and the young man whom he claimed to have been his accomplice, William "Babe" Montgomery was exonerated of complicity in the crime.

On February 28, 1867 a sentence of death by hanging was pronounced upon Robert Fogler by Judge Alexander W. Acheson. The death warrant was issued on April 4, and on May 15, the prisoner was executed in the jail yard at Washington in the presence of about 70 persons who had received tickets to witness the tragic end of the life of Robert Fogler.

While awaiting trial and his execution, Fogler had been attended as spiritual advisers by the Rev. Dr. James I. Brownson of the First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Mr. W. B. Watkins of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Rev. Mr. J. D. Herr of the Methodist Protestant Church, and the last two named accompanied the prisoner to the scaffold where Mr. Herr offered a brief prayer. At the close of this prayer, Fogler stepped forward upon the scaffold and addressed the spectators, telling them that he had signed a full confession in the presence of his spiritual advisers and other friends, and asking that it be published after his death in the newspapers of Washington, Pittsburgh and Beaver. He thanked Sheriff Smith and others for kindnesses shown to him while a prisoner. He then took his place on the trap, and after Sheriff Smith had pinioned his hands and had adjusted the ropes, the prisoner offered the following earnest and touching prayer:

"O God, now that all earthly hope is shut off, receive me to Thy bosom. The thief on the Cross was saved, and Thou hast power to save me now. I commend my spirit into Thy hands, Amen."

Robert Dougan who had visited the prisoner during his confinement ascended the scaffold and took an affectionate farewell of him. The Sheriff, almost overcome with grief then kissed him and drew the cap over his face, and the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Watkins. The Sheriff then touched the trigger, the trap fell and in 21 minutes life was pronounced extinct by the physicians, the body was taken down and placed in a neat walnut coffin, and was removed to Georgetown in Beaver County for interment.

In his confession, Fogler stated that he had been born in Pittsburgh in 1844, his father having been a native of Germany, while his mother had been born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. Fogler had

lived in Washington County at the home of William Hervey in Canton Township from 1856 to 1864. He then entered the Union Army and had served as a member of Company B of the famed Ringgold Battalion from February 29, 1864 until the close of the War.

William "Babe" Montgomery was only about 16 years old when he was exonerated of complicity in this crime. He soon left Washington and lived in the West until his death in 1880 at the age of 29 years.

Matilda Clutter Dinsmore, widow of the slain man, left the farm and moved to Washington and lived for many years on West Wheeling Street. To settle the estate of Mr. Dinsmore, letters of administration were issued to his brother, James Dinsmore of Cross Creek Township and to a neighbor, James McBride of Canton Township. On December 21, 1866 a public sale of Mr. Dinsmore's livestock and machinery was held on the farm. The farm was sold by the administrators in 1869 to Christian Alrutz whose family occupied it for many years. In 1881, Matilda Dinsmore moved to Chicago where she made her home with her daughter, Ella D. Phillips, who was the nine-year old girl when her father was murdered. Seeking better conditions for her health by going south each winter, Mrs. Dinsmore had been going to Georgia and in Madison of that state her death occurred on January 19, 1895. Her remains were returned to Washington for burial beside her husband in the Washington Cemetery. He had originally been buried at Buffalo Village, but on November 29, 1868 his body was removed to the Samuel Clutter lot in the Washington Cemetery. Here also is buried his brother, John C. Dinsmore and his wife, Lucinda Clutter Dinsmore, she having been a sister of Mrs. Robert Dinsmore.

Mr. Dinsmore's oldest daughter, Nancy Jane, born on May 7, 1834, was married in 1870 to William Vance of South Strabane Township. He was a brother of Isaac Vance, the coroner in the inquest after the death of Robert Dinsmore. William Vance died on April 30, 1872, within two years of his marriage, and he left two small sons, Robert Vance, who died at the age of 23 while a student at Washington and Jefferson College, and William S. Vance, who kept a drugstore on North Main Street in Washington for many years until his death in 1934. Robert D. Vance, well-known insurance man of Washington and Claysville, and Mary V. McCarrell, wife of Robert L. McCarrell, Jr. of Washington were children of William S. Vance. Mrs. Nancy Dinsmore Vance had her home in Washington at 246 East Beau Street and she died there on January 25, 1922.

Another marriage between the Dinsmore and Vance families occurred when a nephew of Robert W. Dinsmore, the Rev. John W. Dinsmore of Canton Township married Adeline Vance, a cousin of Capt. Isaac Vance and of William Vance, both mentioned above.

The mystery of what had happened to the bullet from the second shot of Fogler's revolver was solved some time after the murder. When someone was sitting on the stairway of the Dinsmore home, he happened to feel something rough on the riser under one of the steps. Picking at it for a moment, he removed a partly flattened bullet from a hole in this board. Dorothy Taggart, a former occupant of the old brick house could show that board with the bullet hole in it, a real relic of that murder of over 100 years ago.

THE GREAT ELDERSVILLE MURDER CASE

While death by murder is commonplace in many of the larger cities of our land, it is much less common in our small country towns. When such a death does occur in a community such as the village of Eldersville, whether in the 1870's or in the present day, it is sure to create a sensational situation. So it was back on December 4, 1872, when John Allingham, a storekeeper, was murdered while he slept in his home on the "town pump" corner in that small village.

Tension had been great among the rustic inhabitants of the area now known as Jefferson Township during most of the midyears of the nineteenth century. Since this area lay adjacent to the state of Virginia, many were the arguments heard here on the twin topics of slavery and emancipation. There were stout adherents and defenders on both sides of these important issues. Also, following the building of the Panhandle Railroad down the Harmon Creek valley toward Steubenville and the other river towns, travel was easier in that direction, and in the saloons and taverns of those places intoxicating liquors were easily obtainable, so among the people of the Eldersville neighborhood, the question of temperance became a live topic, on which there were the usual arguments and differences of opinion and practice. Also, occasionally, it was claimed by some that counterfeiters from the hills of Virginia would invade this area, thus adding to the confusion of the good residents of Eldersville and its surrounding area.

Because of the political nature of some of the arguments on these and other controversial topics, the people of the present Jefferson Township area presented a petition to the Washington County Court for the creation of a new township, and on June 16, 1853, an order was handed down by that judicial body for the erection of the Township of Jefferson separating it from the home township of Cross Creek.

Even in the field of religion there were disruptions and divisions in this area. Although the people of Jefferson Township have been and still are largely of the Methodist persuasion, yet in an

earlier day there were different kinds of Methodists. At Bethel, the Methodist Protestants and the Methodist Episcopals tried holding services in the same church building and finally ended up by each having their own building, the two standing side by side on this hill of Zion. In Eldersville itself, a division in the Methodist Protestant Church resulted in the formation of the Wesleyan Methodist congregation, composed of the more conservatively minded on the topics of slavery and temperance. This group held its services in the so-called "White Church" on a back street in the village.

During the Civil War years, while most of the people of Jefferson Township were loyal to the Federal government, many were of an opposite opinion, and these ranged from a loyal opposition to the extreme views and actions of the so-called "copperheads." One instance will be given: Then as now, the American flag was the symbol of patriotism, and during the War loyal citizens sought to display their flag on all important occasions. Many were the flag-raisings held at public buildings and on patriotic occasions. The opposition, often led by hoodlums from the Virginia Panhandle, demonstrated their loyalty to the South by raising the Stars and Bars every time they got a chance. So, in June, 1862, when a southern flag had been put up on a Baptist Church near the mouth of Cross Creek in (West) Virginia, a banter was issued to come over and put up a flag on the Pine Grove Presbyterian Church which stood on Scott's Run in Jefferson Township just a few rods from the (West) Virginia line.

A few Sundays later, when the Rev. James Fleming, pastor of the Lower Buffalo Church, who was supplying at Pine Grove, came to preach at the latter place, he found a United States flag on the church and a company of the Home Guards were there to see that it remained in place. To avoid trouble in this explosive situation, members of the church locked the building and the Rev. Mr. Fleming decided not to attempt to hold services. Here, but for the cool-headed direction of a few of the leading citizens, a pitched battle might have taken place. Incidents of this sort were numerous in border communities during the entire course of the War. By 1872, sentiments had cooled somewhat but in isolated cases, bad feelings persisted as we will see as the events of this story unfold.

But to get back to John Allingham: He had been a resident of Eldersville for 30 years, living in the large building on the "town pump" corner which had formerly served as the town's leading hotel. In this building he had a good-sized store room, using the

rest of the building for living quarters consisting of a kitchen, a large sleepingroom and a parlor downstairs and two large sleeping-rooms on the second floor. For four or five years before the murder, Mr. Allingham and his wife had used the downstairs sleepingroom as their bedroom, a large room which had been the barroom when the hotel was in operation. The bar still stood in a corner of this room. It was Mr. Allingham's custom to sleep on the right side of the bed nearest the front window, while his wife occupied the side farthest from the window.

In his dealings with the people of the community, Mr. Allingham was outspoken in some of his attitudes and in light of the community controversies already alluded to, he had many friends and, so it is believed, not a few enemies. Among the latter was a black man of the community by the name of Henry Briceland, sometimes known as Henry Hawk. He had formerly been on good terms with Mr. Allingham, but for about two years previous to the time of the events of this story, he had grown antagonistic toward the Allingham family. This feeling arose partly because of a story reportedly circulated by Allingham regarding undue intimacy on the part of Briceland with two maiden ladies who lived in Eldersville in a house just opposite to Mr. Allingham's residence and store. In this dispute, Briceland countered by accusing Allingham of being a member of a counterfeiting ring then said to be operating in this community.

As the disputes between these two men waxed hotter and hotter, Briceland swore vengeance on Allingham. It was reported that in the Federal Court at Pittsburgh Briceland had secured a true bill against Allingham on the charge of counterfeiting, but he had never succeeded in having him arrested and brought to trial. On another occasion, Briceland had tried to institute a charge of slander against Allingham, first before Squire Donehoo of Cross Creek Village, and later before the Washington County Court. Having largely failed in his efforts to humiliate Mr. Allingham by process of law, after the murder of Mr. Allingham, Henry Briceland was strongly suspected of having committed the crime, and he was arrested the following day.

About midnight on December 4, 1872, the quiet little village of Eldersville was almost rocked on its foundations by a terrific explosion which occurred near the center of town. Mrs. John Allingham, who was sleeping by the side of her husband, was awakened by the blast, and crawling out of bed over the body of her husband, she discovered that his pillow was afire and that he was terribly injured, and bleeding profusely from his head. Mrs. Allingham immediately went upstairs and called her brother-in-law, George Allingham, who was sleeping in

a second-floor bedroom. Together, they lighted a candle and first thinking that the store had been burglarized, they investigated but finding nothing wrong there, they returned to the downstairs bedroom to examine the extent of Mr. Allingham's injuries.

By the light of the candle, the whole horrible scene met their sight. A great gaping hole had been torn in the window, a portion of the headboard of the bed had been shattered, the side of Mr. Allingham's head had been blown off and his brains and bloody flesh were scattered over the room and bed. Stunned and shocked by this discovery, Mrs. Allingham, still in her night clothes, made her way to the home of their nearest neighbors, the Matthew Richardson family, whom she informed of the tragedy. Mr. Richardson immediately went to the nearby homes of Campbell Cosgrove, Silas Wright and David Martin to spread the alarm.

Mr. Martin was the first of the neighbors to reach the Allingham house, and finding the door locked, in his haste to get inside, he broke the door open and when he got inside he was chided by George Allingham who told him, "That is a rough way to get in. I was going to open the door!" The other neighbors, Richardson, Cosgrove and Thomas Walker, all soon arrived.

As they began to investigate the premises, in looking around outside the broken window, Silas Wright discovered on the front porch near the window beside Mr. Allingham's bed the instrument of death, which consisted of an inch and a quarter pipe about four and one-half feet long which had been fashioned into a sort of homemade cannon. This was attached by strands of broomcorn to a board somewhat longer and wider than the pipe. It was apparent that this "gun" had been loaded with powder and lead slugs and fired by a long fuse constructed out of a piece of twine.

The night was cold and a light snow had fallen, and an examination of the ground revealed a set of boot tracks leading to the gun, and then, with steps much farther apart, leading away from the scene and down the road toward Steubenville. After daylight the next morning, it was found that these tracks led off into a field and then down into the valley toward the station on the Panhandle Railroad known as Paris Crossing.

Early on the morning of December 5, Squire James A. Stewart, who lived in the stone house on the farm just east of the former Orchard Hills fruit farm, was summoned to Eldersville and, learning the facts in the case, he took charge of the investigation and

summoned to appear before him for a preliminary hearing all persons who had had any contact with the tragedy. These hearings were conducted in the old hotel building, the Allingham home. As soon as news of the murder reached Pittsburgh, the mayor of that city dispatched Detective Joseph Cupples to aid in the investigation and the search for the suspected murderer (s). He arrived at Hanlin Station on an early train from the city.

Suspicion being immediately attached to the name of Henry Briceland, a search for him was instituted throughout the whole adjacent area. He had been seen in Eldersville only a day or two before the murder, but on Dec. 5 he was nowhere to be found. Over weekends, he usually came to town and stayed at the home of the Misses Ruth and Margaret Howard in the village, but on working days he was usually traveling through the community working at his trade of carpentry. On December 5, an intensive search was conducted by Detective Cupples and his assistants. Late on that evening, Constable Frank Porter and two aides, Charles Hanlin and Joseph Crisp, located Briceland at the home of a family just over the state line in West Virginia. To a group of citizens gathered at the blacksmith shop at Hanlin Station the cry was raised, "They have got him," and soon the party with Briceland in tow appeared, and he was taken immediately to the hearing before Squire Stewart.

As he was taken into the room where the inquest was in progress, and where more than 100 people had gathered, the prisoner appeared very calm and cool. Squire Stewart read the warrant for his arrest charging him with the murder of John Allingham, and then asked Briceland, "Are you guilty or innocent of this charge?" to which Briceland answered, "I claim to be innocent. I know nothing of this murder and I don't know why I am suspected. John Allingham didn't like me, but as to killing him, I never did it."

Briceland then told where he had spent the night of December 4, and that the next day he had gone to the home in Hancock County where he was found. He had had dinner there and then was engaged in some carpenter work for the family. The prisoner was shown the pipe which had been fashioned into the gun as the weapon of murder. He examined it closely, and then denied ever having seen it before.

Mrs. Allingham was next questioned by Squire Stewart and she declared that she thought Briceland was the man who had killed her husband. The prisoner offered no resistance to his arrest and questioning, and on the following afternoon, December 6, he was

taken to the Washington County jail by Constable Porter. Here he was held to await the action of the Grand Jury, and at the December, 1872 Term of Court a true bill of murder was found against him. Committed to jail also, as material witnesses and possible accomplices of Briceland, were Gamble Graham and Andrew Lister. Later, no evidence being found against these two men, they were released, although both testified for the defense in the subsequent trial of the case.

The trial of Henry Briceland for the murder of John Allingham was held at the February, 1873 Term of Court. It began on February 19, 1873, and the case was given to the jury on March 1, just ten days later, Presiding at the trial was President Judge Alexander W. Acheson, with Associate Judges John Scott and Thomas W. Bradley both also on the bench. District Attorney Thomas H. Baird prosecuted the case for the Commonwealth and he was assisted by his deputy, Ianthus Bentley, former district attorney, and by Nathaniel Richardson, of the Washington County Bar, and by J. Hanson Good, then of the Ohio County (W. Va.) Bar. As counsel for the defense, attorneys Boyd Crumrine, David F. Patterson, a former Jefferson Township boy, and George O. Jones, all of the Washington County Bar, appeared for Briceland. Because of the prominence of the parties involved and the interest which the case had created over the county, the trial was largely attended and many witnesses appeared to testify on each side.

An intensive investigation had been conducted into the activities and whereabouts of Henry Briceland on the days just prior to the murder. Being an expert carpenter and cabinetmaker, he maintained a shop at the Paris Crossing Station house on the main line of the Panhandle Railroad. Previously, a station agent had been kept here, but this service had been discontinued some months before, but Briceland still had his shop in the building.

On December 3rd and 4th, it was noted, Briceland had been quite busily at work in his shop, And, while being an affable man who usually welcomed loafers in his shop, on these two days he was known to have worked behind closed doors and refused to admit anyone to view the project on which he was engaged. After his arrest, the shop was investigated and among the materials found there was a piece of iron pipe of the size and type used for constructing the homemade cannon; a "pig" of lead from which had apparently been cut off the slugs of the type which had been fired by this gun; also a quantity of twine from which evidently had been

cut enough to form the fuse used for firing the death gun on Allingham's porch. The discovery of these materials, coupled with the enmity known to exist between Allingham and Briceland, became the basis for the prosecution to begin weaving a tight web of circumstantial evidence around Henry Briceland.

In his defense, the couple where he had spent the night of December 4th testified that Briceland had taken supper at their home and had spent the night in a small rear bedroom in their house. He had removed his boots in their living room, had also hung his coat and vest over a chair in this room and had then retired to the small bedroom, where they testified that during the night they had heard him snoring and gritting his teeth as he was wont to do while sleeping. Further they brought out at the hearing that the window in the room where he had slept was tightly closed with a nail which would have to be removed if Briceland had left this room by that means during the night. The couple further testified that they knew Briceland was in his room between 5 and 6 A.M. on the morning of December 5th and that they had had to awaken him when he was called for breakfast. In the testimony offered by this couple in court, they were examined separately, with one of them being absent from the court room while the other was testifying. In their separate testimonies, they seem to have agreed very well.

Witnesses for the prosecution testifying in court included: George Allingham, brother of the murdered man, Mrs. Elizabeth Allingham, his wife, Silas Wright, Matthew Richardson and David C. Martin, the first neighbors to reach the scene of the murder, Dr. J. F. McCarrell, the town physician who had conducted the autopsy and who testified to the cause of death, Ambrose Cassidy, who had attended a "singing" at Lee's schoolhouse that night and had come home by way of Eldersville, stopping at the town pump for a drink of water about 11 P.M., Nathaniel Gillespie, Samuel McCuen, Samuel Cresswell, David and John Snyder, Detective Cupples, who had conducted the investigation, William and David Wirt, John, Samuel and David Gardner, Robert Phillips, William Cralls, W. W. Knight, Lycurgus Robertson and several others.

Appearing to testify for the defense, most of whom were character witnesses, were: John Swearingen, Andrew Halstead, Samuel Gardner, Elias Truax, William Kidd, John Melvin and his father, William, Alex. Smith, Thomas J. Walker, Albert Truax, Charles and Grant Hanlin, William and Campbell Cosgrove, Chap and Lucy Truax, Gamble Graham, Andrew Lister, John D. Walker

and many others. Most of these testified to the good reputation which Henry Briceland bore in the Eldersville community. It was brought out in the opening plea to the jury by defense counsel Jones that Briceland had been born into slavery, but by industry and perseverance had purchased his liberty and that he had advanced himself in the estimation of all by his industry and good habits. He had been received as a capable mechanic and as a friend in the homes of the best families in Jefferson and Hanover Townships. Attorney Jones also warned the jury about accepting circumstantial evidence in a murder trial when the life of a suspected man is at stake.

Even though the evidence submitted was largely circumstantial and although Briceland through testimony given seemed to have established a fairly good alibi, yet when the jury, after spending considerable time in deliberating on the case and after returning for repeated instructions from the presiding judge, brought in its verdict, "Guilty as indicted." This verdict was rendered in court at 11:03 A.M. on Tuesday, March 4, 1873. Members of the jury, and townships from which they came were: D. M. Campsey, Donegal; R. A. Robinson, Carroll; H. P. McCoy, Buffalo; Demar Lindley, Franklin; George J. Long, California; John McBurney, Mt. Pleasant; Joseph Patterson, Hopewell; Wm. H. Cook, Canton; Wm. R. McIlvaine, Somerset; John W. Duncan, Hanover; Charles Scott, Jefferson; and Alex. Haft, Chartiers. After the jury gave its verdict, court was recessed until 2 P.M. the same day. When court reconvened, counsel for the defense moved for a new trial and also for an arrest of judgment. For a hearing on these motions the court appointed the date of April 4, 1873, to hear the arguments and to rule on them.

When court convened on the appointed date to hear the arguments of the defense counsel, a total of 17 objections were presented and argued before the court. Most of these points had to do with statements made and instructions given by Judge Acheson in his charge to the jury, all of which, according to the counsel for defense, were prejudicial to the case of their client. Also, in one of these arguments, it was claimed that in their lengthy deliberation of the case, six of the jurors were known to have held out for a considerable time for acquittal of the defendant, even though their final verdict was that the prisoner was guilty as charged. And in still another point, it was brought out that one of the jurors, Charles Scott, of Jefferson Township, was related by marriage to the murdered man.

Judge Acheson, in a long response to these objections, took them up one by one, and after a full consideration of all points, he overruled the objections and the motions for arrest of judgment and a new trial. He then asked the prisoner if he had anything to say as to why the sentence of death should not be imposed upon him whereupon Briceland responded in a faltering and confused manner, referring to some of the testimony given against him, which he declared to be entirely false. He looked around at the spectators sitting in the courtroom and told them that they would find at the last day that he was telling the truth. "This is a put-up job," he declared. "That murder was done while I was in bed and asleep."

After this statement by Briceland, Judge Acheson, in a stern manner, addressed the prisoner, pointing out to him that he had had a fair trial before a jury of his own choosing, that he had been found guilty of a horrible crime and that he would have to pay the penalty for his vile deed. The judge then pronounced upon him the penalty of death by hanging and ordered him returned to the Washington County jail to await the date of his execution. In the news account of the imposing of the sentence, it was stated that an appeal would be taken to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth and to the Governor, since much of the testimony given at the trial was seriously questioned by the public.

After spending about two weeks in jail following his sentencing, it was discovered on the evening of April 15, 1873, that Briceland and five other prisoners had escaped from the jail. It appears that these men had succeeded in making keys out of some metal which they had secured and with these they had quietly let themselves out of the jail and had disappeared. A reward of $500 was promptly offered for the return of Briceland and an intensive search was begun. He was traced back to the Eldersville community and after eluding the searchers for a full week, he was finally found in a haymow in the barn of Robert and Albert Caldwell, two farmers who lived just over the state line in West Virginia near Paris. Briceland pleaded with these men not to turn him in, but they believed it their duty to do so and after giving him a good meal, they put him on a horse and brought him at once back to the jail at Washington.

An appeal was made to the Supreme Court by Briceland's counsel and his sentence was finally commuted to life imprisonment, and he was sent to the Western Penitentiary at Pittsburgh to serve his term. After being in the "pen" for a considerable time,

early in 1890, according to the Washington Reporter for May 15, 1890, an effort was made to secure his pardon, since it was stated that a great many people in the county believed him to be innocent. This effort was not immediately successful, but sometime later Briceland was released, and he made a final visit back among his friends and acquaintances in the Eldersville community. As he came over the streets of Pittsburgh and saw the self-propelled electric cars on the streets where only horse-drawn vehicles had traveled when he was sentenced to the penitentiary, he was amazed and could not believe these and other sights which he saw there.

He visited the farm of Wesley Owings in Hanover Township. Mr. Owings, an old-time thresher, had his steam threshing outfit standing in his barnyard and this also became to Briceland an object of great wonder, since in his earlier days in this community he had known only the horsepower type of thresher.

Thus ends the story of Henry Briceland, or Henry Hawk as he was sometimes known, without doubt the designer of the "gun" which killed John Allingham and probably the one who set it off the night of December 4, 1872. His debt to society was paid by his many dismal years behind the bars of Western Penitentiary. In the graveyard at Eldersville, near the northwestern corner of the Methodist Church, can be found a small marble marker on which is the simple inscription:

John Allingham....died Dec. 4, 1872....aged 65 years.

How few that pass that marker know that he was the victim of the Great Eldersville Murder of that date.

The old hotel building in which the Allingham murder occurred is no longer standing. After its usefulness as a hotel had ceased it was used exclusively as a residence and storeroom. About 1895, the family of Robert Boles, the village blacksmith, moved into the old building, his shop being nearby, and they continued to live there until Mr. Bole's death. Later the building became unoccupied except for an occasional tenant who kept store in the old storeroom. Mrs. Alice Grove, of Cedar Grove, a daughter of Robert Boles, recalls with a sense of nostalgia the years when the family lived in this old building. Because of this murder, stories of its being a haunted house were told and a skeleton was supposed to be buried under the cellar floor. As a flareback to the counterfeiting of John Allingham, a set of counterfeiting dies are supposed to be

buried near the site of the old town pump. George Pollock of Cedar Grove tore the old building down in 1946 and some of the doors and lumber were purchased by various persons for repairing their own homes. Since Henry Briceland was a fine cabinetmaker, some of his handiwork can still be seen in homes of the community.

THE VAN BAKER MURDER TRIALS

A recent reading of the best seller, In Cold Blood by Truman Capote, has recalled to the minds of older residents of the tri-state area a crime which was committed in the late 1880's in the then small community of Holliday's Cove, West Virginia.

If one were to pay a casual visit to the old Three Springs graveyard just off Route 22 by-pass on Weirton Hill over in Hancock County, West Virginia perhaps little would be noted other than is found in the general run of old graveyards. Here "many of the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep." Among the older graves are those of the Campbells, Lees, Swearingens, Smiths, Shipleys, Hills, Pattersons, Freshwaters, and Hindmans. Most of these are names of the older families once or still living in this or nearby areas of the Panhandle of West Virginia.

A closer examination of these older grave markers and the dates on them will reveal, on one of the less conspicuous marble stones, these inscriptions, all on one stone:

Eliza, wife of Van Baker died May 9, 1887 aged 44 years
Robbie, son of V. and E. Baker born May 12, 1886 died Jan. 15, 1887
Robert McWha born Oct. 2, 1806 died Sept. 29, 1882
Drusilla McWha, wife of Robert, born Sept. 25, 1822 died May 9, 1887
Georgie, wife of John Boal born May 14, 1858 died July 20, 1886

It will be noted that two of the death dates hereon recorded are identical: May 9, 1887 for Eliza Baker and for her mother, Drusilla McWha. Georgie Boal was another daughter of Robert and Drusilla McWha. It will be the purpose of this story to explain the coincidence of the deaths of Mrs. McWha and of her daughter, Mrs. Eliza Baker.

Van Buren Baker, a native of the village of Independence in Washington County, Pennsylvania where he was born on November 4, 1841, was well-known in the Burgettstown area where he had served as a teacher in the public school during the term 1865-66, that being his eighth year of teaching. For this term the Burgettstown School, formerly a one-room school, was graded. Prof. Baker was the instructor

in the advanced room which was then located in a house on Pittsburgh Street in the "old town", the house which later was the home of Miss Nancy Shillito. Mrs. Martha Baker, the first wife of Prof. Baker, was also a teacher and she was in charge of the primary dept. of the school, and it was housed in the brick school building, erected in 1834, the house which for many years prior to her death, was the home of Mrs. Adah Campbell who died on March 2, 1965. This house, also, is located in the "old town" or South Burgettstown, as it was known when a post office was maintained there. This Mrs. Baker was a daughter of Andrew Martin of Cross Creek Township. After teaching the term of 1865-66, Mrs. Baker also had charge of the summer school in Burgettstown in 1866.

After this term at Burgettstown, Prof. Baker served as principal of schools at East Liverpool, Ohio, at Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, and at Sidney, Ohio. Also, he had taught in normal schools for the training of teachers at various places, including Claysville and Eldersville, Pennsylvania. For a time, in 1883, he was one of the editors of the Irontonian, a news sheet then published at Ironton, Ohio. Mrs. Martha Baker died during this year of 1883.

That Mr. Baker was well qualified for the work of teaching is attested to by the nature of the schools and other positions which he occupied in life. He was a son of the venerable William Baker, a shoemaker, who plied his trade, first at the village of Independence, then in Hopewell Township, and after 1849 at Cross Creek Village to which place he had moved in that year. Mr. and Mrs. William Baker, a highly respected couple, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in a mammoth surprise party promoted by their many friends and held in the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church on March 25, 1890 during the pastorate at Cross Creek of the Rev. J. P. Anderson.

Since Cross Creek Village was the location of the well-known academy founded in 1828 by the Rev. John Stockton D. D. of the Cross Creek Church, it had become the training and preparatory school for many young men looking toward the professions of teaching, of medicine and the ministry. So, both Van Baker and his equally well-known brother, the Rev. Perrin Baker had been students in this famous school, Van Baker then entering the teaching profession, while Perrin Baker went on to Princeton University and then to the Western Theological Seminary. Upon graduation from the latter institution, he had been ordained a minister and at the time of our story, he was serving as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania.

Van Buren Baker and his wife, Martha, were the parents of seven children: Joel, William, Marion, Marcellus, Donald, Nettie, and Della. As above mentioned, Mrs. Baker died in 1883, leaving her husband and this family of children. By this time, some of the older children had married and were in homes of their own, and at the mother's death, the younger children went to live, either with the grandparents at Cross Creek Village, or with their older brothers or sister. Mr. Baker remained a widower until May 12, 1885 when he and Eliza McWha of Holliday's Cove were married in Pittsburgh.

Since Mrs. McWha, mother of Mrs. Baker, had been widowed in 1882, it appears that she was living with her daughter in a small home on a five acre tract located in Holliday's Cove at the intersection of the Cove Road and the road which came down the Harmon Creek Valley from Colliers, West Virginia. The site of this home is near the present Thomas Millsop Community Center in Weirton and only a short distance from the Cove (United) Presbyterian Church of Weirton. Following the marriage of Van Baker and Eliza McWha, Mr. Baker began living in his new mother-in-law's home at the Cove. What Mr. Baker's employment was at the time of his second marriage does not appear from information presently at hand. It is known that on October 4, 1886, he resigned from teaching the Eldersville School and three days later, he started on a trip to Litchfield, Minnesota. On this trip, he was accompanied as far as Iowa by Mrs. McWha, who had gone to visit another daughter who lived in that state. In Minnesota, Mr. Baker appears to have had assignments which included teaching and also lecturing, presumably on educational topics. On April 7, 1887, he returned to Holliday's Cove from Minnesota and again took up his residence with his wife and mother-in-law in the latter's home. During his absence in Minnesota, his little son who had been born May 12, 1886, had died on January 15, 1887. Letters written to Mr. Baker by his wife while he was in Minnesota tell the story of this child's death.

When he returned to the Holliday's Cove home, it was not long until Mr. Baker made the discovery that both his wife and her mother had made their wills during his absence. This discovery aroused first his curiosity, and after he had learned the provisions of the wills, his anger was aroused also, since he had found that he was pretty well left out in the terms of these wills. That the wills had been made simultaneously was probably due to the age of the mother (she was nearly 65 years old) and also to the poor health of Mrs. Baker, who appears to have been suffering from consumption (Tuberculosis). An apprehension must have existed that the younger woman might pre-

decease her mother. In the wills provision was made for a bequest of $1,000 to Van Baker, and most of the rest of the estate would go to Mrs. Baker's child unborn at the time the wills were drawn. It was further provided that in the event Mrs. Baker's child did not survive her, then the residue would go to Robert McWha Lee, a young son of Mrs. Baker's sister, Ella McWha Lee, wife of Albert G. Lee, formerly of Burgettstown. That these provisions of the wills were not looked upon with favor by Van Baker seems to have been well-known in the neighborhood, since he had been heard frequently to have expressed himself in public upon the matter.

However, as time went on during this spring of 1887, things appeared to be normal about the McWha-Baker home, although it was later reported by persons who had visited there that a coldness of feeling appeared to exist between Mr. Baker and the aged Mrs. McWha. On Sunday, May 8, 1887, the Baker family, including Mrs. McWha, had attended services at the nearby Cove Church. On the following day, Monday, which was washday at this home, while Mr. Baker busied himself with outside chores about the premises, the women of the home had done a large wash and had hung the clothes to dry on a line in the yard. Shortly after lunch time on this day, three men had called at the home seeking to rent a stable which stood on the premises. A deal was made with them and they were to move their teams into the stable the same evening. As they were leaving, they were instructed by Baker to occupy the stable, but not to bother the women at the house any further about the matter, since Baker himself was planning to go to his father's home in Cross Creek Village to spend the night. For this trip, he intended taking an afternoon train from the Holliday's Cove station on the Panhandle Railroad to Hanlin Station from which place he would walk the rest of the distance to Cross Creek. As revealed later, Mr. Baker left the home about 3:15 P.M. on this afternoon, walked rapidly the distance to the station, and just barely got aboard the train. He had told someone that if he missed this train going east, he would take the next train going west and would go to Steubenville instead.

When he arrived at Hanlin Station, he was greeted there by the storekeeper and ticket agent, John Allinder. Grant Hanlin, for whom this stop on the railroad had been named, was there when the train arrived and he spoke to Mr. Baker. Also in from the country, over in Jefferson Township, was James T. Marquis, a prominent farmer who had come to the station to meet the westbound train arriving about the same time, for on this train had arrived at Hanlin Station Mr. Marquis' prospective son-in-law, James B. Lyle, a native of

the Cross Creek region, and then a second year student at the Western Theological Seminary at Pittsburgh. Mr. Lyle, after his ordination the following year, was married to Miss Lizzie Marquis. Since Mr. Marquis and Mr. Lyle were going in the same direction as Mr. Baker, they invited him to ride with them in Mr. Marquis' wagon. But Mr. Baker excused himself to go to borrow an umbrella from Mr. Allinder, the storekeeper, and since he did not reappear after a wait of 15 minutes or so, Mr. Marquis and Mr. Lyle drove away, leaving Mr. Baker to walk the entire distance to Cross Creek.

When Baker arrived near the village, he was met at the village schoolhouse by his little son, James Donald Cameron Baker, who took his father's satchel and carried it to the home of the father, William Baker in the village. Miss Cora Simmons and others in the village saw Mr. Baker's arrival and saw him during the evening. He went to both stores in the village, to Reed's and Anderson's, and made some purchases for members of his family. He spent the night in his father's home, sleeping with his son, Marcellus, who was then living in this home. He arose the next morning, walked back to Hanlin Station and took a westbound train for his home station of Holliday's Cove.

When he got off the train at the Cove he greeted some of his neighbors as he walked toward the McWha home. Arriving at the house about 9 A.M. he entered through the front door, and he then discovered the bodies of his wife and of Mrs. McWha lying on the floor in the sitting room of the small home, apparently murdered "In Cold Blood". The windows of the house had been darkened by hanging shawls and papers over them, the floor of the kitchen was covered with pools of blood, and in a tub of water standing in the center of the kitchen floor were the obvious instruments of death: an ax and two iron bolts, also certain articles of clothing. Quickly surveying the situation, Mr. Baker then left the house immediately and raised the alarm. The first persons to enter the house after this alarm were Herman Campbell and George Knox, nearby residents of the Cove. David Hale, another neighbor, heard the alarm and went immediately to the home of Squire William M. Lee and summoned him to the home. Mr. Hale then went to summon Dr. Morris, a physician who lived nearby at the Cove.

As these neighbors came to the house, Mr. Baker, showing much emotion at times, reported that money which he knew had been in the house, also some bonds belonging to Mrs. McWha were missing. Drawers in desks and bureaus in the house, both upstairs and

down, had been pulled out and ransacked. The beds, usually occupied by the two women, were only slightly disarranged, appearing not to have been slept in the previous night. The bodies of the women were clad in their night clothes, and both women had their nightcaps tightly tied on their heads. Wounds on the heads and bodies of the dead women obviously were made before the night clothes had been put on the bodies, since there were no rents in the clothes to match the wounds on the bodies, The clothes found soaking in the tub in the kitchen were bloody and torn.

In giving his theory as to the motives for the killing, Mr. Baker brought forward the information that before he had left for the train on the previous afternoon, three men had come to the McWha residence seeking to rent some ground from the property on which to erect a shanty in which the men proposed to live while working on some railroad construction nearby. According to Baker, a deal had been agreed upon and the men had tendered a $50 bill which they sought to have changed to pay $10 down on the transaction. Mr. Baker averred that this bill had been taken into the house and changed by Mrs. McWha, and that the $40 difference had been returned to the men. From this, Mr. Baker theorized that after he had left the house on Monday afternoon, these men had returned to the house to rob the defenseless women and in so doing, had killed them using the ax and the iron bolts found in the tub.

Mr. Baker demanded a full investigation of the crime and in this his demands were acceeded to. Detectives were sent for and among those who soon arrived to conduct the investigation of the crime were Detective Lt. Solomon Coulson and Detective William Shore of Pittsburgh. The coroner of Hancock County was summoned and he conducted an inquest on the premises. To this inquest were summoned all persons who had had any recent contact with the family or had any knowledge of recent activities about the McWha property. One of the last persons to be called to testify at the inquest was Van Baker himself and immediately after he had given his testimony, he was arrested as the prime suspect in the crime. He was taken at once to the county seat, New Cumberland, West Virginia and was there remanded to jail.

With this turn in events, Mr. Baker went to all lengths to aver his innocence. He immediately retained counsel, demanded an early trial, and he seemed entirely confident that he would soon be cleared of all connection with the crime. For his lawyer to plan his defense, Van Baker summoned to his cell in the New Cumberland jail a friend,

Col. John R. Braddock who was then a practicing attorney at Wellsburg, West Virginia. He was soon joined in the case by Col. John R. Donehoo, a native of Cross Creek Village and a long-time friend. After assuming the case, both Mr. Braddock and Mr. Donehoo recommended to Mr. Baker that his trial be delayed as long as possible, their argument being that a delay in time would result in a lessening of the sentiment then existing against Mr. Baker over this unusual occurrence. As always occurs in such situations, those who knew Van Baker were divided in their ideas about his complicity in the crime. Many believed him entirely innocent, but it is probable that the preponderance of opinion was against him, and it was with a hope in the diminution in these sentiments that his attorneys sought in suggesting a delay in the trial. However, so sure was Baker of his eventual acquittal that he demanded that his defense be prepared with all possible speed and that his trial take place at the earliest possible moment. To oblige him in the matter, the court of Hancock County set the date of his trial for July 10, 1887, barely two months after the crime had been committed in the little home at Holliday's Cove.

As additional counsel for the defense, Braddock and Donehoo were joined by Col. William D. Moore, a noted criminal lawyer of Pittsburgh and by John M. Cook, a leading member of the bar at Steubenville, Ohio. Prosecuting the case for the State of West Virginia was District Attorney J. Huff, of New Cumberland and he was assisted by T. S. Brown of Pittsburgh who came into the case as a relative of the murdered women, and by Major John McSweeny, a prominent attorney of Wooster, Ohio, Col. John A. Hutchison of Parkersburg, West Virginia and James Marshall, of New Cumberland. This array of legal talent on both sides of this famous trial was impressive, to say the least. Presiding throughout the trial was the Hon. George E. Boyd, Judge of the First Judicial District of the State of West Virginia.

Chosen to sit as jurors in the trial were the following: John Wilson, Jr. age 22, of Fairview; W. H. Jester, 58, of New Cumberland; Henry Barton, 55, of New Lexington; John W. Johnston, 40, of Grant District; Samuel Bucher, 40, of Upper Hancock County; Robert Wilson, 48, of New Cumberland; Frank P. Spivey, 31, of near Fairview; M. H. Thayer, 43, of New Cumberland (foreman); W. E. Mercer, 25, of Grant District; Burgess H. Gas, 45, of Grant District; Ralph Carol, 26, of near New Lexington.

The actual trying of the case began at 9 A.M. on Wednesday, July 20, 1887 with Attorney T. S. Brown presenting the case of the

state in which he declared the guilt of Van Baker as the murderer of the two women, and he promised to present testimony to prove Baker's guilt. Mr. Brown was followed by Mr. Donehoo for the defense and he ably presented that side of the case, pointing out that only weak circumstantial evidence existed to connect Mr. Baker with the crime and strongly maintaining that much more than such evidence should be presented to convict a man of murder.

As the trial progressed, it became increasingly evident that the prosecution was weaving a tight web of guilt against the prisoner. In addition to the facts as already enumerated in the case, the prosecution brought out the following in the testimony of numerous witnesses.

Most damaging was the testimony of two neighbors, Mrs. Dan Swearingen and a Mrs. Brown who had called at the McWha home about 2:30 on the afternoon of May 9. They had gone to the front door but got no response to their knocking. They then went around the house to the kitchen door and one of the women pushed the door open slightly and called in, but the door was pushed closed against them, and after waiting for a short time they left believing at the time that the women in the house did not wish to be disturbed. When confronted with this testimony, the defense brought up the story of the railroad laborers who, it was claimed, had called about that time, when Mr. Baker declared he was in the orchard dealing with the men. The state countered that even then, Baker was in the house, just prior to his leaving to take the train to Hanlin Station, and that he had already committed the crime, leaving very soon thereafter for his trip to Cross Creek Village.

Another very serious piece of evidence brought against Mr. Baker was the testimony of several persons, who saw him at various times following the murder, trying to remove stains, presumably of blood, from his trousers. Mr. Baker claimed in this that he was only trying to remove mud from the garment. However, on microscopic examination of the trousers, it was claimed that the spots were, in fact, of human blood.

On Baker's claim that certain bonds belonging to Mrs. McWha were missing a search was made and these were conveniently found just across a fence near the home. Also, it was discovered that Mrs. Baker's will, already referred to, was missing, but the will of Mrs. McWha was still in the house, found in a secret compartment in Van Baker's own desk. Some freshly burned papers in the kitchen stove led to the suspicion that Baker had thus disposed of his wife's

will, the theory being that with that will destroyed, her property could be claimed by her husband, and evidence of the bequest to the Lee boy would thus be destroyed. In her will, Mrs. McWha left the bulk of her estate to her daughter, Mrs. Baker. Thus, so it was claimed, by murdering the women and so placing their bodies that it would appear that Mrs. McWha had died first, all the property of both women would be claimed by Baker, the husband. If that was his plan, he was not to realize its fulfillment.

Much was made, also, of the fact that the washing, done by the women on that Monday forenoon had been left out on the line all night, a most unusual occurrence for them; and a batch of bread dough set to rise in the family kitchen was found without further attention having been given to it from both of which incidents it was deduced that the women had been killed during the afternoon, rather than after dark in the evening. Certain witnesses for the defense did testify to having seen Mrs. Baker outside the house and about the premises after Mr. Baker had left for the train.

The trial, thus began on July 10 was not concluded until August 6, more than three weeks later. It was held under the most trying conditions of the heat of that very hot summer. Many times during the slow progress of the trial a temperature of 100 degrees was reported in the court room. To make conditions much worse for all concerned, the trial was largely attended by people from all over the tri-state area. The fact that Van Baker was so well-known over the area and the prominence of the victims of the crime and of other families connected with them, combined to attract people from far and near. Each day the court room was packed, people even being willing to stand in the aisles in order to hear the trial of the case. People who couldn't get into the court room would put ladders up to the open windows or hang in nearby trees or on roofs of adjoining buildings to get a glimpse of the prisoner, or to hear a shred of the voluminous testimony. When the trial was over all the participants were thoroughly exhausted. So great was the strain on Presiding Judge Boyd that it was claimed that he was not able to perform his judicial duties for nearly two years after this trial.

Among those who attended the trial were members of Baker's family: his aged father, William Baker from Cross Creek Village, several of his children including his son, Marcellus, and a sixteen year old daughter; also his brother, the Rev. Perrin Baker of Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. It was reported that the Rev. Mr. Baker, after reports of this crime had reached Belle Vernon, had tried to resign from the pastorate of his church, but his parishoners would not

permit him to do so. Perrin Baker was greatly loved by his people and in the Redstone Presbytery where his church was located he was respected and recognized as an eminent theologian.

Although the lawyers for Baker's defense made passionate appeals to the court and to the jury for their client's acquittal, strong sentiment prevailed regarding his guilt. The final charge to the jury was made at 8:30 P.M. on August 6, and the jury retired for deliberations. At 11 P.M. the courthouse bell rang, and crowds flocked to the court room believing that a verdict had been reached. But the foreman announced that no verdict had been agreed upon, and he requested permission to retire for the night. This was granted.

At 9 o'clock the next morning the jury again began its deliberations, 9:30 a loud knock on the jury room door indicated that the jury was ready to report. As they filed into the court room on that fateful morning, it was plainly evident on their careworn and weary faces what their verdict was to be. On a question from Clerk Stewart: "Gentlemen of the Jury, have you agreed upon a verdict?" M. H. Thayer, foreman, arose and replied, "We have." Van Buren Baker, the prisoner arose, shaking like an aspen and his face as pale as death.

When the clerk then asked, "What say you? Is the prisoner guilty or not guilty?", the answer came slowly, distinctly and with great solemnity, "GUILTY!"

Van Buren Baker immediately slumped to his chair, completely broken up. He sobbed like a child, and when his son, Marcellus, came in and learned the verdict, he then threw himself upon a chair beside his father, and the two of them mingled their tears. William Baker, the prisoner's father, heard the sad news of the verdict while on his way to the court house, and he immediately turned and retraced his steps, also a heartbroken man. Since the verdict of "Guilty" carried no recommendation by the jury, this meant that the penalty was death.

After the reading of the official verdict of the jury, Attorney Cook of the defense arose and demanded a polling of the jury. From each juror as the question was asked, "Is this your verdict?" the answer came, "It is." The defense counsel then made a motion to set aside the verdict, and the date of August 24 was set for hearing the arguments.

After lengthy arguments for the defense, Judge Boyd granted a new trial to Van Baker. In these arguments, it was brought out that during the first trial there was misconduct on the jury. It was

reported that one member of that body was in a state of intoxication almost continuously during the trial. Although officers in charge of the jury had known of this situation, yet in exercising the utmost vigilance in the matter, they seemed unable to control it, and the offending member was able to get his daily supply of intoxicant in spite of all that they could do. Out of this argument, the defense was able to secure a new trial for their client. Also, on the argument that, due to the sentiment against Mr. Baker in his home county of Hancock, it was impossible for him to have an impartial trial, the defense was able to secure a change of venue, and the second trial was held in the County Court House of Brooke County at Wellsburg, West Virginia.

Following the close of the first trial at New Cumberland, the prisoner was taken to the Ohio County jail at Wheeling and was held there to await his second trial. This second trial was scheduled to begin at Wellsburg on June 6, 1888. On the afternoon of June 5, attorneys for the defense applied for and secured a continuance of the trial until the October 1888 term of court on the grounds that material witnesses for the defense could not be secured to testify at that time. The trial finally began on October 9, 1888. The attorneys for both sides had made careful preparation for it, and able briefs were presented by both the state and the defense in support of their respective sides.

In spite of the lapse of time of over a year since the first trial, interest in the case had not diminished in the least, and, again large crowds attended each day of the trial. It is said that when the prisoner arrived by train from the Wheeling jail, great crowds were at the Wellsburg station awaiting his arrival and they followed him to the court room much as they might have followed a circus parade in a country town.

As the trial was called, arguments were again presented for another continuance of the case, but this was quickly overruled by the presiding judge, the Hon. John J. Jacob and the selection of the jury began. Selected on this panel were the following named men: J. C. Miller of Cross Creek Dist., age 35-40, a farmer, Methodist, Democrat; William Hammond of Buffalo Dist., 50, farmer, Presbyterian, Democrat; James H. Hawley of Buffalo Dist., 30, a gardener, religion unknown, Democrat; George H. Agnew of Buffalo Dist., age not known, farmer, Presbyterian, Democrat; Thomas Briggs of Wellsburg, 27, marble worker, Presbyterian, Republican; J. Campbell Wells of Buffalo Dist., 26, farmer, Disciples Church, Republican; John Magee (or McGee) of Cross Creek Dist., 25, farmer, Catholic,

Democrat; Samuel Strong of Wellsburg, 37, broom-maker, religion unknown, Republican; Marcellus Roberts of Wellsburg, over 50, cigar-maker, religion unknown, Republican; Conrad Miller of Wellsburg, 26, druggist, Catholic, Democrat; John R. Pogue of Buffalo Dist., 30, farmer, religion unknown, Democrat; David Mulholland (about whom no facts were given in newspaper record).

To the counsel for the defense had been added, in addition to those taking part in the first trial, the name of Col. W. W. Arnett, a noted lawyer from the Ohio County, West Virginia bar at Wheeling. Added to the prosecution was the district attorney of Brooke County, H. C. Hervey. Testimony taken at this second trial was almost identical with that of the first trial. The same facts and opinions were again presented, the same arguments again given by attorneys for both sides. In closing the case, powerful and emotional speeches were given for the defense by Attorneys Arnett, Braddock and Moore and these were countered by masterpieces of oratory delivered by Attorneys McSweeny and Hutchison for the prosecution.

When the oratory was all over and the case given to the jury and after a sufficient time for deliberations on the case, again a verdict of "Guilty" was brought in. Again Van Buren Baker had been adjudged guilty of the murder at Holliday's Cove on May 9, 1887 of his wife and his mother-in-law, but in this verdict the stipulation of the jury was for a penalty of life imprisonment. Long after the end of the trial, it was reported on good authority that the jury had been seriously divided as they pondered the case, and that Mulholland, Hammond, Agnew and Roberts had consistently voted for acquittal of the prisoner until the final poll of the jury, when they came over to the majority opinion and voted to find the prisoner guilty as charged. It would appear that the stipulation of life imprisonment, therefore, was the result of a compromise on the part of the jurymen.

As had been done at the close of the first trial, efforts were again made by counsel for the defense to set aside the verdict; to move for a new trial; or to take any possible avenue which would secure the liberty of their client. But all of these motions were made without avail. No argument advanced by the defense could move the presiding judge to soften in any way the fate of the prisoner. So, from the day of his arrest on May 11, 1887 Van Baker never again knew the joys of freedom. As his attorneys continued to battle in his behalf, he again spent many months in the Wheeling jail, and when all hopes had disappeared, Mr. Baker was, on December 6, 1889, committed to a term of life imprisonment in the state penitentiary at Moundsville, West Virginia, a completely broken man, in marked

contrast to the prepossessing appearance of his better days as he walked among his fellowmen, honored and respected by all who knew him.

In the penitentiary, Mr. Baker adjusted himself, not without difficulties to the conditions under which he must spend the rest of his days. His natural inclinations were sorely tried by the restrictions and limitations of his new environment and he conformed most reluctantly and ungraciously. However, he did finally settle down to the prison routine.

Due to the notoriety which had come out of his two trials, every visitor to this penal institution naturally wanted to see the famous prisoner. In adjusting to his new life, Van Baker assumed little in the way of prison duties except to undertake the teaching of fellow prisoners. Classes were organized and conducted by the former professor as long as his health would permit it. But not many years were to be allotted to Van Baker in these surroundings, for soon his health began to fail. The disease of consumption soon attacked him in the damp dark surroundings of his cell in the lower block of the penitentiary--in murderer's row--and his health gradually declined until his death which came on November 29, 1893, just seven days short of four years from his committment to the "Pen".

Through all the vicissitudes of prison life, Van Baker maintained his complete innocence of the crime with which he had been charged. Rumors came out of his place of confinement that he had confessed to the crime, but these Mr. Baker emphatically denied, averring repeatedly that he would never confess to a deed which he did not commit. Toward the end of his life in the penitentiary, a story was circulated throughout the tri-state area that Mr. Baker had escaped from the institution, and another story had it that he had been spirited away in some mysterious manner by friends who had taken a desperate chance in his behalf. But the fact is that Mr. Baker died in the Moundsville Penitentiary as above stated on November 29, 1893.

As death approached, Mr. Baker's brother, the **Rev.** Perrin Baker visited him and realizing that death was only hours away, he requested that news of his brother's death be kept from the newspapers. His spiritual adviser, the Rev. Sherman H. Doyle was with him in his last hours and ministered to him. When death finally came, as per Mr. Baker's request, his body was claimed by members of his family and it was taken to Pittsburgh and cremated, but the final disposition of his ashes is not known to this writer. This request for

cremation came out of Mr. Baker's statement that he did not wish to be buried in the usual manner in any graveyard, since the curious would visit his grave and comment on the one who was buried there.

And so, in this long story, we have explained why Drusilla McWha and her daughter, Eliza Baker, claim a common date, May 9, 1887 as the day of their deaths.

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